



# The vast majority of FWEA members join WEA-PAC

## A. What is WEA-PAC and what does it do?

- WEA-PAC ensures our educators and students' voices are heard in the legislature during important decisions about our single issue: **public education**. This includes school funding, testing, special education, evaluation, retirement, professional development, healthcare, certification, student loans, school safety etc..
- Our voice is also needed to counteract bad ideas (ex: Betsy DeVos-type policy)
- WEA-PAC is the Washington Education Association's political action committee which endorses school board, legislative, local, and statewide candidates for office. This is a voluntary contribution, separate from our membership dues. Only WEA members are eligible to contribute. It also supports causes like Class Size, COLA etc.

## B. Why should I join?

- Major decisions influencing our students, schools and profession are made in Olympia by legislators. In order to have a voice, we must elect pro-public education candidates and pro-public education causes. WEA-PAC empowers us to have that voice.
- Did you know that nearly every profession has a PAC and uses it like WEA-PAC? Since we are over 95,000 WEA members, the potential power WEA-PAC has is enormous. On average, educators contribute \$3.29 to PACs, while SEIU (with fewer members) contributes \$33.81 per member. Corporations spend billions. Who has more influence?

## C. How do candidates receive an endorsement?

- Any candidate desiring an endorsement must answer a questionnaire of education questions, be interviewed by a committee of FWEA/WEA-PAC members, and approved by the members on the WEA-PAC Board.
- Candidates are endorsed how well their positions on education and union issues match our positions as educators, and based on their electability.
- Party affiliation does not matter. If a candidate meets our pro-public education and pro-union criteria, they can receive an endorsement.
- WEA-PAC members are encouraged to be a part of the interview process and all questionnaires are available to read at [www.ourvoicewashingtonea.org](http://www.ourvoicewashingtonea.org).

## D. How much is it to join?

- WEA-PAC Membership costs only \$2.25 a month, and is automatically deducted. For less than the price of a cup coffee, we impact education decisions.

## E. Who has WEA-PAC supported?

- WEA-PAC has also endorsed several current and former educators.
- WEA-PAC has supported initiatives such as lowering class size, simple majority, etc.
- WEA-PAC support has gone to Republican, Independent and Democratic candidates.
- To view a complete list of endorsed candidates, visit [www.ourvoicewashingtonea.org](http://www.ourvoicewashingtonea.org).