



WASHINGTON LOW INCOME
Housing Alliance

Left, Right, and Center: Advocating Effectively Across the Political Spectrum

Housing Alliance Learn at Lunch Webinar
March 29, 2017

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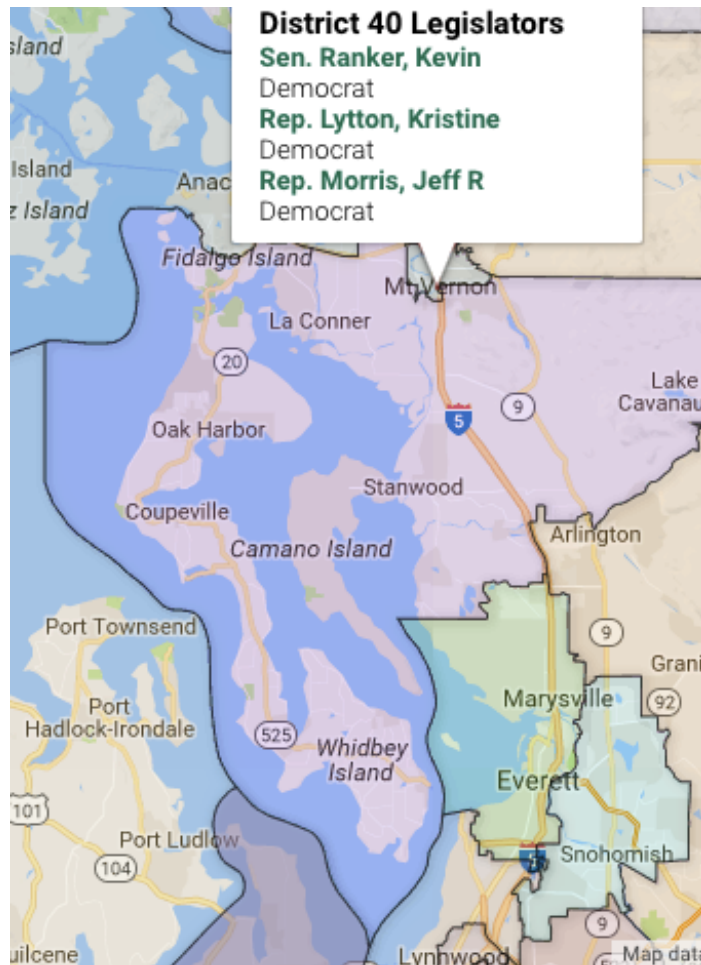
Webinar Learning Goals

- Learn how to find your lawmakers
- Review the state legislature's political landscape
- Understand why advocacy is important across the political spectrum
- Learn how to assess your lawmakers' position on a specific issue
- Review lobbying tips for lawmakers across the political spectrum



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Find Your Lawmakers



- Find your district online:
[http://app.leg.wa.gov/
DistrictFinder/](http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/)
- Each state legislative district is represented by 1 state senator and 2 members of the state House of Representatives



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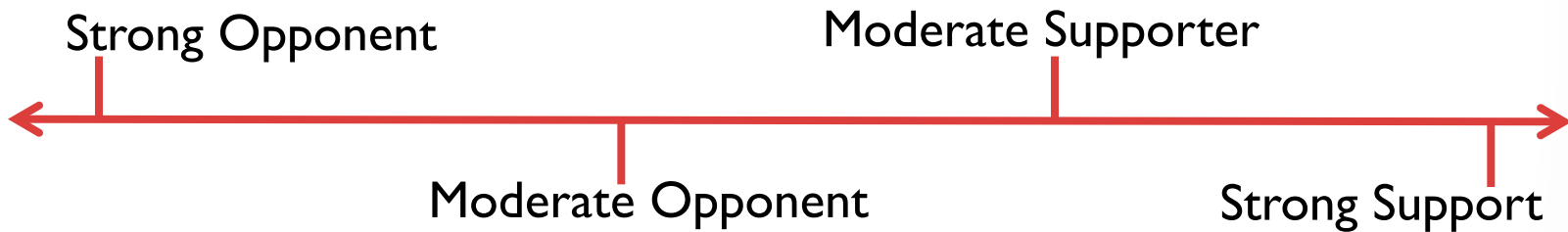
State Legislative Political Landscape

- Washington's state legislature is evenly divided
- State House of Representatives – 98 members total
 - 50 democrats
 - 48 republicans
- State Senate – 49 members total
 - 25 members caucus with republican caucus
 - 24 democrats
- Operating budget requires simple majority vote (50% + 1 vote)
 - 50 votes in House of Representatives
 - 25 votes in Senate
- Capital budget requires a supermajority vote (60%)
 - 59 votes in House of Representatives
 - 30 votes in Senate



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Spectrum of Political Support





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Why Meet with Strong Supporters?

- Urge lawmaker to take on a leadership role in advocating for your issue.
- Maintain and strengthen your relationship with lawmaker.
- Strategize with lawmaker on how to increase support for an issue.
- Ensure lawmaker thoroughly understands an issue and is tracking the details.
- Ensure your issue remains a priority for lawmaker throughout the entire legislative session.



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Why Meet With Moderate Supporters?

- Work to move lawmaker from being a moderate supporter to a strong supporter.
- Maintain and strengthen your relationship with lawmaker.
- Moderate supporters often targeted by opposition to change their vote. Important to stay engaged with these lawmakers so they continue to support your issue.
- Ensure lawmakers understand an issue and why it's a priority across the state and in their communities.



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Why Meet With Moderate Opponents?

- Work to move lawmaker from being a moderate opponent to a moderate supporter.
- Maintain and strengthen your relationship with lawmaker.
- Work to understand if a moderate opponent's concerns are policy related or political.
- Moderate opponents are often lawmakers who have the potential to be a swing vote on an issue.
- Ensure lawmakers understand an issue and why it's a priority across the state and in their communities.
- Work to understand moderate opponents' priorities, and articulate how your issue complements their priorities.



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Why Meet With Strong Opponents?

- Work to move lawmaker from being a strong opponent to a moderate opponent.
- Maintain and strengthen your relationship with lawmaker.
- Work to understand why lawmaker opposes your issue.
- Ensure lawmakers have accurate information about an issue and understand the impact in their local communities.
- Work to understand priorities of lawmakers and the messengers/ stakeholders that influence them.



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How to Assess Your Lawmakers' Position

- Lawmakers' position can change from year-to-year or between different housing and homelessness issues.
- The best way to assess lawmakers' position is to ask them directly in-person, over the phone, or over email.
- Sign up for lawmakers' newsletters
- Review lawmakers' legislative and campaign websites
- Review lawmakers' bill sponsorship and voting record



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How to Assess Your Lawmakers' Position



**Representative
Noel Frame (D)**

36th Legislative District

Email
Details

[Home Page](#)

Voting Record

(Will open a new tab)
2016

Olympia Office

319 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786 - 7814

[Bill Sponsorship](#)

Committees

[Finance](#) (Vice Chair)
[Early Learning & Human Services](#)
[Judiciary](#)
[Labor & Workplace Standards](#)

[Print Quality Photo](#)

Find your lawmakers' info here: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/Rosters/Members>



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Lobbying Tips: Always Make An Ask!

- Always make a budget and bill ask of your lawmakers, no matter where they fall on the political spectrum of support.
- Example bill ask: “Will you vote yes on SHB 1570?”
- Example budget ask: “Will you prioritize funding the Housing Trust Fund in the capital budget at \$200 million for the 2017 – 2019 biennium?”
- Practice these asks today by calling the legislative hotline:
I-800-562-6000 (TTY for Hearing Impaired I-800-635-9993)



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Lobbying Tips: Additional Asks of Supporters

- Ensure lawmakers remain supportive of your issue throughout the entire legislative session.
- We recommend reaching out to your lawmaker once per week during the legislative session, especially during the weeks leading up to key votes and budget proposals being finalized.
- Ask lawmakers to lobby their colleagues and caucus leadership.
- Ensure supportive lawmakers continue to have accurate information about your issue and why it is important.
- Ask lawmakers if you can provide them with data, stories, etc. to support their work on your issue.



Lobbying Tips: Additional Asks of Opponents

- Work to understand why a lawmaker opposes your issue and what it would take for the lawmaker to support it.
- Assess whether the lawmaker has accurate information.
- Ask if the lawmaker would like additional information about the issue or would like to hear from other stakeholders who are impacted by the issue.
- Work to understand the lawmaker's priorities and assess if there is an opportunity to make a connection between your issue and their priority issues.
- Invite lawmaker to meet during the legislative interim or go on a site tour to learn more about the issue (be sure to follow-up after session!)
- Urge the lawmaker to not introduce harmful counter bills or budget proposals.



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Practice Your Lobbying Today!

- Leave a message for your lawmakers today in support of SHB 1570 and the Housing Trust Fund by calling the legislative hotline:

1-800-562-6000 (TTY for Hearing Impaired 1-800-635-9993)

- Example SHB 1570 message: “Protecting and increasing resources for homelessness is an urgent issue in [insert your community]. SHB 1570 will prevent 60% of our state’s homelessness resources from expiring and will provide counties with an option to increase homelessness resources. Will you vote yes on SHB 1570?”
- Example Housing Trust Fund ask: “All people deserve a safe, healthy, and affordable home. [insert community] has a shortage of affordable housing, and the Housing Trust Fund is the state’s best tool to create permanent affordable homes. Will you prioritize funding the Housing Trust Fund in the capital budget at \$200 million for the 2017 – 2019 biennium?”



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Conference on Ending Homelessness

- The 2017 Conference on Ending Homelessness will take place on May 10 and 11, 2017 in Tacoma, WA.
- Programing will include opportunities to learn more about policy and advocacy. Check out the full program here:
www.wliha.org/conference/program
- Early bird registration rates end on April 25:
<http://www.wliha.org/conference/registration>
- Scholarship applications are due by April 5:
<http://www.wliha.org/conference/scholarships-0>



Questions?

Contact Kate Baber at kateb@wliha.org