

USEFUL INFORMATION
for the 2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:
Contacting Legislators, and the (likely)
Legislative Calendar

1. To CONTACT your legislators in Olympia you can -- Call, Write, Visit...
Go to www.leg.wa.gov, and click on: [Find Out Who Represents You - District Finder](#).

CALL:

- you can call your legislators' offices directly, or
- there is a **TOLL-FREE HOTLINE:**
1-800-562-6000. TTY: 1-800-635-9993.

During the Legislative Session, operators are standing by:
weekdays from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm, and
Saturdays from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

HOTLINE Operators will send your message to:

- * one of your legislators, * all three of your legislators,
- * the Governor and Lieutenant Governor – or all of these, as you request.

They can tell you who your legislators are, or you can look them up at: www.leg.wa.gov. PLUS – they have **language translation** services. It helps if the person placing the call says: “Spanish please” (or another language) and knows enough English to understand “Please Wait.” The wait can be from 1-5 minutes while the operator either a) gets a Spanish or Russian speaker to the phone, or b) contacts an Interpreter Service and connects a 3-way call with the HOTLINE Operator, the caller, and the Interpreter.

WRITE:

- Representative _____ or,
 Senator _____
- P.O. Box 40600 (House), P.O. Box 404[leg district] (Senate).
- Olympia, WA 98504-0600 (House)
- Olympia, WA 98504-04[leg district] (Senate)

EMAIL:

- write your legislator's **lastname.firstname@leg.wa.gov**. (e.g.,
Truman.harry@leg.wa.gov.)

VISIT:

- **in Olympia**, any day during the session. Citizens are welcome. Also look for **TOWN HALL MEETINGS** back in the District by mid-Session.

BONUS: A wonderful (free) resource is the **League of Women Voters**. Find them in your local phone directory, and ask for their “**TRY**” pamphlets listing phone/mail/email information for your local, state, and federal elected officials.

2. It helps to understand the Legislative Calendar.

The 2006 Legislative Session in Olympia runs from **January 9 through March 10**. Every day – including Saturdays and Sundays – is counted in setting the 60-day Session. The legislature will be in Session on all holidays (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – 1/16, and Presidents' Day – 2/20), and may also be in session on weekends near the end of the Session.

The dates below control the action on bills: these “cut-off dates” are pretty firm. Bills that fail to get the requisite action before action is “cut-off” most likely will die. The official calendar will not be available until January, but it is possible to anticipate **LIKELY key dates**. With the caveat that these dates are subject to change,

⇒ Key Session Dates – 2006 -- Starts Monday, 1/9 thru 3/10

The key “Cut Off” dates for bills moving through the 2006 Session are:

In the first house, the "house of origin":

- **2/03** – last day for bills to be considered in the Policy Committee of the House/Senate - where they originate
- **2/07** – last day for bills to be considered in one of the Fiscal Committees of the House/Senate where they originate
- **2/14** – last day for bills to be considered on the floor in their “house of origin”

In the second house, the "opposite house"

- **2/24** – last day for bills to be considered in the Policy Committee of the "opposite house" (the house where they did not originate)
- **2/27** – last day for bills to be considered in the Fiscal Committee of the opposite house
- **3/03** – last day for bills to be considered on the floor of the opposite house
- **3/10** – 2006 Session adjourns for the year.

If you wish to stay informed about the progress of issues you care most about, then

3. CONTACT AN ADVOCACY GROUP FOR YOUR ISSUE.

There is an advocacy group for almost every issue. They:

- ⇒ Monitor their issues closely,
- ⇒ Distribute weekly (or “as needed”) Legislative Alerts,
- ⇒ Recommend positions on bills and budget items, and
- ⇒ Suggest sample messages.
- ⇒ Many also organize Lobby Days.

To find an advocacy group on your issue: ask people affected by the issue, ask professionals who work in that field, ask friends, or, use this list.

Contact these groups directly to receive their Legislative Alerts.

Aging/Long-term Care –

WA Association of Area Agencies on Aging: w4a@olywa.net
Service Employees International Union: cinagi@seiu775.org,
Alzheimer’s Association of WA - Patricia.hunter@alz.org

Note: the Senior Lobby will not be doing regular alerts, but it’s website

- www.waseniorlobby.org – or email address
- seniorlobby@qwest.net - can be contacted for information on relevant bills:

Child Abuse & Neglect – sethdawson@att.net;

Childrens Home Society: LippoldLau@aol.com;
Washington State CASA: info@washingtonstatecasa.org .

Child Care and Early Childhood Issues –

WA Association for the Education of Young Children: roberta@waeyc.org ;
SEIU local 925: rabraams@seiu925.org

Child Nutrition – see Hunger.

Child Welfare/foster care/adoption – Children’s Home Society: lippoldlau@aol.com

Children's Issues - Children’s Alliance: jon@childrensalliance.org

Children's Alliance Action Center: <http://www.childrenshub.org/calliance/home.html>

Childrens Home Society: LippoldLau@aol.com
Washington State PTA - for Health/Safety/Welfare/Education of children and
youth. To get their “Grassroots Connection” contact:
Mkenfield@wastatepta.org

Criminal Justice –

Justice Works! - lzengage@northwest.net
Washington State Catholic Conference – wsc@thewscc.org

Disability – the ARC of Washington: grier@arcwa.org

To be added to their alert list, visit www.arcwa.org and click on link for email alerts. Each person needs to sign up for the service so that they can receive information that points them to their legislators.

Washington Protection & Advocacy: philj@wpas-rights.org

Domestic Violence – NorthWest Women’s Law Center: nsapiro@nwwlc.org

WA State Coalition Against Domestic Violence: Action@wscadv.org

Education – Washington State PTA: mkenfield@wastatepta.org .
League of Education Voters: info@educationvoters.org. To become a
LEV member and receive action alerts on Washington State education issues and
legislation, go to www.educationvoters.org.

Family Leave – Economic Opportunity Institute: marilyn@eoionline.org

GLBT issues - Equal Rights Washington: info@equalrightswashington.org
NorthWest Women’s Law Center: nsapiro@nwwlc.org

Health - Nick Federici: nickf@earthlink.net
American Lung Association of WA - legnet@alaw.org
Washington Citizen Action – joshua@wacitizenaction.org
Washington For Health Care - christy@imahealthcarevoter.org
Washington State Nurses Association - Apiazza@wsna.org
SEIU 1199 NW (hospital and healthcare workers) emenzies@msn.com

Head Start/ECEAP - Washington State Association of Head Start/ECEAP:
robbindunnwsa@comcast.net

Higher Education/Higher Education/Faculty -
American Association of University Women: publicpolicystate@aaup-wa.org
Washington Federation of Teachers: ldodso@sccd.ctc.edu; 206-242-4777

HIV/AIDS - Lifelong Aids Alliance - action@ltaa.org , and, www.CANNetwork.net.

Homelessness - WA State Coalition for the Homeless – sethdawson@att.net

Housing - WA Low Income Housing Alliance - mail@wliha.org ;
Seth Dawson: sethdawson@att.net
Nick Federici: nickf@earthlink.net

Hunger/Food Assistance -
Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Coalition: Shelley@childrensalliance.org
(information on Food Stamps, WIC, Child Nutrition, EFAP);

Children’s Alliance: <http://www.childrenshub.org/calliance/join.html>
Can select alerts by “issue cluster,” e.g., hunger, school nutrition, etc.

Food Lifeline/Second Harvest Food Bank of the Inland NW. -
moran_consulting@msn.com .

Infant, Children’s Health
March of Dimes – 206-624-1373 or chart@marchofdimes.com
(alerts “as needed”).
American Academy of Pediatrics: lippoldlau@aol.com

Juvenile Justice - jon@childrensalliance.org

Mental Health – Washington Protection & Advocacy: PhilJ@wpas-rights.org ;
Washington Community Mental Health Council: policy@wcmhcnec.org;
Seth Dawson: sethdawson@att.net
National Alliance on Mental Illness – WA: director@nami-greaterseattle.org,
or, FridayFacts@mail.namiwa.info . 206-783-9264

Poverty, Economic issues, Payday Loans – Statewide Poverty Action Network;
Email contact: span@povertyaction.org , or call (206) 694-6794 –
toll free: 1-866-789-SPAN.
Economic Opportunity Institute – marilyn@eoionline.org

Reproductive Health - Planned Parenthood. Contact: ppaction@ppww.org
to join their Action Network.

Rural Health - Washington Rural Health Association: hardt@wsu.edu .

Sexual Assault and Crime Victims Issues:
Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs: policy@wcsap.org
NorthWest Women's Law Center: nsapiro@nwwlc.org

Social Services – King County: United Way – sgagey@uwkc.org

Substance Abuse/Treatment – sethdawson@att.net
Association of Alcohol and Addiction Programs: aapwa@qwest.net .

Tax Policy –
Economic Opportunity Institute – marilyn@eoionline.org
Washington Citizen Action – joshua@wacitizenaction.org
Washington Association of Churches – woldt@TheWAC.org

Tobacco Prevention -
NickF@earthlink.net , or
American Cancer Society: michael.o'sullivan@cancer.org
American Lung Assoc. of WA: alaw@alaw.org

Welfare – Statewide Poverty Action: julie@povertyaction.org .
Childrens Home Society: LippoldLau@aol.com
Welfare Rights Organizing Coaliton: wrocoly@wroc.org.

Women's Issues – Northwest Women's Law Center: nsapiro@nwwlc.org

Youth - jon@childrensalliance.org

Faith Communities:
Friends Committee on WA State Public Policy - fcwpp@quaker.org
Jewish Federation - governmentaffairs@jewishinseattle.org
Lutheran Public Policy office – pbenz@lcsnw.org

WA State Catholic Conference - wsc@thewscc.org

WA Association of Churches – woldt@thewac.org

To sign up for the Faith Advocacy Network (online advocacy with a moral values perspective) go to www.thewac.org

NOTE: some of this last group provide information for their members only. Check directly with them.

*Compiled by Nancy Amidei (amidei@u.washington.edu) for the Civic Engagement Project,
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