



Organized labor recognizes the serious challenges facing the 2003 State Legislature in terms of funding critical state services. Given the tough decisions ahead, the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, strongly believes everything lawmakers consider should be measured by the test: **Does it Put People First?** With that theme in mind, the WSLC will pursue an agenda to create economic growth and security for the people of Washington state, and will work to achieve progress on the following fronts:

Creating and Preserving Family-Wage Jobs

1. Support focused, achievable transportation package
2. Creating job opportunities through apprenticeship utilization
3. Capital budget that provides an economic stimulus for the state
4. Reasonable pay raises for public workers
5. Invest in workforce training and retraining programs

Promote the Health and Safety of Washington Families

1. Support a coalition effort to help control health care costs through bulk purchasing of prescription drugs
2. Support a coalition effort to provide minimum paid leave for workers

Improve Government Accountability and Efficiency to Achieve Public Trust

1. Ending the use of public funds to oppose or support unionization
2. Disclosure and assessment of the effectiveness of tax breaks and tax exemptions
3. Sunset review of tax breaks and tax exemptions

Provide for Our Most Vulnerable Citizens

1. Fund home health care contract
2. Support federal extension of Unemployment Insurance benefits
3. Unemployment Insurance reforms for part-time workers
4. Support social service coalitions' efforts to ensure funding for programs essential to the survival of our most vulnerable residents

While the WSLC promotes policies that **Put People First**, we also will *oppose* legislation that undermines that principle by attacking the economic conditions or health-and-safety of working people:

1. Stop all efforts to weaken our state's minimum wage law.
2. Stop all efforts to weaken our state's labor standards.
3. Stop all efforts to weaken our state's prevailing wage law.
4. Stop all efforts to weaken workers' compensation protections for injured workers.
5. Retain our state rule on ergonomic protection so that there is relief from the 50,000 musculoskeletal injuries a year suffered by workers in Washington.

Additional detail on these proposals and positions will be posted at the WSLC website at www.wslc.org (updated daily with legislative and other labor news). Position papers that offer background information on general issues on everything from Apprenticeship to Workers' Compensation are also available at the site.