



LegisLetter

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2012 Vote Record

Each year Washington Farm Bureau provides our members with an indication of how legislators voted on issues of interest to agriculture.

Our primary goal during the 2012 legislative sessions was once again to prevent the passage of bills that would have increased the tax or regulatory burden on the agricultural industry. Because of the makeup of the Legislature, the past few years have been a defensive battle rather than an opportunity to implement new and improved ideas to help the state.

Before the session even began, Gov. Chris Gregoire proposed a half-cent increase in the sales tax to help balance the state budget. The budget writers for the majority Democrats in the House and Senate developed budgets that used gimmicks rather than real reforms to reduce spending. Instead, they proposed a number of bills to increase revenue by eliminating existing B&O tax exemptions for business. These bills included the B&O tax exemptions created explicitly by knowledgeable legislators to help keep Washington agriculture competitive.

We were able to fend off these tax increase attempts, and the operating budget passed with no tax increases on ag. Sadly a compromise budget passed without implementation of broad, sweeping spending reforms and other cost-cutting measures that are sorely needed.

Some small improvements were made. A bill requiring budget writers to consider the long-term costs associated with their spending decisions passed. SB 6636 will require future state budgets to be balanced over a four-year period, rather than just the current two years. This new requirement will eliminate the use of accounting gimmicks that push costs into the next biennium.

The Legislature also passed SB 6378 that will save the state \$1.3 billion over the next 25 years by reducing early retirement benefits for state employees hired after April 2013. For instance, an existing 30-year state employee can now retire at age 55 and receive an 80 percent monthly benefit. Under SB 6378 this will be reduced to a 50 percent monthly benefit.

In the final hours of action during the first and second special sessions, House and Senate leadership introduced and passed a new bill containing many pro-business, pro-ag items we had been lobbying for since January. However, SB 6635 was purposely structured to pit one industry against another. The bill provided real tax benefits to agriculture by maintaining

the existing B&O tax exemption for dairy, fruit and vegetable, and shellfish processors (an annual \$7 million savings) and by extending the leasehold excise tax exemption at port facilities (an annual \$5 million savings). The bill also eliminated the existing B&O tax deduction on interest from residential first mortgages received by financial institutions operating in more than 10 states. This provision targeted large banks with a \$15 million per year tax. This tactic took a destructive approach to politics because it was designed solely for the purpose of dividing the state's business community. These kinds of political games are damaging and do not benefit the people of the state.

The bottom line is that political and philosophical change is desperately needed in Olympia – both within the Legislature and with the governor's office. We are unable to focus our energy on the creation of new laws and policies that will make it easier for businesses to flourish when all our time is dedicated to fighting off bad or destructive laws and regulations. If Washington is ever going to turn the corner, a dramatic change in Olympia must happen.

The elections this year mark the best opportunity for change we have seen in nearly three decades.

Here is a brief summary of the bills used in this year's vote record:

Senate

- (1) Becker Amendment to Health Care Exchange Bill** (Amendment 174 to E2SHB 2319) – This Senate amendment would have limited the scope of the exchange bill to the issues required to be covered and would have allowed greater market flexibility. Farm Bureau supported this approach which failed by a vote of 22-26-1-0
- (2) Health Care Exchange Bill** (E2SHB 2319) – This bill further implements Obamacare in Washington state. It restricts what products may be offered outside the health care exchange. The final vote was 27-22 in the Senate. Farm Bureau opposed this bill.
- (3) Senate Supplemental Operating Budget** (ESB 5967) – This was the first Senate version of the budget formed by a coalition of Republicans and three Democrats to pass the Senate. It achieved a balanced budget with reforms, reductions, and no gimmicks. This bill passed 25-24. Farm Bureau supported this approach to budgeting.
- (4) Final Bipartisan Supplemental Operating Budget** (3ESHB 2127) – This version was largely shaped by a coalition of fiscally responsible Republicans and Democrats in the Senate. It passed the Senate 44-2-0-3. Farm Bureau supported this version of the budget.
- (5) Future Balanced Budgets** (SSB 6636) – This bill requires the Legislature to pass operating budgets that will remain balanced for years based on known tax revenue estimates. It passed the Senate 38-9-0-2. Farm Bureau supported this measure.

House

- (1) **Schmick Amendment to Health Care Exchange Bill** (Amendment 1080 to E2SHB 2319) – This House amendment would have limited the scope of the exchange bill to the issues required to be covered and would have allowed greater market flexibility. Farm Bureau supported this approach, but it failed by a vote of 44-51-0-3.
- (2) **Health Care Exchange Bill** (E2SHB 2319) – This bill further implements Obamacare in Washington state. It restricts what products may be offered outside the health care exchange. The final vote was 55-41-0-2 in the House. Farm Bureau opposed this bill.
- (3) **Mandated Health Care Coverage for Abortion** (ESHB 2330) – This bill would have required health care providers to offer abortion coverage that was substantially equivalent to their maternity coverage. The bill passed the House 52-46. Farm Bureau opposed this additional mandate on insurance plans.
- (4) **Drayage Truckers** (SHB 2395) – This bill sought to reclassify certain independent short-haul truckers as employees. It would have created more uncertainty and higher costs related to ag exports through our major ports. The bill passed the House 52-43-0-3. Farm Bureau opposed this bill.
- (5) **House Supplemental Operating Budget** (ESHB 2127) – This was the first passage of the House version of the supplemental operating budget that relied on gimmicks to balance the budget. It contained no reforms or substantive spending reductions. It passed the House 53-45. Farm Bureau opposed this measure.
- (6) **House Version of Senate Budget** (ESB 5967 as Amended) – The House responded to the Senate coalition budget by stripping out the Senate language and replacing it with their budget that once again relied on gimmicks to balance the budget. This version passed the House 53-45. Farm Bureau opposed this attempt for the same reasons as we opposed ESHB 2127.
- (7) **Final Bipartisan Supplemental Operating Budget** (3ESHB 2127) – This version was largely shaped by a coalition of fiscally responsible Republicans and Democrats in the Senate. It passed the House 64-34. Farm Bureau supported this version of the budget.
- (8) **Future Balanced Budgets** (SSB 6636) – This bill requires the Legislature to pass operating budgets that will remain balanced for years based on known tax revenue estimates. It passed the House 79-19. Farm Bureau supported this measure.

Washington State Senate Vote Record 2012

Name (Party & District)	(1) Becker Health Care Amd	(2) Health Care Exchange Bill	(3) Senate Coalition Budget	(4) Bipartisan Budget FP	(5) Future Budgets	Percentage
Farm Bureau Position	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	
Baumgartner, Michael (R-6)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Becker, Randi (R-2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Benton, Don (R-17)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Brown, Lisa (D-3)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	40%
Carrell, Mike (R-28)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Chase, Maralyn (D-32)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	20%
Conway, Steve (D-29)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	20%
Delvin, Jerome (R-8)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Eide, Tracey (D-30)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	40%
Ericksen, Doug (R-42)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Fain, Joe (R-47)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Fraser, Karen (D-22)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	40%
Frockett, David (D-46)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	40%
Hargrove, James (D-24)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	40%
Harper, Nick (D-38)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	40%
Hatfield, Brian (D-19)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	40%
Haugen, Mary Margaret (D-10)	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	60%
Hewitt, Mike (R-16)	✓	✓	✓	●	●	98%
Hill, Andy (R-45)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Hobbs, Steve (D-44)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	40%
Holmquist Newbry, Janéa (R-13)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Honeyford, Jim (R-15)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Kastama, Jim (D-25)	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	60%
Keiser, Karen (D-33)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	40%
Kilmer, Derek (D-26)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	40%
King, Curtis (R-14)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Kline, Adam (D-37)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	20%
Kohl-Welles, Jeanne (D-36)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	20%
Litzow, Steve (R-41)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
McAuliffe, Rosemary (D-1)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	40%
Morton, Bob (R-7)	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	99%
Murray, Ed (D-43)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	20%
Nelson, Sharon (D-34)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	20%
Padden, Mike (R-4)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	80%
Parlette, Linda Evans (R-12)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Pflug, Cheryl (R-5)	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	40%
Prentice, Margarita (D-11)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	40%
Pridemore, Craig (D-49)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	20%
Ranker, Kevin (D-40)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	20%
Regala, Debbie (D-27)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	20%
Roach, Pam (R-31)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Rolfes, Christine (D-23)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	40%
Schoesler, Mark (R-9)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Sheldon, Tim (D-35)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Shin, Paull (D-21)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	40%
Stevens, Val (R-39)	✓	✓	✓	●	●	98%
Swecker, Dan (R-20)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Tom, Rodney (D-48)	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	60%
Zarelli, Joseph (R-18)	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	99%

✓ = vote supporting WFB position, ✗ = vote opposing WFB Position, ● = Absent/excused from voting

Washington State House of Representatives Vote Record 2012

Name (Party & District)	1) Schmick Health Care Amd	2) Health Care Exchange	3) Mandated Abortion Funding	4) Drayage Truckers	5) First House Budget	6) House Vote on Sen Budget	7) Final Bipartisan Budget	8) Future Budgets	Percentage
Farm Bureau Position	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	
Ahern, John (R-6)	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	85%
Alexander, Gary (R-20)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Anderson, Glenn (R-5)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	75%
Angel, Jan (R-26)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Appleton, Sherry (D-23)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	13%
Armstrong, Mike (R-12)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Asay, Katrina (R-30)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Bailey, Barbara (R-10)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Billig, Andy (D-3)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Blake, Brian (D-19)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Buys, Vincent (R-42)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Carlyle, Reuven (D-36)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Chandler, Bruce (R-15)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Chopp, Frank (D-43)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Clibborn, Judy (D-41)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Cody, Eileen (D-34)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Condotta, Cary (R-12)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Crouse, Larry (R-4)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Dahlquist, Cathy (R-31)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Dammeier, Bruce (R-25)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Darneille, Jeannie (D-27)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	13%
DeBolt, Richard (R-20)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Dickerson, Mary Lou (D-36)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	13%
Dunshee, Hans (D-44)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Eddy, Deb (D-48)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	50%
Fagan, Susan (R-9)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Finn, Fred (D-35)	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	50%
Fitzgibbon, Joe (D-34)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	13%
Goodman, Roger (D-45)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Green, Tami (D-28)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Haigh, Kathy (D-35)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Haler, Larry (R-8)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Hansen, Drew (D-23)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Hargrove, Mark (R-47)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Harris, Paul (R-17)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Hasegawa, Bob (D-11)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	13%
Hinkle, Bill (R-13)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Hope, Mike (R-44)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Hudgins, Zack (D-11)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	13%
Hunt, Sam (D-22)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Hunter, Ross (D-48)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Hurst, Christopher (D-31)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	75%
Jinkins, Laurie (D-27)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	13%
Johnson, Norm (R-14)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Kagi, Ruth (D-32)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	13%
Kelley, Troy (D-28)	●	✗	✗	●	✗	✗	✓	✓	31%
Kenney, Phyllis Gutierrez (D-46)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	13%
Kirby, Steve (D-29)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	13%
Klippert, Brad (R-8)	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	85%

Name (Party & District)	1) Schmick Health Care Amd	2) Health Care Exchange Bill	3) Mandated Abortion Funding	4) Drayage Truckers	5) First House Budget	6) House vote on Sen Budget	7) Final Bipartisan Budget	8) Future Budgets	Percentage
Farm Bureau Position	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	
Kretz, Joel (R-7)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Kristiansen, Dan (R-39)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Ladenburg, Connie (D-29)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	13%
Liias, Marko (D-21)	●	✗	✗	●	✗	✗	✓	✓	31%
Lytton, Kristine (D-40)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Maxwell, Marcie (D-41)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
McCoy, John (D-38)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	13%
McCune, Jim (R-2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Miloscia, Mark (D-30)	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	63%
Moeller, Jim (D-49)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Morris, Jeff (D-40)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	38%
Moscoco, Luis (D-1)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Nealey, Terry (R-16)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Orcutt, Ed (R-18)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Ormsby, Timm (D-3)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	13%
Orwall, Tina (D-33)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Overstreet, Jason (R-42)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Parker, Kevin (R-6)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Pearson, Kirk (R-39)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Pedersen, Jamie (D-43)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	13%
Pettigrew, Eric (D-37)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Pollet, Gerry (D-46)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Probst, Tim (D-17)	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	50%
Reykdal, Chris (D-22)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	13%
Rivers, Ann (R-18)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Roberts, Mary Helen (D-21)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	13%
Rodne, Jay (R-5)	●	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	✗	✓	81%
Ross, Charles (R-14)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Ryu, Cindy (D-32)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	13%
Santos, Sharon Tomiko (D-37)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	13%
Schmick, Joe (R-9)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Seaquist, Larry (D-26)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	38%
Sells, Mike (D-38)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Shea, Matt (R-4)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Short, Shelly (R-7)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Smith, Norma (R-10)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Springer, Larry (D-45)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Stanford, Derek (D-1)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Sullivan, Pat (D-47)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Takko, Dean (D-19)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	38%
Taylor, David (R-15)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Tharinger, Steve (D-24)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Upthegrove, Dave (D-33)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Van De Wege, Kevin (D-24)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Walsh, Maureen (R-16)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Warnick, Judy (R-13)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%
Wilcox, J.T. (R-2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Wylie, Sharon (D-49)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	25%
Zeiger, Hans (R-25)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%

✓ = vote supporting WFB position, ✗ = vote opposing WFB Position, ● = Absent/excused from voting