

CONNECTIONS

W E A - S A M M A M I S H
UNISERV COUNCIL

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: *SIMPLE MAJORITY*

When our communities vote to support necessary improvements to the libraries, parks and Medic 1, these issues pass with only simple majority, a minimum of 50% plus one vote. It is an unfair barrier to our kids' education that we need to get at least 60% approval on levies to buy textbooks, train teachers, and purchase classroom computers.

Once in a lifetime, golden opportunity, last chance, one time offer, not available in stores. You have heard all the clichés. Now it's time to make sure you vote and make your voice heard!



ART GALLOWAY
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

SIMPLE MAJORITY: *IT'S SIMPLE! SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS*

Washington voters will decide on November 6 whether or not to change a constitutional amendment to approve school levies by a simple majority or 50% plus one vote. Under the current law, school levies need to have a supermajority or 60% vote to pass.

Legislators finally agreed to put EHJR 4204 on the November ballot for voters to decide on the simple majority measure.

Simple Stat: The antiquated 60% requirement has been in effect since 1944.

Simple Stat: Local levies provide our schools with the basics such as textbooks, smaller class sizes, special education, arts programs, student transportation, teacher compensation and training, and support personnel.

Simple Stat: Local levies pay the under-funded costs for special education, which total more than \$60 million statewide.

Simple Stat: Since 2000, 172 levies failed because they didn't reach 60%.

Simple Stat: 166 of these levies would have passed with a simple majority.

Simple Stat: In the last four years, 23,445 students in 17 school districts were affected by twice-failed levies which got more than 50% of the vote, but still lost because they were shy of 60%.

Simple Stat: Last year, 31 school levies received a majority vote, but all failed because they didn't reach the 60% mark.

Simple Stat: The last Clover Park School District levy got 59.56 % "yes" votes, but lost the levy by 45 out of approximately 10,000 votes; the levy passed in a second and costly election.

Simple Stat: Battleground School District failed their levy last year with 59% of the vote, which directly affected 13,103 students.

Simple Stat: Parks, jails, and sports stadiums can all be approved with a simple majority vote.

Simple Stat: Government officials are elected by a simple majority vote.

Simple Stat: Changing the simple majority measure requires just a simple majority vote.



ESP Activities

Snoqualmie Valley Administrative Secretaries Association (SVASA) is still in contract negotiations with the district. The main issues at stake are: the district providing the full cost-of-living increases funded by the state, the district providing wages that are not sub standard but competitive, the district assuring a safe and healthy work environment, and the district paying a fair share of health care costs.

A summer Educational Support Professional (ESP) Leadership Dinner was attended by Sheila Nokes, LWESP president, WEA-Sammamish staff Lora Hein and Clarence Gunn, Renton ESP president Becky Babcock, and Rainier UniServ staff Penny Pfiester. The evening was spent planning a work-day release training opportunity for ESP members geared toward meeting their needs.

Annual NW ESP Issues Conference will be held on Saturday, Nov. 17 in Federal Way.

Participants can choose 3 classes to attend throughout the day.

ESP members will be receiving a registration flyer in their home mail within the next few weeks.

UniServ? What's a UniServ?

The National Education Association UniServ (Unified Service) Program was started in 1970 to provide assistance to local associations to help with collective bargaining, defense of member rights, political action, and other matters. Washington Education Association is composed of 21 UniServ Councils statewide, including our own WEA-Sammamish UniServ Council.

WEA-Sammamish has seven certified and two classified locals with a total membership of about 5,400 members. The Council is governed by elected leaders within the nine local associations, many of whom are full-time school employees. Our Executive Board members are: **Art Galloway**, president (Snoqualmie EA), **Neva Luke**, vice president (Issaquah EA), **Michael Blodgett**, treasurer (Lake Washington EA), and **Michele Miller**, secretary (Bellevue EA). Local presidents are: **Stephen Miller** (Bellevue EA and WEA Board), **Neva Luke** (Issaquah EA), **Kevin Teeley** (Lake Washington EA), **Sheila Nokes** (Lake Washington ESP and WEA Board), **Mike**

Radow (Mercer Island EA), **Perry Garrison** (Riverview EA), **Art Galloway** (Snoqualmie EA), **Cheri Enevold** (Snoqualmie Valley ASA), and **Scott Mitchell** (Tahoma EA).

Other Council members are: Bellevue EA—**Bob Ellis, Michele Gaynor**; Issaquah EA—**Marie Duke, Barbara Galler**; Lake Washington EA—**Jim Eaton, Ken Egawa, Ernest Young**; Mercer Island EA—**Payvand Seyedali**; Riverview EA—**Chris Mirecki**; Snoqualmie EA—**Lisa Radmer**; Tahoma EA—**Mark Lange, John Schuster**; WEA-Retired—**Mike Coleman**; WEA Board—**Jill Van Glubt** (Lake Washington EA).

Our Council was formed in 1974 with Lake Washington EA and Issaquah EA as the original two locals. Lake Washington ESP joined the group in 1981, followed by Mercer Island EA, Riverview EA, Snoqualmie EA, Snoqualmie Valley ASA, and Tahoma EA in 1999. Bellevue EA operated as their own Council until they joined WEA-Sammamish in 2004.

Join us on October 23
New Educator Caucus

An evening with
Kevin Gallagher,
veteran Seattle teacher,
who will offer up his
"Top Ten Things
I Wish I'd Known"

For more information
E-mail
ccole@washingtonea.org

Upcoming Events

Minority Leadership Training Program	10/12 10/13
Simple Majority Phone Bank Begins	10/16
Pre-Retirement Seminar	10/19 10/20
New Educator Caucus	10/23
WEA Collective Bargaining Conference	10/26 10/27
Simple Majority Phone Bank Ends	11/5

Call the Council office to learn more about these events.

WEA-SAMMAMISH

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Executive Board

President—Art Galloway
Treasurer—Mike Blodgett

Vice President—Neva Luke
Secretary—Michele Miller