

Election Season in Washington State is always Crazy-Town!

This year is no exception. It's been a wild ride in Washington with the election. Initial results are in, and we have mixed news:

Governor Jay Inslee (D) defeated Republican challenger Bill Bryant, who WOMA endorsed and donated heavily to his campaign. Inslee led in early voter ballots mailed in, but there was still hope that Bryant would prevail. Inslee, a former congressman, touted his environmental policy and record throughout his campaign.

In the Federal Race, Senator Patty Murray was re-elected to a fifth term in the US Senate, making the Democrat one of the longest-serving senators in Washington's history. Murray defeated Republican Chris Vance. In Washington's liberal 7th Congressional district, Pramila Jayapal defeated Brady Walkinshaw to succeed retiring D-Rep. Jim McDermott. The state's nine other US Representatives were re-elected – most of those races WOMA is quite pleased with.

On the Initiative front, Washington voters decided the fate of several high-profile initiatives on Tuesday, supporting a measure that would raise the statewide minimum wage, but defeating I-732 that sought to impose the nation's first direct carbon tax. This was a big win for WOMA! And we were the 4th largest association contributor to the "No on I-732" campaign!

Initiative 1433 will raise the hourly wage by roughly \$4/hour over three years, to \$13.50. The measure also requires employers to provide paid sick leave – at least one hour for every 40 worked – that could be used to care for family members or as "safe leave" for those who miss work because of domestic violence.

But voters rejected I-732, the carbon tax measure. Sponsors of the I-732 said, "Residents have a moral responsibility to curb greenhouse gas emissions." WHATEVER! The tax would encourage businesses to conserve or switch to clean energy by making fossil fuels more expensive.

On the LD front, it appears the Senate will settle at a narrow 25-24 Majority Coalition Caucus control. The MCC consists of 24 Republicans and 1 Democrat! In the House, we still have 6-7 races that are too close to call at the time of writing, but Democrats will likely pick up 1-2 seats. Time will tell on that front.

The Republicans did have a few other key wins in the State last night:

- Kim Wyman will hold the Secretary of State position
- Duane Davidson wins an open seat contest over another Republican

Key Dates we want you to mark on your calendar!

December 8th – Holiday Party at Safeco Field

Check out all the Holiday Party details, schedule and registration form at:
<http://www.wpma.com/washington/calendar-of-events>

2017 WOMA Convention and Tradeshow

June 18-22, 2017

2017 Western Energy Policy Summit – **more details to come

September 18-20, 2017