



What You Can Do

- Become informed on the issues facing our state
- Contact your legislators and the Governor
 - **Toll Free State Legislative Hotline:** 1-800-562-6000
You may leave messages for state legislators or the Governor during the legislative session
 - **E-mail:** When communicating with your legislators through e-mail please include your home address to show that you live in their district.
 - **Governor Gregoire's e-mail service:**
<http://www.governor.wa.gov/contact/default.asp>
 - **State Legislature e-mail service:**
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/memberemail/Default.aspx>
- Write letters to editors
- Join the Catholic Advocacy Network and receive the WSCC's email alerts on federal and state issues.
Go to: <http://www.thewsc.org/> and click on "Join the Network" to register.
- Contact your local diocese to become involved in ongoing advocacy efforts.

Seattle — Jim Thomas (206) 382-4268
jim.thomas@seattlearch.org

Spokane — Scott Cooper (509) 358-4273 or (800) 831-1209
scooper@ccspokane.org

Yakima — Irene Gutierrez (509) 965-7110
igutierrez@yakimadiocese.org
- Attend Catholic Advocacy Day in Olympia.
For more information, contact WSCC at (206) 301-0556 or email wsc@thewsc.org



The Washington State Catholic Conference is the common voice of the Catholic bishops of the Archdiocese of Seattle, the Diocese of Spokane and the Diocese of Yakima on issues of public policy. Our mission is rooted in the Catholic community's belief in the inviolate dignity of the human person, our tradition of service to the most vulnerable members of society, and our firm commitment to a just and peaceful world. We seek to identify the moral and human dimensions of public issues in order to help Catholics and all people of good will to seek the common good.

Every believer is called to faithful citizenship, to become an informed, active and responsible participant in the political process.

Faithful Citizenship
USCCB



Washington State Catholic Conference

wsc@thewsc.org
206-301-0556

WASHINGTON STATE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

2009 - 2011
State Legislative
Priorities



"In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation."

— *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*,
USCCB 2007

2009-2011 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



The primary issue confronting the Washington State Legislature in 2009 will be the development of a budget for the 2009-2011 biennium in these most difficult economic times. The legislature will also consider a variety of policy issues. Building on Scripture and Catholic social teaching, the WSSC has identified the following legislative priorities for the 2009 and 2010 sessions of the Washington State Legislature.

LIFE ISSUES

In accord with our respect for the dignity of all human life from the moment of conception to natural death...

WSSC SUPPORTS:

- Enacting conscience clauses that honor religious freedom
- Eliminating the death penalty for mentally ill persons
- Encouraging adult stem cell research
- Ensuring safeguards to protect human life



WSSC OPPOSES:

- Allowing physicians to assist a patient to commit suicide
- Enacting state policy promoting embryonic stem cell research
- Funding for abortion

BUDGET

Recognizing that the state budget reflects a communal response to fundamentally moral questions...



WSSC SUPPORTS:

- Retaining social services for poor and vulnerable persons
- Preserving programs that serve low-income persons

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Knowing that access to adequate educational opportunities is crucial for all children...



WSSC SUPPORTS:

- Mandating child abuse prevention programs for all students
- Changing the background check process to allow access to law enforcement reports
- Monitoring policy proposals relating to early learning programs

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Recognizing that children and families, particularly those in crisis, demand the support of the larger community...



WSSC SUPPORTS:

- Strengthening prevention programs for children at risk
- Improving the state's eligibility and reimbursement system for state-subsidized child care
- Establishing means for families to find affordable child care
- Increasing funding for child placing agencies

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Recognizing that the victims of crime, offenders, and their families are in need of compassion, advocacy and assistance...

WSSC SUPPORTS:

- Reforming the State's "three strikes" law
- Restoring voting rights for released felony offenders
- Enhancing transition and reentry programs
- Increasing public awareness of human trafficking

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Knowing that the poor, the refugee, the ill and the elderly are the widow, orphan and stranger of today...

WSSC SUPPORTS:

- Preserving grants and access to services for TANF and GA-U recipients
- Expanding anti-hunger programs
- Increasing support of LIHEAP (Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program)
- Restricting and reforming payday loans



ENVIRONMENT

Recognizing the continuing threats to the environment and the urgent need to discover alternative energy sources...

WSSC SUPPORTS:

- Creating incentives for energy efficient construction
- Providing incentives to reduce carbon emissions
- Developing, promoting and using renewable energy resources

HEALTH CARE

Recognizing that access to affordable health care affirms the human dignity of a person...

WSSC SUPPORTS:

- Providing access to health care coverage for all
- Implementing the "Cover All Kids" law, including outreach and education
- Providing health care services for refugees and immigrants
- Improving access for mental health services, especially for children



LONG-TERM CARE

Recognizing the burdens placed on families and the state in responding to the needs of those requiring long-term care...

WSSC SUPPORTS:

- Maintaining home-care programs, including Volunteer Chore Services
- Funding for agencies that partner with the State
- Funding efforts to expand services to assist under-served people

HOUSING

Believing that the dignity of the human person is the source of the right to affordable housing ...

WSSC SUPPORTS:

- Maintaining funding for the Housing Trust Fund
- Targeting investments to address housing for communities of color
- Maintaining funding for temporary rental assistance for people in need
- Maintaining funding for housing and social services for low-income households

