

USEFUL INFORMATION
for the 2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:
*Contacting Legislators, the Legislative Calendar, and
Groups to contact for Legislative Alerts.*

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 knows enough English to understand “Please Wait,” and to report the language needed. The operator will ask the caller to wait, will contact an Interpreter Service, and then connect 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 the first 8 letters of your legislator's last name, followed by _ plus the first two letters of their first name, @leg.wa.gov. (e.g., washington_ge@leg.wa.gov – if George Washington were here.)

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 Legislative Session in Olympia runs from **January 10 – April 24, 2005**. Every day – including Saturdays and Sundays – is counted in setting the 105-day Session. The legislature will be in Session on all holidays (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and Presidents' Day), and may also be in session on weekends later in 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** during the 2005 Session. With the caveat that these dates are subject to change by a day or so,

...here are several critical points in the 2004 Session:

- **1/10** – 2005 Session begins.
- **3/01-02** – last day for bills to be considered in the Policy Committees of the House/Senate - where they originate (a.k.a. "house of origin")
- **3/7** – last day for bills to be considered in one of the Fiscal Committees of the House or Senate where they originate
- **3/16** – last day for bills to be considered on the floor in their “house of origin”
- **4/01** – last day for bills to be considered in the Policy Committees of the "opposite house"
- **4/04** – last day for bills to be considered in the Fiscal Committees of the "opposite house"
- **4/15** – last day for bills to be considered on the floor of the opposite house
- **4/24** – 2004 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 them directly to receive their Legislative Alerts.

Aging/Long-term Care –

WA Association of Area Agencies on Aging: w4a@olywa.net
Service Employees International Union: rmabr@aol.com

Note: the Senior Lobby will not be doing regular alerts, but can be contacted for information on relevant bills: seniorlobby@uswest.net.

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: agda@waeyc.org;
Child Care Works for Washington: DawnL@ccsww.org

Child Nutrition – see Hunger.

Child Welfare/foster care/adoption - Childrens Home Society: lippoldlau@aol.com

Children's Issues - Childrens Alliance: jon@childrensalliance.org
Children's Alliance Action Center: <http://www.childrenshub.org/calliance/home.html>
This is a new online advocacy system, which includes an “elected official lookup tool” to make sending a message easy.

Washington State PTA - for Health/Safety/Welfare of children and youth
To sign up for the “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 - WA State Coalition Against Domestic Violence:
Action@wscadv.org"

Education – League of Education Voters: info@educationvoters.org.
Washington State PTA: mkenfield@wastatepta.org.

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

GLBT issues - the Fairness Lobby: gregorjohn@attbi.com.

Health - Nick Federici: nickf@earthlink.net
American Lung Association of WA - legnet@alaw.org
Washington Citizen Action - brett@wacitizenaction.org.

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

Higher Education/Higher Education/Faculty -

American Association of University Women: sherrya76@attbi.com.

Washington Federation of Teachers: ldodso@sccd.ctc.edu; 206-242-4777

HIV/AIDS - Lifelong Aids Alliance - action@l1aa.org, and, www.CANNetwork.net.

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

Housing - WA Low Income Housing Alliance - mail@wliha.org;

sethdawson@att.net

nickf@earthlink.net

Hunger/Food Assistance -

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

Childrens 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.

Juvenile Justice - jon@childrensalliance.org

Mental Health – Washington Protection & Advocacy: PhilJ@wpas-rights.org;

Washington Community Mental Health Council: cgaylord@wcmhcn.org;

sethdawson@att.net

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill – WA: director@nami-greaterseattle.org,
or, FridayFacts@mail.namiwa.info.

Poverty and Welfare Issues – Statewide Poverty Action Network;

Email contact: span@povertyaction.org, or call (206) 694-6794 –

toll free: 1-866-789-SPAN.

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

Sexual Assault and Crime Victims Issues:

Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs: toby@wcsap.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 - brett@wacitizenaction.org

Tobacco Prevention -

NickF@earthlink.net, or
melanie.newman@cancer.org; <http://www.wabreathe.org>
American Lung Assoc. of WA: alaw@alaw.org

Welfare – Statewide Poverty Action: juliew@fremontpublic.org.
Childrens Home Society: LippoldLau@aol.com

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

Youth - jon@childrensalliance.org

Faith Communities:

Friends Committee on WA State Public Policy - fewpp@quaker.org
Jewish Federation - governmentaffairs@jewishinseattle.org
Lutheran Public Policy office – pbenz@lcsnw.org
WA Association of Churches – woldt@thewac.org
WA State Catholic Conference - wsc@thewscc.org

NOTE: some of this last group are internal, for their members only. Check with them.