

May 9th, 2024

NW24-007

TO: Northwest Council Delegates

FROM: John Dimas, President

SUBJECT: PRESUBMITTED NEW BUSINESS: NW Council Direction for Delegates to WSLC COPE Convention 5/18/2024

BACKGROUND: Washington State Labor Council's Committee on Political Education (COPE) Committee on Saturday May 18th, 2024 will consider making recommendations in the Washington State races for 2024.

At the WSLC COPE convention rules are adopted deciding how a convention vote is conducted by show of hands, or per-capita roll call. Individual delegate votes, or votes by unions, and the content of the discussion, is not shared by us outside of the convention. What is shared is something along the lines of, "Following the COPE Convention, Candidate X receives the WSLC endorsement."

SPEEA Northwest Policy : Section I, General, Subsection C: Policy-Determining

The SPEEA Council is the policy-determining body of SPEEA. The Northwest Council is the policy-determining body for issues unique to the Northwest, subject to the will of the Northwest Membership. Policy-determining is the formulation of ideas that are used by SPEEA as a basis for making decisions.

Policy Positions

1. *Employment*
 - a. *Supports connecting the use of public resources to creation and retention of jobs in our local communities. (Jan. 2010)*
2. *Employee Rights*
 - a. *Pay equality. (Feb. 2018)*
 - b. *Thriving and equitable childcare system. (Nov. 2020)*
3. *Activism*
 - a. *Encourages members to participate in Martin Luther King rallies. (Dec. 2004)*
 - b. *Encourages members to participate in non-partisan get out the vote campaigns. (Jul. 2016)*
4. *Labor Councils*
 - a. *Supports per capita increases not to exceed the rate of inflation. (Jul. 2016)*

5. *Economic*
 - a. *Supports a robust multimodal transportation network to support aviation manufacturing. (Nov.2020)*
 - b. *Affordable Housing. (Dec. 2020)*
 - c. *Washington State investment in STEM related fields. (Feb. 2021)*
 - i. *Research and development of advanced manufacturing. (Feb. 2021)*
 - ii. *Environmental-friendly innovations. (Feb. 2021)*
6. *Misconduct*
 - a. *Condemns Police Departments and Officers that engage in abuses, unnecessary violence, systemic racism and obstruction of accountability. (Aug. 2020)*

SPEEA Northwest Policy : Section V, Activity Programs/ Publications, Subsection A: Legislative Actions & Endorsements

Every SPEEA member is encouraged to become informed and to express personal views on political issues.

1. *In order to establish an official Northwest SPEEA position on any legislative or public issue or political endorsement this section must be explicitly complied with.*
2. *No SPEEA official (such as Area Representative, Executive Board Member, Council Representative, Tellers Committee Member or Council Committee Member) must use that position in any manner to endorse or oppose a political candidate, public issue, or item of legislation other than within SPEEA unless this section has been explicitly complied with to obtain authorization for such endorsement or opposition.*
3. *Any Northwest council committee or any member of the Northwest Council may submit a legislative or public issue proposal to the council. Prior to passage or adoption, the Northwest L&PA Committee must:*
 - a. *Perform all necessary investigations, contacts, and data acquisition required to:*
 - (1) *Produce both pro and con statements on the issue.*
 - (2) *Produce a majority Committee recommendation for Northwest Council action.*
 - b. *Define and explain the issue.*
 - c. *Have the information distributed so as to be in the hands of the Council Members a minimum of three days prior to the Council meeting at which action on the issue will be requested.*
4. *Passage or adoption of any legislative or public issue proposal must be by published ballot and require:*
 - a. *Total affirmative vote must be a majority of all Council Members in attendance.*
5. *The Executive Board implements the decision of the Northwest Council.*

SPEEA Northwest Policy : Section VII, Outside Organizations, Subsection D: Associations

4. c) *The Northwest SPEEA Delegates must act and operate in accordance with the instructions of the Northwest Regional Council and the Executive Board.*

i) In the case where the Northwest Council has not taken a position, the delegates may represent the Northwest's interests after taking into consideration past council direction on the issue(s) and acting with good intent. The Delegates must report to the Northwest Council at the next meeting on all issues on which a position was taken without Council direction.

ii) In the case where council positions are not available for support of legislative, public affairs or endorsements, the delegate must refer the issue to the Northwest Legislative and Public Affairs Committee in accordance with Section V for research and referral to the Northwest Council for action.

MOTION: It is moved that THE NORTHWEST COUNCIL DIRECTS SPEEA DELEGATES TO WASHINGTON STATE LABOR COUNCIL (WSLC) COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL EDUCATION (COPE) COMMITTEE ON May 18th, 2024 TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN DEBATE AND VOTING. DELEGATES SHOULD CONSIDER POSITIONS TAKEN BY SPEEA AND ACT WITH GOOD INTENT.