

Viewpoint

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF WASHINGTON POLICY CENTER

*What grade did
your school
receive?*

IN OUR SUMMER ISSUE

**VA wait-lists a result of socialized
health care**

The Governor's secret budget meetings

**How we got here: WPC's impact on the
King County Metro Transit debate**

**It sounds good, but it's not good
for workers**



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Viewpoint

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF WASHINGTON POLICY CENTER

SUMMER 2014

Dear Friends,

With summer well underway, things at Washington Policy Center have never looked more promising or exciting! With the recent special election, all of our hard work, extensive research and educational efforts paid off when King County taxpayers saved over \$1.5 billion and demanded more accountability and efficiency from Metro Transit by defeating King County Metro's Proposition 1. Find out the latest on this issue on page 13.

As the new school year draws near, we watch with great anticipation the launch of the first public charter school in our state, First Place Scholars in Seattle, which will serve homeless and disadvantaged children.

We also look forward to our Annual Dinner events in Spokane and in Bellevue that will be attended by more than 2,000 people! We are especially excited for the Spokane event on September 23rd, which will be an entirely separate event for the first time, celebrating the five-year anniversary of our Eastern Washington office. We hope you are able to join us.

This issue's cover story focuses on our state's Achievement Index, which rates the quality of our public schools in Washington state. You will also find our recent breaking story on secret budget meetings between labor union executives and the Governor's office and an analysis of the VA health system's mismanaged approach.

We invite you to share *Viewpoint* with your friends, family and at your office. And as always, thank you for your continued support of our work!

Very truly yours,



Greg Porter
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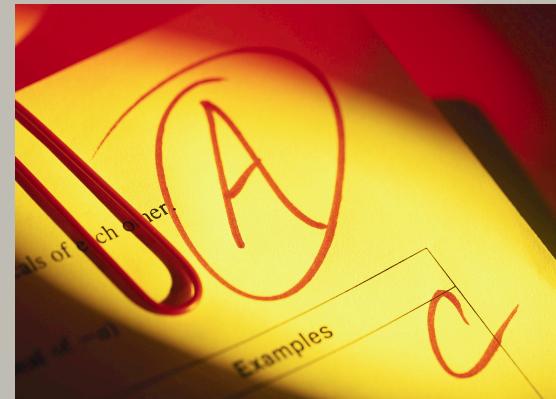


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Advise your estate planner on how to leave a planned gift to WPC.



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Launched in 2012, the Pillar Society distinguishes donors who make a substantial pledge (\$5,000 per year or higher) which is paid over three years. Along with the prestige of being a Pillar Society member, benefits include premier tables at our conferences and Annual Dinner (reserved before the events sell out!), varying recognition throughout the year and invitations to exclusive private events.

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2014

ANNUAL DINNER SPOKANE

Live in Spokane

J.C. WATTS
former Congressman

Tuesday, September 23, 2014
6:00 pm Reception | 7:00 pm Dinner
at the Spokane Convention Center



Chairman of the J.C. Watts Companies and former Congressman from Oklahoma, J.C. was elected to Congress in 1994. In 1998 he was elected to serve as chairman of the Republican Conference, the fourth-ranking leadership position in the majority party in the U.S. House of Representatives.



WASHINGTON
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DINNER BELLEVUE

Featuring
ROBERT M. GATES
Secretary of Defense (2006 - 2011)

Thursday, October 2, 2014
6:00 pm Reception | 7:00 pm Dinner
at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue



Dr. Robert Gates served as the 22nd secretary of defense (2006-2011) and is the only secretary of defense in U.S. history to be asked to remain in that office by a newly elected President. Having served eight presidents, Gates published his latest memoir, *Duty, Memoirs of a Secretary at War*, this year.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS ANNUAL DINNER EVENT



Washington Policy Center's Annual Dinner has grown to become one of the largest gala policy events in the country. With the huge success of last year's event, we will hold the **Young Professionals Annual Dinner** once again this year. Join over 1,200 prominent business, policy and community leaders at the pre-event reception, enjoy drinks and a three-course dinner and watch the program via a live simulcast at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue.

Register individually or sponsor a YP/college table at:
donate.washingtonpolicy.org/2014YPAD

REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.WASHINGTONPOLICY.ORG/EVENTS

Meet WPC's New Board Member: Hon. Brian Sonntag

**Former Washington State Auditor
and current Executive Director,
Tacoma Rescue Mission**



Why are you involved with WPC?

I appreciate the opportunity to work with such a unique organization. WPC really makes a difference in the arena of policy making in Washington. Being part of this organization allows me to continue to affect open government and accountability.

How did you find out about WPC and start becoming involved?

During my time as State Auditor I came to really value and appreciate the professional work of WPC. The thorough and balanced studies and reports on a variety of public policy issues was information that we could always rely on. Additionally, the legislative bill tracking [WashingtonVotes.org] done by WPC is reliable, easy to use and most informative.

What about WPC makes you most proud to be a member of the WPC Board of Directors?

The caliber of the Board certainly. But I have always been so impressed with the staff of WPC and I am proud to work with them.

What policy change would you most like to see happen in our state?

In keeping with my work as State Auditor the issues of transparency and accountability will always be foremost to me. With that I have always advocated for more citizen access to the legislative process in Olympia. One example that former Attorney General Rob McKenna and I advocated for was to do away with "title only bills." This kind of secret law-making shuts citizens out. Additionally, a more easily understood budget and finance system in state government is something I have long advocated.

Hon. Brian Sonntag is the former State Auditor for the state of Washington. Sonntag was first elected to public office in 1978 as Pierce County Clerk, working as the administrative officer for the Superior Courts. In 1986, he was elected to the office of Pierce County Auditor. Following the end of his second term, Sonntag was elected Washington State Auditor in 1992. He was re-elected four times, most recently in 2008 with 70 percent of the vote. In 2010, WPC honored Sonntag with its annual Champion of Freedom Award for his advocacy of Washington's citizens and his commitment to accountable, accessible and responsive government. Sonntag is a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM). In January 2014, Sonntag was the author of WPC's comprehensive Seattle public pension study, The City of Seattle Pension System: A New Approach Is Needed. Sonntag has served on the boards of United Way and the Boys and Girls Club, and has volunteered for the YMCA and the March of Dimes. Since retiring as State Auditor, Sonntag has assumed the role of Executive Director at Tacoma's Rescue Mission, which assists men, women and children with shelter, food and skills training leading to self-sufficiency. He and his wife, Jann, have five boys and ten grandkids.



Hon. Brian Sonntag accepts WPC's Champion of Freedom award at WPC's 2010 Annual Dinner among Susan Hutchison, Charles Krauthammer and WPC Chairman Greg Porter.

East of the CASCADES

Celebrating five years in Eastern Washington

This year, Washington Policy Center celebrates the fifth anniversary of our Eastern Washington office! To mark the occasion, WPC is making a major change to our popular Annual Dinner event in Eastern Washington and increasing our focus on the issues that matter to Eastern Washingtonians. As the only research organization with offices in Eastern Washington, Washington Policy Center plays a key role in informing citizens east of the Cascades of the major changes coming to the health care and educational arenas, as well as proposals to increase public safety spending in the Tri-Cities in the coming year.

Public safety in the Tri-Cities

WPC's research is being used this summer in the debate over a proposal in Benton County to increase the local sales tax rate by 0.3%. Proposition 14-5 would collect approximately \$9 million per year for increased public safety spending. It would increase the total sales tax paid by a median income family by \$87 per year.

Our *Citizens Guide to Benton County Proposition 14-5* is an objective look at the facts, used by both the pro and con sides of the debate. It was also referred to multiple times in newspaper and television stories throughout the mid-Columbia.



Katie Mahoney of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce was the keynote speaker at WPC's Eastern Washington Health Care Luncheon. Pictured here with (L-R) WPC's Dr. Roger Stark, Paul Guppy and Chris Cargill.

Obamacare & Eastern Washington

In May, Washington Policy Center teamed up with Greater Spokane Incorporated to host Katie Mahoney



WPC Eastern Washington Director Chris Cargill meets with Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers, who gave the Republican Response to the State of the Union earlier this year.

of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce at our annual Eastern Washington Health Care Luncheon at the Davenport Hotel.

The popular luncheon is one of the premier annual health care events in Eastern Washington, attracting hundreds from around the region.

Focus on Eastern Washington's small businesses

WPC's efforts to improve the small business climate are front and center in Eastern Washington this year. Our biennial small business tour made stops in Walla Walla (June 17th) and Yakima (August 11th) this summer to listen to small business concerns.

Legislators including Sen. Sharon Brown and Rep. Maureen Walsh, as well as Mark Johnson with the Washington Retail Association and Jeff Losey with the Tri-Cities Homebuilders Association each spoke about the ongoing challenges Washington's small businesses face. While the state has one of the highest small business startup rates in the country, it also has one of the highest failure rates.

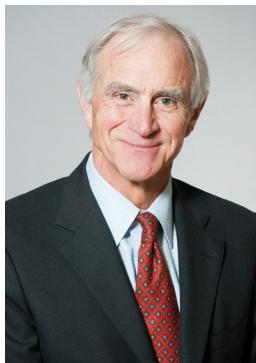
At each forum, small business owners were asked to vote on recommendations to improve the small business climate. WPC's Center for Small Business gathers the recommendations and publishes them in a study that will be presented to lawmakers across the state during the next legislative session.

POINT OF VIEW

VA wait-lists a result of socialized health care

This Opinion/Editorial was featured in The Seattle Times on June 17, 2014.

by Roger Stark, MD, FACS
WPC Health Policy Analyst



PROPONENTS of government-controlled health care are fond of pointing to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health system as a good example of efficiency and quality care. It turns out that VA hospitals are indeed typical of centrally planned, government-run facilities, which lead to excessive wait times and rationing of care.

Although initiated by complaints from VA hospitals in Phoenix, a recently released report by the VA's independent inspector general revealed improper scheduling "schemes" that were "systemic" and nationwide. In Phoenix alone, at least 40 veterans died while waiting for care. In a sample of 226 vets at the same facility, officials falsely claimed an average wait of 24 days, when in actuality the wait was 115 days on average.

Theoretically, every veteran in the VA system has health insurance. Yet, because of long waiting times, they don't actually receive care in a timely fashion. For veterans, health care is rationed by the government bureaucracy.

The VA system is not only a single-payer system, but is, in fact, an example of completely socialized medicine. The government owns the hospitals, employs the staff and sets the budgets. Costs are limited by central-planning, not by consumer choice or normal market competition, which leads to inefficiencies and treatment delays.

Before passage of the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, the inflammatory term "death panel" was used to describe a nonelected committee that would

make life-or-death decisions for patients covered by government-run health insurance.

Rationing, through long wait-lists, is simply another form of a death panel. Government officials decide who gets care and who has to wait. Without timely access to diagnostic and specialty care, our veterans are subject to bureaucratic health-care decisions that, as the families of Phoenix-area veterans discovered, can lead to death.

Obamacare includes Accountable Care Organizations (ACO), the latest version of Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs). The VA system is a perfect example of an ACO. Although both models can control costs with primary-care doctors functioning as gatekeepers to specialty care, the VA system hasn't consistently demonstrated better health outcomes or more timely treatment for patients.

The U.S. has a long-standing history of providing health care for our veterans. The VA system, however, duplicates our community-based health-care system at a tremendous cost to taxpayers and a disservice to our veterans. Service-related injuries should be handled in the best specialty facilities available, and the majority of routine medical care for veterans could be done in the private system.

Defenders of socialized medicine say they strongly object to letting veterans use the private system. Yet that is exactly what is now happening nationally. With the spotlight on the waiting-list scandal, local VA hospitals are shifting patients to private hospitals and doctors for high-quality, timely care.

Instead of waiting for a crisis, all veterans could receive a coupon or prepaid card that give them access to quality health care anywhere they choose. Another solution would be to expand TRICARE, or military health insurance, and give veterans the option of using private or active military hospitals.

There is no reason to duplicate our excellent private health-care system with a cumbersome, costly, inefficient government-run system. As a nation, we have a moral obligation to take care of our veterans. They should have access to the best and most-timely health care we can provide, even if socialized medicine advocates don't like the idea.



Taxpayers should be able to monitor public-employee contract negotiations

This Opinion/Editorial was featured in The Seattle Times on June 11, 2014.

**by Jason Mercier, Director,
Center for Government Reform**



IMAGINE that the governor is holding a series of secret closed-door negotiations with a company that could result in hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayer expenses. Now imagine that the same company secretly meeting with the governor is also a campaign contributor. Also imagine that the Legislature is barred from changing the details of an agreement negotiated in secret with the governor and can only vote up or down on funding the final proposal.

Sounds outrageous?

You bet! Yet that is exactly what happens each time state and local officials in Washington negotiate pay and benefits with public-employee unions.

The public has more than a passing interest in the ongoing contract talks between Metro and its employees. Consider the recent controversy surrounding the proposed King County Metro Transit cuts and the rejected Proposition 1, which would have raised the sales tax and car-tab fees. As it stands now, however, we shouldn't bother to try to learn the details; the public is not welcome in the negotiating meetings.

It doesn't have to be this way.

Several states ensure that the public is not shut out of the collective-bargaining process with government unions. Some states open the entire negotiation process to the public, while others include an exemption when government officials are strategizing among themselves. Once public officials meet with union negotiators, however, the public is allowed to monitor the process.

This is exactly what occurs in Florida. As that state's Attorney General explains, "The Legislature has, therefore, divided Sunshine Law policy on collective bargaining for public employees into two parts: when the public employer is meeting with its own side, it is exempt from the Sunshine Law; when the public employer is meeting with the other side, it is required to comply with the Sunshine Law."

State and local employment contracts should not be negotiated in secret. The public provides the money for these agreements. We should be allowed to follow the process and hold government officials accountable for the spending decisions they make on our behalf. Open meetings would identify whether one side is being unreasonable, and would quickly reveal who is acting in bad faith.

The state Senate considered a bill this year to address this problem, but ultimately did not hold a floor vote on SB 6183 (which would require public-employee collective-bargaining sessions to be open meetings). Among those in favor of this reform is the nonpartisan Washington Coalition for Open Government, which wrote that it supports "opening of contract negotiations to the public" while opposing "making it so trivially easy to close contract negotiations to the public."

A broader conversation should occur about how the relatively new state collective-bargaining process, which took effect in 2005, is working. But even if mandatory government collective bargaining is retained, at a minimum we should end the shroud of secrecy that surrounds the current negotiations.

It is doubtful the citizens of our state meant everything except contract negotiations with government unions should be subject to the open meetings law they enacted by initiative. They declared, "The people of this state do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created."

Being kept in the dark makes fulfilling this open-government intent next to impossible.

Public access to that meeting is forbidden. But, for future meetings, lawmakers should take the "keep out" sign off the door and let the taxpayers, who must foot the bill for any deal, into the room.



What grade did your school receive?

IN 2009, Washington's Legislature directed the State Board of Education to create an annual School Achievement Index to rate the performance of the state's 2,212 public schools.

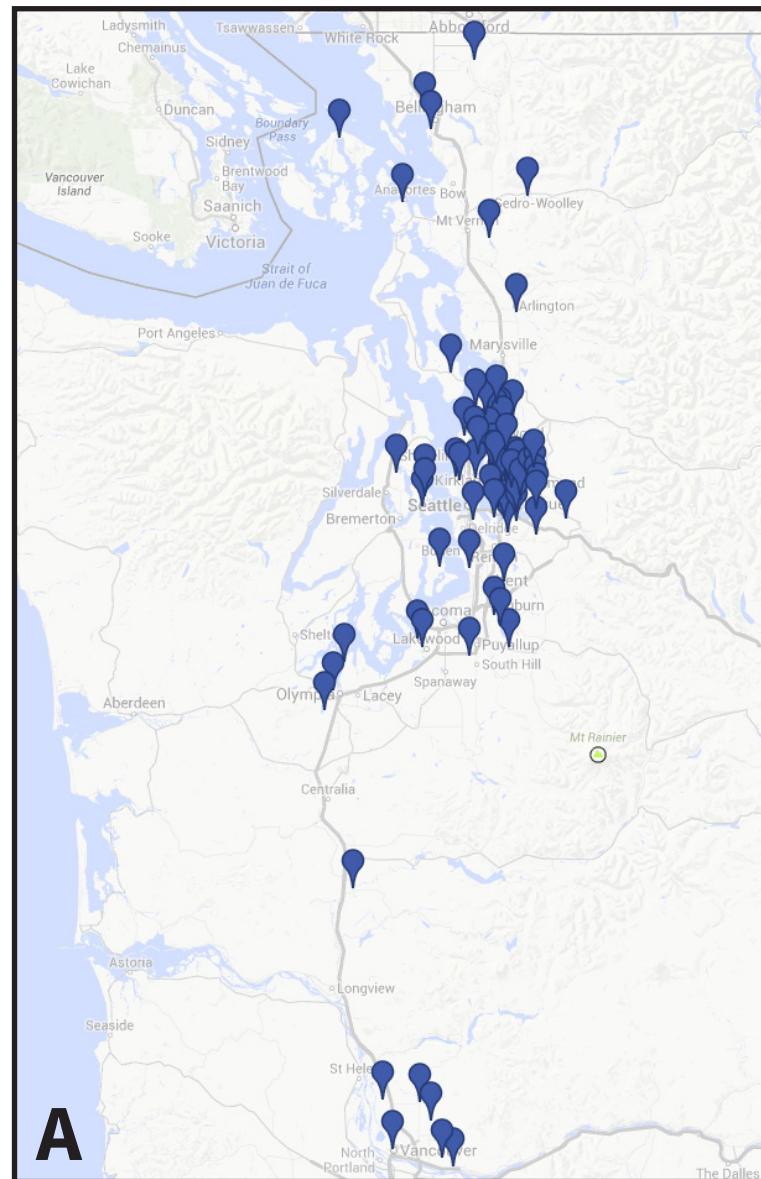
The Index collects student growth and student test scores in reading, writing, math and science, plus each high school's graduation rate. Using these measures, schools are placed in one of six categories: Exemplary, Very Good, Good, Fair, Underperforming and Lowest 5%.

The Index for student results from 2012-13 shows that 39% of the state's public schools rank in the top three tiers of Exemplary (90 schools), Very Good (268 schools), and Good (514 schools). The 2013 Index shows that 43 percent of the state's public schools rank in the bottom three tiers of Fair (554 schools), Underperforming (267 schools) and Lowest 5% (119 schools). The 2013 Index also shows that 18% of the state's public schools (400 schools) received no score.

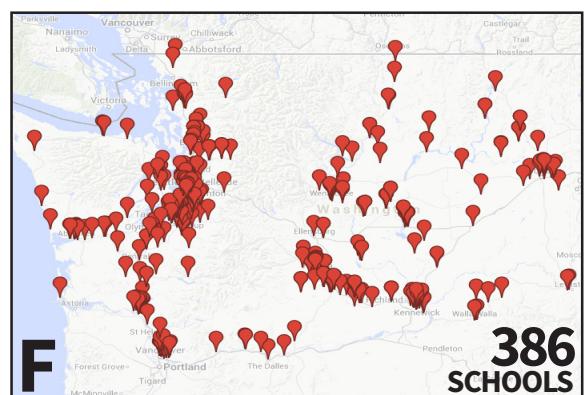
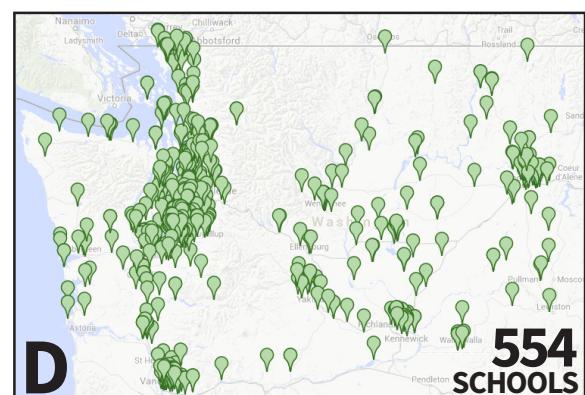
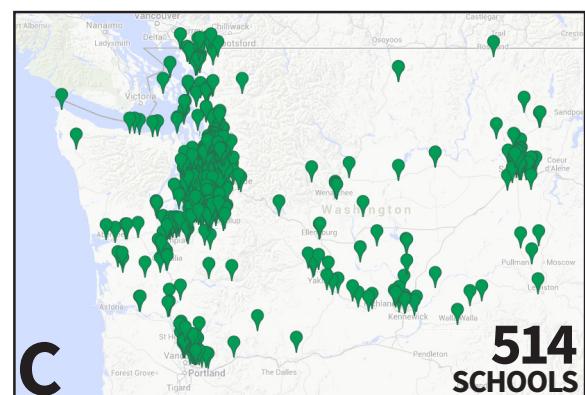
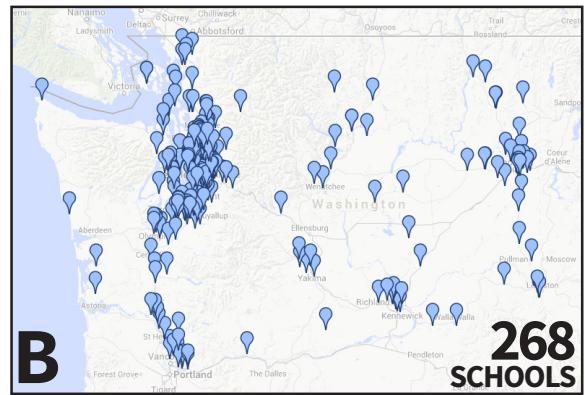
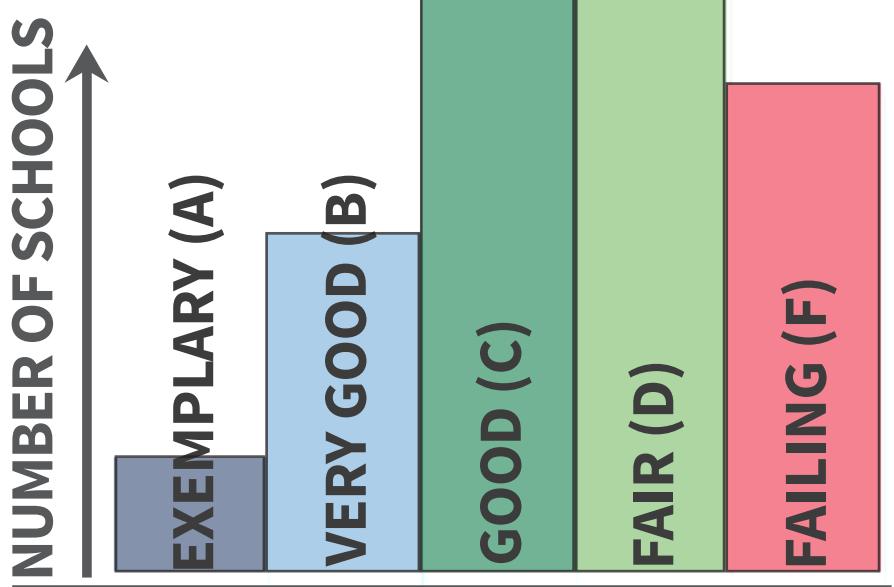
The idea of giving letter grades to public schools as a way of informing the public has been recommended by senior elected leaders in state government. During his campaign, Governor Inslee said he wanted "to establish a system in which every school in the state receives a letter grade that's accessible to parents."

Legislation was introduced in 2013 which would create an A through F school grading program based on the State Board of Education's accountability measures. Washington Policy Center has assigned letter grades to these categories to show how A through F rankings would apply if the legislature were to adopt a letter grade system: Exemplary (A), Very Good (B), Good (C), Fair (D), Underperforming and Lowest 5% (F).

The purpose of a letter grading system is to give parents and taxpayers a clear, understandable measure of each school's performance in serving the learning needs of children. Educators give letter grades to students every day to assess academic progress through the year. In the same way, letter grades for schools would show policymakers and the public how well schools are performing in their paramount duty to provide a quality education to every child.



Explore WPC's Achievement Index maps, read WPC Education Director Liv Finne's analysis and find your school's grade at:
washingtonpolicy.org/2012-13AchievementIndex



The Index for student results from 2012-13 shows that 39% of the state's public schools rank in the top three tiers of Exemplary (A) (90 schools), Very Good (B) (268 schools), and Good (C) (514 schools). The 2013 Index shows that 43% percent of the state's public schools rank in the bottom two tiers of Fair (D) (554 schools) and Failing (F) (386 schools). 18% of the state's schools received no score.

It sounds good, but it's not good for workers

This Opinion/Editorial was featured in The Puget Sound Business Journal on June 27, 2014 and has been adapted for Viewpoint Magazine.

*by Erin Shannon, Director,
Center for Small Business*



THE City of Seattle has made history with an ordinance that will force every employer in the city to pay every worker a \$15 per hour minimum wage, which is the highest in the nation.

While the controversial wage mandate has passed the City Council and is supported by the mayor, it has not yet been enacted; but it is already having a chilling effect on jobs.

Small business owners are expressing deep worry over the coming super-high minimum wage. Many of these job creators say they are holding off on opening new ventures or expanding their current business in Seattle, while others say they are delaying plans to hire new workers. A commercial property landlord says several of her tenant business owners may not renew their leases if the \$15 wage becomes law.

As she puts it, "It's just too expensive to operate in the city."

Even business owners who have supported a higher minimum wage are having a change of heart. Jody Hall, owner of Cupcake Royale and respected progressive activist, initially supported a \$15 minimum wage. But now she says the proposed policy is "keeping me up at night like nothing ever has."

Hall told KUOW/NPR radio she now has "serious second thoughts" about a \$15 minimum wage, especially since Seattle would be "going it alone" with a wage that is significantly higher than any other minimum wage in the nation.

Her second thoughts about a \$15 minimum wage mandate have led to second thoughts about expanding her business. She had planned to open a new business in Seattle this year but has tabled

the idea for now. Hall says if she considers any new locations in the near future, they will be outside the city limits.

That is one way a high minimum wage often kills job opportunities, by eliminating them even before they are created.

A city-commissioned study says a \$15 minimum wage would help low-wage workers and reduce poverty. But the mandate can help only people who have jobs; this study omitted any estimations of the impact on employment. A subsequent study by a Seattle economist predicted significant job losses.

It would seem the Seattle economist has been proved right early. The \$15 wage is not yet in effect, and it is already pushing businesses into neighboring cities and killing jobs in Seattle, as business owners stop growing their companies and hiring new workers.

Employers cannot pay workers more than the value of their output. If an employer must pay a worker \$15 per hour, he must ensure the worker produces at least that amount in economic value, or the employer will be forced to reduce the cost of labor in the only legal way remaining, by cutting benefits or hiring fewer people.

That's what is happening in SeaTac.

Northwest Asian Weekly reports employees subject to the narrowly passed \$15 minimum wage law say they have lost benefits such as 401(k) plans, paid holidays, paid vacation, free food, free parking and overtime hours. One hotel waitress said she is earning less now because tips have decreased since the high wage law. In many cases these benefits, plus the previous minimum wage, added up to more than workers receive under the \$15 wage law.

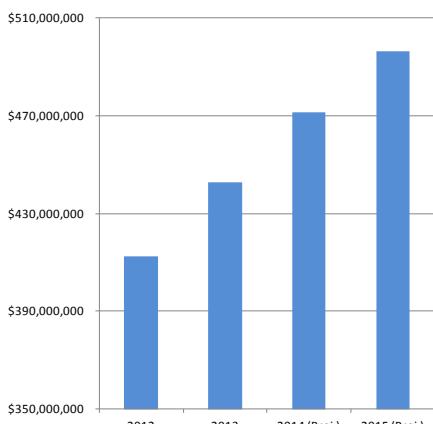
As one SeaTac worker put it, "It sounds good, but it's not good."

SeaTac's \$15 minimum wage has been in effect less than six months, and workers in that city are discovering the high-wage mandate comes with a steep cost. In Seattle, a minimum wage has not even gone into effect, and employers are already adjusting by canceling plans to expand and hire new workers. We can expect many Seattle businesses to cut benefits as SeaTac employers had to. Others, especially small businesses, will be forced to lay off workers.

\$15 Now! is the battle cry of activists in Seattle. A more accurate slogan would be, "It sounds good, but it's not good for workers." 

How we got here: WPC's impact on the King County Metro Transit debate

The rise in current Metro sales tax collections, 2012 - 2015 (projected)



February 25, 2014

King County Council approves putting Proposition 1 on the April 22nd ballot. Proposition 1 would increase car tab fees and sales taxes in the county. The County Executive plans to cut Metro bus service by 600,000 hours, or 17% of the total system if it does not pass.

March 19, 2014

WPC made news by publishing new, record-breaking sales tax revenue forecasts from King County. King County Metro not only received record revenue last year, but is receiving a \$32 million tax windfall both this year and next year, more than half of what they need to preserve service. County officials proceeded to seek tax increases regardless.



April 10, 2014

WPC says Metro should provide the updated information to voters trying to determine if Proposition 1 serves their financial and transportation needs. WPC noted that Metro's plan to reduce their planned cuts would only happen after the vote and only if it fails.

April 11, 2014

KIRO TV interviews WPC about the County's withholding of service cut reductions per the April 10th blog post.



The Seattle Times

Editorials

Originally published Sunday, April 13, 2014 at 3:48 PM

Editorial: King County needs to provide new numbers for Metro bus-service cuts

With a campaign for King County Proposition 1 based on the-sky-is-falling rhetoric, the truth is not so politically convenient.

Who paid for the Prop. 1 campaign?

Anti-Increase: \$12,487

Largest Pro-Prop 1 donors:
Unions and advocacy groups.

Pro-Increase:
\$687,785

The Seattle Times

Cut King County Metro costs

By BOB PISHUE
Special to The Times

FOR several months now, Dow Constantine, Metropolitan King County Council member Larry Phillips, and other leaders have told the public they would our neighborhood bus service by 16 percent if they did not receive the regressive tax increases they sought from the Proposition 1 ballot measure, which failed. "It either has cuts or this" increase to the sales tax and car tabs, said Councilmember Phillips before the vote. Their planned cuts fall hardest on low-income families in neighborhoods across the county, according to a Seattle Times news story.

Instead of better budget management, finding ways to preserve services while maintaining a system more efficient, elected officials are seeking higher taxes yet again. County leaders want Olympia to pass a statewide transportation package that would allow them to implement a popular motor vehicle excise tax.

Seattle Mayor Ed Murray recently announced a plan to increase car tabs by \$60 and increase the sales tax by 0.1 percent, to 9.6 percent. Last week, Everett councilman Proposition 1 passed overwhelmingly (by 66 percent) in Seattle, any tax proposal for Metro Transit could suffer a similar fate as Proposition 1, because of the way false choices are presented to voters.

The false choice presented to voters by Proposition 1 was that a yes vote would have forced buses to pay more for the same level of bus service. In reality, it would bring neighborhood bus-service cuts by county leaders. It was a lose-lose that didn't allow for constructive alternatives to keep buses on the road without raising regressive taxes.

Improving budget management is often opposed by powerful unions and other interest groups. Managing budgets and imple-

menting efficiency changes are trade-offs making political life difficult for elected officials. But in this case, there are positive alternatives that allow King County leaders to call a timeout in their plan to bus-cut.

The good news is Metro's financial outlook continues to improve. Without Proposition 1, Metro is receiving a \$32 million sales-tax windfall above previous estimates for 2014. Rising revenues allows King County leaders, if they

choose, to stop most of their cuts to bus service. To avoid cutting bus service altogether, officials need to save an additional \$28 million, less than 3 percent of the transportation budget for the entire county.

King County leaders have the opportunity to avoid service cuts without raising taxes. Transit agencies are often locked into long-term labor contracts that lack flexibility. In December, however, Metro's largest union, the American Federation of Transport Union Local 587, rejected a generous offer and is currently working without a contract. Opening a dialogue could provide man-

agement and labor a chance to work together to protect neighborhood bus service.

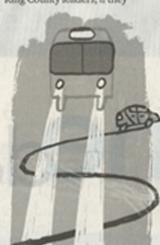
The Municipal League identified six recommendations for Metro officials to improve their operations and funding for next year. These recommendations include creative measures King County could implement to augment revenue and avoid spending higher taxes.

The County Council could also review the large capital budget for savings. Metro is spending \$338 million this year on capital expenditures, mostly to buy new buses. Officials say they are spending \$65 million more than planned on new buses. Cost overruns exert pressure on the operating budget and hinder Metro's ability to provide reliable bus service in our communities.

King County leaders should work to prevent most of the cuts to bus service, especially for the county's most vulnerable residents.

A good-faith effort includes considering all options before cutting services. Managing a large urban transit agency is hard work, but life gets harder when all of us who government officials take away our neighborhood bus service.

Bob Pishue is transportation director for the Washington Policy Center.



GARRELL CAMPANARIO / SEATTLE TIMES

May 26, 2014

WPC's Op-Ed is featured in *The Seattle Times*. The Op-Ed provided recommendations to County officials to avoid their planned cuts in bus service.

June 3, 2014

King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski proposes an alternative to Executive Constantine's plan, saying an "opportunity exists" to use rising revenues, reduce costs, and implement efficiencies to stop or reduce planned service cuts.

June 9, 2014

Councilmember Dembowski's plan passes on a 5-4 vote of the Council. Within minutes, Executive Constantine vetoes it, moving forward with his plan to cut 550,000 hours of bus service over the next year.

July 21, 2014

The King County Council unanimously approves a reduction in their planned cuts to Metro bus service.

ATTEST:

Anne Noris
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 9 day of JUNE 2014.
Dow Constantine
Dow Constantine, County Executive

VETOED
Attachments: A. September 2014 Public Transportation Service Change for King County

Introducing Washington's new charter schools

We all win when our students are given more choices in public education. In June, Washington Policy Center presented the leaders of all eight of Washington's new approved charter schools at our breakfast events in Seattle and Spokane. Over 300 citizens, parents and elected officials heard these charter school leaders describe the features of their schools' programs, followed by a lively question and answer discussion.

If you attended, we hope you enjoyed the powerful presentation of our state's new charter schools and left feeling inspired about this pivotal step in offering school choice. As you know, charter schools can offer innovations in school staffing, scheduling, educational programs and in the



WPC introduced the community to Eastern Washington's first public charter school PRIDE Prep at an event at the Davenport Hotel on June 3rd.



Excel Charter School Founder Adel Sefrioui explains that Excel provides 500 additional hours of learning and twice the math and science students receive in traditional public schools.

use of technology. We heard how these first eight schools will better serve the needs of students, while spending less money to operate than traditional schools.

Did you miss the event? Check out our event page at washingtonpolicy.org/events for resources from our breakfast and to watch TVW's coverage of the events. Also, be on the lookout for WPC's upcoming four-minute video featuring the state's new charter schools at washingtonpolicy.org.

"Children who come to school with less deserve more."

-PRIDE Prep President & CEO Brenda McDonald, Spokane



Charter school leaders Dan Seydel II and Sheri Day of First Place Scholars, Maggie O'Sullivan of Rainier Prep, Adel Sefrioui of Excel, Jen Wickens of Summit Schools, Marco Petrucci of Green Dot and Kristina Bellamy-McClain of SOAR Academies.

We asked WPC's summer interns...

What makes you a free-market economist at heart?

Through the Janet and Doug True Internship program, WPC is privileged to have five interns this summer at WPC's Seattle and Eastern Washington offices.



"To me, the free-market means accountability – it challenges lawmakers to make honest policy that represents the needs of those who chose them for office."

Annaliese Herms

First Year, University of Washington, Master of Public Administration



"The free market creates a correct system. Everyone has the opportunity to work as hard as they want. Supply and demand should be an equalizing force. I believe in this system because it gives everyone a chance to work and succeed."

Greg Sklar

Sophomore, Wabash College, Rhetoric/Political Science



"I believe free-market means competition between businesses to put it very simply. What makes me a free market economist at heart is my resentment towards taxes."

Travis Strawn

Senior, University of Washington, Finance/Political Science



"I am a free-market economist at heart because I believe that it is important to ensure that resources are allocated only to the goods and services that are in demand by consumers."

Ashley Uhl

Senior, University of Washington, Political Science/Environmental Science and Resource Management



"When government imposes regulations on goods and services, the consumer is the one who suffers. Choice is vital, and this is what makes me a free-market economist at heart."

Allison Walther

Senior, Eastern Washington University, Journalism/Public Relations

About WPC's Janet and Doug True Research Internship Program

Washington Policy Center offers paid, part-time internship positions geared toward undergraduate students and recent graduates for each academic quarter including summer. Interns work approximately 15 hours per week. The Center allows flexible hours to work around the intern's class schedule while attending nearby colleges and universities.

Research interns work directly with the Center's research department. Their duties include, but are not limited to:

- Conducting research
- Assisting at WPC public policy events and meetings
- Performing administrative tasks

A student in political science, history or government with an interest in Washington state public policy issues is desired; however, applicants from all majors are eligible. Applicants should have an above average GPA with great communication skills and strong command of search engine utilization and Microsoft Office.

Depending on the institution, WPC's research internship may be eligible for academic credit.

To apply, visit:
www.washingtonpolicy.org



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.@WAPolicyCenter's Paul Guppy hits nail on the head: health insurers have become regulated utilities under #ACA.
#WAPolicyHCC2014

 Bellevue Chamber
@BellevueChamber

Hearing Sen @tomrodney at @WAPolicyCenter Solutions Summit on transportation! Great work @tomrodney!
#WaPolicySS

 Secretary of State
@secstatewa

.@WAPolicyCenter interesting WSU survey shows support for allowing citizen lego testimony by remote hookup.
tinyurl.com/lxhluw9

 Eric Fruits, Ph.D.
@ericfruits

Just finished giving a presentation on the economics of right-to-work to a full house in Bellevue, WA. #WAPolicySS
fplus.me/p/3Z9k

 Sue Lani Madsen
@SueLaniMadsen

Washington Policy Center Minimum Wage Debate at GU well attended, civil. Need more such events #WPCminwagedebate...
fb.me/3KnywDyul