

2026 WPEA VOTERS GUIDE

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For this year's election, there are one statewide contested position that requires an election: WPEA Recorder.

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Within this guide, you will find information provided by the candidates. **WPEA does not endorse any candidate.**

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Candidates for WPEA Recorder

Tamlyn Crain
House Democratic Staff

Candidate Statement

The job of the WPEA Recorder is to keep accurate and thorough record and meeting minutes for WPEA. It is the backbone to a union that is focused on being open, honest, and transparent to its dues paying members. WPEA union members deserve to have someone who will take meeting notes that can be referenced by both the executive board when making decisions that directly impact union members and union members who want to be informed about the actions of the executive board. They deserve Recorder who are focused on transparency to the membership. WPEA members deserve a Recorder who is detail oriented and will complete the minutes in a timely and accurate manner. WPEA members deserve a Recorder who is open and assessable to them and any questions that they have. I believe that I am the person for this job.

I am a current Shop Steward with the House Democratic Staff bargaining unit and have served on the bargaining team for current contract negotiations. I am a current Legislative Assistant in the House of Representatives where I regularly take notes of meetings with stakeholders and constituents that need to be referenced later. I have also previously served as the Secretary of the Associated Student of New Mexico Highlands University with many of the same duties as the WPEA Recorder, including taking detailed meeting minutes that were publicly posted within a certain number of days. I have been a member of WPEA since the formation of the House Democratic Staff bargaining unit in 2024. While I may be newer to the WPEA, I have a strong knowledge of the importance and impact that unions have on their members and the wider community. I look forward to continue building a strong WPEA together!

Shelley Withee
Department of Revenue

Candidate Statement

I appreciate the nomination for Recorder. I took some time to carefully consider whether serving on the WPEA Board is the right choice for me and ultimately concluded that I am not the right fit for the position at this time.

Unfortunately, the ballots had already been printed by the time I reached that decision and was able to prepare this statement. I encourage members to take this into consideration when voting, as I would intend to resign from the position immediately if elected.

Carl Sofie
Fort Vancouver Regional Library

Candidate Statement

I am a Washington native and a Clark College alum. I hold a Bachelors of Arts in International Studies and a Masters in International Relations. I have been an FVRL employee and WPEA member since 1994.

I have served as District 1 vice-president and I also serve as a WPEA delegate and Trustee to the SW Washington Central Labor Council. My labor interests are wages, benefits, and working conditions. I have been concerned with external influences that impact wages, benefits, and working conditions and have talked with elected officials and volunteered with political campaigns. I am running again for the Recorder position. My knowledge of what has transpired over the past several years is beneficial for that role. Aside from work, I enjoy trail running in the Columbia River Gorge.

Candidates for Your District - District 5

Guy Bergstrom

House Democratic Staff

Candidate Statement

Unions have never been more important than now. We're under attack from a hostile federal government, state budget cuts, and the rising cost of living.

I believe we need to use new methods and ideas to achieve old-fashioned ideals of fair wages, good benefits, and an economy that helps working families instead of billionaires.

The public servants represented by WPEA throughout the great state of Washington deserve strong representation. For the WPEA to truly serve those members and all of Washington state, it needs to grow and thrive. To organize workers who don't have any representation now.

I've seen that organizing works as a shop steward in the House of Representatives and as a bargaining team member for our first contract--and again this year for our second contract.

Protecting the status quo isn't enough. I believe this is a pivotal point for WPEA, for unions, and for our nation itself, and that we have to fight for a future worth having.

Jim McNelly

Military Department

Candidate Statement

Jim did not submit a candidate statement in time for publication.

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Candidates for Your District - District 8

Austin Lyman

WPEA

Candidate Statement

Austin did not submit a candidate statement in time for publication.

Wendy Glenn

Wenatchee Valley College

Candidate Statement

Wendy did not submit a candidate statement in time for publication.

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Candidates for Your District - District 10

Jonathan Bowers Olympic College

Candidate Statement

Thank you so much for talking to time to read about me and learn about my interest in being your District 10 representative.

I am a classified employee at Olympic College with a passion for organizing labor and a drive to get wins for our bargaining unit.

At Olympic College I am planning on working with our steward team to expand our membership, improve our morale, and develop a productive relationship with our Board and Executive leadership. For me this plan has four main supports. The first is positive membership engagement. We will be organizing events like a food drive for our on-campus student food pantry, and a holiday gift drive for our classified staff who need support. This is to increase engagement with WPEA members and non-members in a way that highlights the good work we do for our campus community. The next support is excellent representation. This is setting real expectations for our members when they need representation, doing an excellent job in the meeting, and then following up closely to make sure they are getting the support they need. Even if we can't get a win for them, I want our people to know we will work hard for them. The third leg is to celebrate wins. We do get wins, sometimes big ones, and we need to make sure our people know that if they trust us, we can help improve their working conditions. The last leg is building strong relationships with Board Members and Executive Leadership. This can be the most difficult of all as we are obviously dependent on leaderships willingness to engage with us. However, I believe that with intentional relationship building, detailed and persuasive communication, and comprehensive follow up to leaderships communication, we can make ourselves an undeniable part of decision-making process.

My hope as VP of District 10 would be to take my creativity and relentless nature to help the other organizations in our district, and the WPEA as a whole to use these techniques to strengthen and grow our membership. I appreciate you taking the time to consider my candidacy, and regardless of the outcome I am looking forward to continuing to support the WPEA and our membership. Both in district 10 and statewide.

Stephanie Hahn House Democratic Staff

Candidate Statement

Public service isn't for the faint of heart. It takes dedication, compassion, and a genuine commitment to helping our communities thrive. We are in public service because we care about creating a path for the next generation.

A strong WPEA means standing together, supporting one another, and making sure every member has a voice and representation when it matters most.

As we navigate dwindling resources and increasing demands, we have an opportunity to think differently about how we serve our membership. We need greater transparency, thoughtful reviews of staffing plans, and new approaches to improving efficiency while continuing to provide strong representation and support. We also need to recognize that WPEA staff are an essential part of our union. Supporting a healthy work life balance for our staff helps strengthen the services and advocacy we provide to every member.

I was appointed to the WPEA Executive Board in May 2026 to represent District 10, and it has been an honor to serve the district where I was born and raised. My career has centered around public service and representing the communities I call home. I previously worked for now retired Congressman Derek Kilmer, representing Kitsap and Mason counties, until his retirement in 2025. I then began working for State Representative Adison Richards, representing communities from Gig Harbor to Bremerton and all of the wonderful communities in between.

I bring a service oriented heart and a problem solving mind to this work. But more importantly, I believe our best solutions come from working together. We have an opportunity to listen, think outside the box, try new things, and build a stronger WPEA together.

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