

AFT Washington represents approximately 6,500 education professionals working in the early learning, K-12, and higher education sectors. Our members teach all ages of students, from young children in pre-K education settings to adults in community and technical college courses. AFT Washington members also provide direct care and support for students and teachers as paraeducators, bus drivers, food service workers, custodians, grounds crew members, and maintenance technicians at school facilities.

Together with our national organization, we seek to:

- Promote a vision of what education can be in the future;
- Involve the voices of students, parents, and the community, side-by-side with educational employees and elected officials;
- Fulfill our collective obligation to help *all* students succeed, at every level;
- Reclaim the promise of public education's purpose as a propeller of our economy, an anchor of democracy, and a gateway to racial, social, and economic justice.

**As an incumbent, we understand that your knowledge of our organization and our values may be great.** We hope you will take this opportunity to complete the questionnaire below and showcase how you've worked throughout your latest term to champion education priorities and support the educators and support staff who serves students and their families. Completing the questionnaire is required for consideration of endorsement or possible campaign contributions. If our Committee On Political Education (COPE) decides they would like further information, we may ask you to participate in an interview.

We ask that you return your completed questionnaire to us **by 5:00 PM, Friday, April 18**. Please send it by email to Bernal Baca at [bbaca@aftwa.org](mailto:bbaca@aftwa.org). If you have questions, call Bernal at (206) 432-8086.

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### **2014 COPE Incumbent Candidate Questionnaire**

1. On a continuum of public education advocacy, where do you see yourself – supporter, ally, or champion - and how has that translated to action related to early learning, K-12, and postsecondary education?

I definitely see myself as a proven champion. In 2012 I served as President of the Issaquah School Board, and in 2013 I was Assistant Ranking Member on House Education Committee and a member of the Higher Education Committee. I now serve as Ranking Member on House Education and also

represent my caucus on the Quality Education Council, the Article IX Joint Legislative Task Force, the Career Education Opportunities Joint Legislative Task Force, and the Governor's work group on education funding. I've been a significant player for bipartisan negotiations on critical bills like E2SSB 6552 (24-credit grad requirements) and SHB 1450 (consolidation of assessments). I also sponsored HB 2797 this session, which would fund \$700M in all-day kindergarten and early elementary class size reduction facility needs with lottery revenues.

2. Reclaiming the promise is about healthy investments in the public good and the people who provide service to the community. As an affiliate of the AFL-CIO, AFT Washington recognizes the implications of the Local 751 Machinists' working conditions for workers everywhere. We are also very aware of the extent to which tax breaks for corporations result in less funding available for public education. **What does Boeing's win of tax breaks and contract concessions mean to you?**

Well, we tend to pay much more attention to customers who are free to take their business elsewhere, and the state's no exception. I certainly don't fault Boeing for shopping around to find the best "deal" when it comes to siting future growth, and the B&O tax structure is really set up to easily provide exceptions for businesses that have the mobility that allows them to play states against each other and pick the best economic climate offered. And yes, I expect the same would happen if Microsoft or Amazon had one foot out the door.

However, we ultimately collect 4x more state revenue from these businesses when they stay, even at the lower B&O rates and with some sales tax exemptions...so it's definitely in our best interest to offer these deals and keep all those jobs here. However, it hardly seems fair to those businesses that can't shop around to find a better deal. I've never thought it fair that people pay such a variety of prices for a seat on a plane, but I understand why it happens. The less flexibility you have, the more you're willing to pay.

3. For the last six years, the Legislature has suspended the voter-approved cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) for all K-12 education employees, community and technical college faculty, and technical college classified staff. This past legislative session a bill was introduced to reinstate the COLA, which was unsuccessful, despite proposals and bills from the Governor and leaders in the House and Senate, to fund the COLA through the narrowing or repeal of certain tax exemptions.

- a. **Did you co-sponsor HB 2244 or SB 6235? Why or why not?**

No, I believe COLA legislation should be part of a larger compensation reform discussion in the context of the McCleary remedy, and I believe it should happen in a budget year because the cost will be considerable.

**b. Given the current political climate of the State Legislature, what are your thoughts on the attempted strategy to fund COLA through the closure of tax exemptions?**

I think you framed the question in a way that sets it up for failure. Instead, I would work to ensure the basic education funding formula based on the prototypical school model pays every teacher at fair market value for that school's location, which includes cost of living and other local labor market adjustments. This makes it part of "basic education" instead of a lower priority as determined by the 2002 McGowan decision. Then we leave the taxation debate to the champions of non-education spending.

Remember, the Supreme Court ruled that the Legislature must "amply provide for the education of all Washington children as the State's first and highest priority before any other State programs or operations."

**c. If re-elected, what will you do to ensure that these educators and staff receive voter-approved COLAs in the 2015-17 biennium budget?**

Yes, but as part of larger compensation reform bill as discussed above. Without those changes, I must abide by the McCleary and McGowan decisions and fund our constitutional paramount duty first.

4. During this election campaign, what issues do you intend to emphasize? What are your top priorities?

Well, these are outlined pretty well on my website: <http://www.vote4chad.com/Issues.aspx>

- Educate to fuel economic growth and create jobs
- Demand accountability for performance
- Promote free markets & fair business practices
- Budget based on priorities of government
- Champion fiscal responsibility
- Defend constitutional rights & civil liberties

5. If elected again, briefly describe your key legislative priorities.

My highest priority will be ample state funding of K-12 basic education per the McCleary ruling, including meaningful reforms to ensure performance accountability and improved student outcomes.

6. How will you incorporate education and labor issues into your campaign?

It's absolutely core to my campaign. For example, my kick-off event is being held at Grand Ridge Elementary to emphasize the need for capital investment in classroom space. This elementary school has over 900 students and has no room for all its half-day Kindergarten classes, much less any full-day programs. Overcrowding is a serious problem throughout the 5<sup>th</sup> LD where enrollment growth is still very high. HB 2797 would have used lottery-backed bonds to fund up to \$700 million in new classroom construction. This passed the House overwhelmingly (90-7), but didn't make it through the Senate, and we need to ensure it moves all the way to the Governor's desk next legislative session.

7. How have you demonstrated effective leadership in building coalitions and support within your own caucus and across the aisle?

Yes. Just ask Rep. Ross Hunter and Rep. Pat Sullivan about how they feel about me taking the reins as top House Republican for education. In fact, Ross gave me a quote to use in my campaign, saying "He's a smart guy, he understands education, and he cares about kids." We had lunch just last week.

### **Campaign and Candidate Information**

**Please provide any endorsements you have received to date:**

Seattle King County REALTORS

**Please provide the following contact information:**

Candidate Name: **Chad Magendanz**

Position Running For: **State Representative, 5<sup>th</sup> LD Position 2**

Campaign Name: **Citizens for Chad Magendanz**

Campaign Manager's Name: **Steve McNey – (206-595-4719)**

Campaign Email: **info@magendanz.com**

Campaign Phone: **425-395-4895**

Campaign Address: **P.O. Box 1362, Issaquah WA 98027**

Campaign Website: **http://www.vote4chad.com**

**Please answer the following:**

1. What qualities distinguish you from other candidates for this office?

I'm currently running unopposed, but what primarily distinguishes me is my moderate stance on social issues. I'm openly pro-choice and have supported progressive social causes such as same sex marriage.

2. What is your campaign budget?

I expect to spend only about \$100K, possible as low as \$60K if I'm unopposed.

3. To date, how much money have you raised and obtained pledges for?

I've currently raised \$42K. That puts me in 16<sup>th</sup> place for the House and 8<sup>th</sup> in my caucus.