



# LegisLetter

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PO Box 2009, Olympia, WA 98507 • 1.360.357.9975 • 1.800.331.3276

## 2005 Vote Record

With the 2004 governor's race unresolved, many believed that agriculture would be on the defensive in a bitterly partisan 2005 legislative session. In spite of these predictions, Farm Bureau worked with legislators from both parties and with other agricultural organizations to make the 2005 session a success on several fronts. Farm Bureau worked to secure the passage of four priority bills, which are included in the vote record, and fought hard against eventual tax increases by the Legislature.

Our vote record on bills selected by the Washington Farm Bureau board of directors shows whether a legislator voted for or against Farm Bureau's position on key bills. One percentage point is deducted from the score for each missed vote.

This vote record provides our members with a tool to help assess the performance of our elected officials. It does not provide a complete portrait of a legislator's role in behind-the-scenes efforts, their sponsorship of bills, their work on important budget provisos, their leadership qualities, or their responsiveness to constituent requests. In many cases, certain bills were not brought up for a vote, so there is no official record of a legislator's position on some issues.

We hope that this vote record will assist our members in opening a dialogue with elected officials and fostering a working relationship with them.

Here is a brief summary of the bills in the vote record:

**California Emissions Standards** (HB 1397) – This bill adopted California vehicle emissions standards, which will go into effect after Oregon adopts them. It passed the Senate 29-19-0-1 (yeas-nays-absent-excused) and the House 55-42-0-1. Farm Bureau opposed this bill because the California standards are currently under litigation and could drive up the cost of farm vehicles.

**Special Tax Assessments** (HB 1555) – This measure clarified that special taxing districts must base their assessments on the current use value of agricultural property and not on the value from development potential. It passed the House 97-0-0-1 and the Senate 46-0-0-3. Farm Bureau supported this bill because it helps preserve farmland by keeping farmers from having to sell property to pay higher taxes.

**Public Disclosure Requests** (HB 1758) – This bill addressed a state Supreme Court decision allowing state agencies to deny "overbroad" requests for public records. It passed the Senate 47-0-0-2 and the House 97-0-0-1. Farm Bureau supported this bill because it strengthened the public's right to access the actions and records of our government.

**Employer Notification** (HB 1918) – This legislation provided for a study requiring workers to employers when an injury occurs at their worksite. Currently, in about one-third of the cases, the Department of Labor and Industries makes an adjudication decision on the claim without any input from the employer. Immediate notification of a claim allows the employer to immediately assess and address any safety issues that may be involved. It passed the House 97-0-0-1 and the Senate 45-0-3-1. Farm Bureau supported this bill.

**Unemployment Insurance** (HB 2255) – This bill repealed some of the 2003 U/I reforms for two years. Worker benefits will now be based on an average of their reported income from the two highest quarters, rather than the previous four-quarter averaging. The bill exempts agriculture and food processors from the social costs of the U/I system, although it did not address the issue of disproportionate seasonal worker U/I benefits. It passed the Senate 25-20-1-3 and the House 57-38-0-3. Farm Bureau opposed the bill.

**Paid Leave** (SB 5069) – This measure would have created a new tax to fund a \$250 weekly stipend for workers to take up to five weeks to care for a sick spouse, parent, or child. It would have forced farmers to grant paid leave to seasonal workers who may have only been hired one or two days before. It passed the Senate 26-21-0-2 but was not voted on in the House. Farm Bureau opposed the bill.

**Nuisance Complaints** (SB 5962) – This bill will help discourage frivolous complaints against farmers by allowing farmers to recover damages if a complaint is found to be without merit. It passed the House 94-0-0-4 and the Senate 38-6-0-5. Farm Bureau supported this bill.

**Gutting Initiative 601** (SB 6078) – This bill declared an “emergency” and suspended key provisions of I-601, including the two-thirds supermajority requirement to raise taxes. The state was already set to receive approximately \$1.7 billion (a seven percent) increase in revenue from anticipated improvements to our economy. Instead, the Legislature wanted a 12 percent increase in spending. Farm Bureau’s referendum against this measure was denied by the Secretary of State and Supreme Court because of the “emergency” clause. Farm Bureau and other organizations have filed separate legal challenges to SB 6078. Farm Bureau fought hard against this bill, which passed the House 50-43-0-5 and the Senate 25-16-0-8.

**Death Tax** (SB 6096) – This legislation instituted a state-only death tax in Washington state. The previous state death tax would have expired without this action by the Legislature. The bill passed the Senate 25-21-0-3 and the House 50-48-0-0. Farm Bureau opposed this bill.

**Gas Tax** (SB 6103) – This bill raised the gas tax 9.5 cents per gallon and instituted other automotive-related fee increases. It passed the House 54-43-0-1 and the Senate 26-22-0-1. Farm Bureau opposed this bill.

<b>Legend</b>		
Y = Yes vote	e = excused	--- = no vote taken
N = No vote	a = absent	
Capital letters indicate a vote preferable to Farm Bureau.		

## Governor and Washington State Senate

Name, Party, and District	1397 – Cal. Emissions	1555 – Special Tax Assessments	1758 – Public Records	1918 – Employer Notification	2255 – Unemployment Insurance	5069 – Paid Leave	5962 – Right to Farm	6078 – Gutting I-601	6096 – Death Tax	6103 – Gas Tax	Percentage
<b>Farm Bureau Position</b>	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	<b>100</b>
Gregoire, Christine (D)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	--	Y	y	y	y	44
Benson, Brad (R-06)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	100
Benton, Don (R-17)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	y	Y	N	N	N	90
Berkey, Jean (D-38)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	y	Y	y	y	y	40
Brandland, Dale (R-42)	N	Y	Y	a	N	N	Y	N	N	N	99
Brown, Lisa (D-03)	y	Y	Y	a	y	y	e	y	y	y	23
Carrell, Mike (R-28)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	100
Deccio, Alex (R-14)	N	Y	Y	Y	e	e	Y	e	N	y	83
Delvin, Jerome (R-08)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	e	N	N	N	99
Doumit, Mark (D-19)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	y	e	y	y	y	32
Eide, Tracey (D-30)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	y	Y	y	y	N	50
Esser, Luke (R-48)	y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	90
Fairley, Darlene (D-32)	y	e	Y	Y	y	y	n	y	y	y	21
Finkbeiner, Bill (R-45)	y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	y	80
Franklin, Rosa (D-29)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	y	Y	y	y	N	50
Fraser, Karen (D-22)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	y	n	y	y	y	30
Hargrove, Jim (D-24)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	y	Y	y	y	N	50
Haugen, Mary Margaret (D-10)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	N	Y	y	y	y	50
Hewitt, Mike (R-16)	y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	y	80
Honeyford, Jim (R-15)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	100
Jacobsen, Ken (D-46)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	y	Y	y	y	y	40
Johnson, Stephen (R-47)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	100
Kastama, Jim (D-25)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	y	Y	y	y	N	50
Keiser, Karen (D-33)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	y	Y	y	y	y	40
Kline, Adam (D-37)	y	Y	Y	a	y	y	n	y	y	y	21
Kohl-Welles, Jeanne (D-36)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	y	n	y	y	y	30
McAuliffe, Rosemary (D-01)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	y	n	y	y	N	40
McCaslin, Bob (R-04)	N	Y	e	Y	a	e	Y	e	N	e	95
Morton, Bob (R-07)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	100
Mulliken, Joyce (R-13)	N	e	Y	Y	e	N	Y	N	N	y	86
Oke, Bob (R-26)	e	e	Y	e	e	y	e	N	N	N	75
Parlette, Linda Evans (R-12)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	100
Pflug, Cheryl (R-05)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	100
Poulsen, Erik (D-34)	y	Y	e	Y	y	y	Y	y	y	y	32
Prentice, Margarita (D-11)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	y	e	y	y	y	32
Pridemore, Craig (D-49)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	y	Y	y	y	y	40
Rasmussen, Marilyn (D-02)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	y	Y	y	y	y	40
Regala, Debbie (D-27)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	y	Y	y	y	N	50
Roach, Pam (R-31)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	100

Name, Party, and District	1397 – Cal. Emissions	1555 – Special Tax Assessments	1758 – Public Records	1918 – Employer Notification	2255 – Unemployment Insurance	5069 – Paid Leave	5962 – Right to Farm	6078 – Gutting I-601	6096 – Death Tax	6103 – Gas Tax	Percentage
<b>Farm Bureau Position</b>	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	<b>100</b>
Rockefeller, Phil (D-23)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	y	Y	N	y	y	50
Schmidt, Dave (R-44)	y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	y	80
Schoesler, Mark (R-09)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	100
Sheldon, Tim (D-35)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	100
Shin, Paull (D-21)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	y	Y	y	y	y	40
Spanel, Harriet (D-40)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	y	Y	y	y	y	40
Stevens, Val (R-39)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	100
Swecker, Dan (R-20)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	y	90
Thibaudeau, Pat (D-43)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	y	n	y	y	y	30
Weinstein, Brian (D-41)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	y	Y	y	y	y	40
Zarelli, Joseph (R-18)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	y	90

### Washington State House of Representatives

Name, Party, and District	1397 – Cal. Emissions	1555 – Special Tax Assessments	1758 – Public Records	1918 – Employer Notification	2255 – Unemployment Insurance	5069 – Paid Leave	5962 – Right to Farm	6078 – Gutting I-601	6096 – Death Tax	6103 – Gas Tax	Percentage
<b>Farm Bureau Position</b>	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	<b>100</b>
Ahern, John (R-06)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
Alexander, Gary (R-20)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	--	e	N	N	N	99
Anderson, Glenn (R-05)	y	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	y	78
Appleton, Sherry (D-23)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Armstrong, Mike (R-12)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
Bailey, Barbara (R-10)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
Blake, Brian (D-19)	N	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	56
Buck, Jim (R-24)	e	Y	e	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	98
Buri, David (R-09)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
Campbell, Tom (R-02)	N	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	N	N	y	78
Chandler, Bruce (R-15)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
Chase, Maralyn (D-32)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Chopp, Frank (D-43)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	--	Y	y	y	y	44
Clements, Jim (R-14)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	y	89
Clibborn, Judy (D-41)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	N	y	y	56
Cody, Eileen (D-34)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	N	y	y	56

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<b>Farm Bureau Position</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>100</b>
Condotta, Cary (R-12)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	e	e	N	N	98
Conway, Steve (D-29)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Cox, Don (R-09)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
Crouse, Larry (R-04)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
Curtis, Richard (R-18)	e	Y	e	e	N	---	Y	N	N	y	80
Darneille, Jeannie (D-27)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
DeBolt, Richard (R-20)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	e	99
Dickerson, Mary Lou (D-36)	y	Y	n	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	33
Dunn, Jim (R-17)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	e	N	N	99
Dunshee, Hans (D-44)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Eickmeyer, Bill (D-35)	N	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	N	67
Ericks, Mark (D-01)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Ericksen, Doug (R-42)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	e	N	N	N	99
Flannigan, Dennis (D-27)	y	e	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	37
Fromhold, Bill (D-49)	y	Y	n	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	33
Grant, Bill (D-16)	N	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	56
Green, Tamara (D-28)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	N	N	y	67
Haigh, Kathy (D-35)	N	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	56
Haler, Larry (R-08)	N	Y	n	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	y	78
Hankins, Shirley (R-08)	N	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	N	N	y	78
Hasegawa, Robert (D-11)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Hinkle, Bill (R-13)	e	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	y	87
Holmquist, Janéa (R-13)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
Hudgins, Zachary (D-11)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Hunt, Sam (D-22)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Hunter, Ross (D-48)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Jarrett, Fred (R-41)	y	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	y	78
Kagi, Ruth (D-32)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Kenney, Phyllis (D-46)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Kessler, Lynn (D-24)	N	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	56
Kilmer, Derek (D-26)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	N	N	N	78
Kirby, Steve (D-29)	y	Y	n	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	33
Kretz, Joel (R-07)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
Kristiansen, Dan (R-39)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
Lantz, Patricia (D-26)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	N	56
Linville, Kelli (D-42)	y	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	y	N	78
Lovick, John (D-44)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
McCoy, John (D-38)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
McCune, Jim (R-02)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
McDermott, Joe (D-34)	y	Y	n	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	33
McDonald, Joyce (R-25)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100

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<b>Farm Bureau Position</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>100</b>
McIntire, Jim (D-46)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Miloscia, Mark (D-30)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	N	56
Moeller, Jim (D-49)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Morrell, Dawn (D-25)	y	Y	n	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	N	44
Morris, Jeff (D-40)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Murray, Ed (D-43)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Newhouse, Dan (R-15)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
Nixon, Toby (R-45)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
O'Brien, Al (D-01)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Orcutt, Ed (R-18)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
Ormsby, Timm (D-03)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Pearson, Kirk (R-39)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
Pettigrew, Eric (D-37)	N	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	56
Priest, Skip (R-30)	y	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	89
Quall, Dave (D-40)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Roach, Dan (R-31)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
Roberts, Mary Helen (D-21)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Rodne, Jay (R-05)	y	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	89
Santos, Sharon Tomiko (D-37)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Schindler, Lynn (R-04)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
Schual-Berke, Shay (D-33)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Sells, Michael (D-38)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Serben, John (R-06)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
Shabro, Jan (R-31)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
Simpson, Geoff (D-47)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Skinner, Mary (R-14)	N	Y	Y	Y	e	---	Y	N	N	y	87
Sommers, Helen (D-36)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Springer, Larry (D-45)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	N	N	67
Strow, Christopher (R-10)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
Sullivan, Brian (D-21)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Sullivan, Patrick (D-47)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	N	N	67
Sump, Bob (R-07)	N	Y	e	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	99
Takko, Dean (D-19)	N	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	N	67
Talcott, Gigi (R-28)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
Tom, Rodney (R-48)	y	Y	Y	Y	N	---	e	e	N	y	69
Upthegrove, Dave (D-33)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Wallace, Deb (D-17)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	N	N	y	67
Walsh, Maureen (R-16)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	N	100
Williams, Brendan (D-22)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Wood, Alex (D-03)	y	Y	Y	Y	y	---	Y	y	y	y	44
Woods, Beverly (R-23)	N	Y	Y	Y	N	---	Y	N	N	y	89

## Other Bills of Interest

In addition to the votes in the official Vote Record, several other actions and discussions took place during the 2005 legislative session. Among them were the following measures:

**Field Burning Equipment Tax Exemption** (SB 5663) – This measure continued a sales-tax exemption on the purchase of specified machinery used to reduce agricultural field burning, but limited the exemption to qualified farmers in certain counties. It passed the House 94-2-0-2 and the Senate 44-0-1-4. Farm Bureau supported this bill.

**Livestock Nutrient Management** (SB 5602) – This legislation continued the transfer of livestock nutrient regulation from the Department of Ecology to the Department of Agriculture, kept farm plan information confidential, and established a timeline to keep several state agencies working toward clarifying state composting guidelines. It passed the House 96-0-0-2 and the Senate 47-0-0-2. Farm Bureau supported this bill.

**Farm to Food Bank Bill** (HB 1554) – This bill allowed farms to use the wholesale value of ag products donated to nonprofit food banks to satisfy the gross farm income qualifications for lower property tax rates for agricultural land in production. Farm Bureau supported this bill, which passed the House and Senate unanimously.

**Farmland Preservation** (SB 5396) – This measure allowed the government to use wildlife and recreation funds to preserve farmland by leasing all or a portion of the land or by acquiring a fee-simple interest. It passed the House 60-36-0-2 and the Senate 45-1-1-2. Farm Bureau supported the bill after it was amended to ensure that the program did not require a perpetual interest in the land.

**Small Farms Inspections** (SB 5632) – This bill would have ensured that the first WISHA inspection to a farm with 10 or fewer employees would be educational. The agency would have pointed out safety hazards and provide a reasonable time for compliance. The rule would have been waived in the case of a worker complaint or a serious accident. SB 5632 passed a Senate committee but did not have a vote on the floor. Farm Bureau supported this bill.

**Retro/Safety** (SB 5842) – Thanks to the efforts of Farm Bureau members who called elected officials, the “Get Retro” bill never came up for a vote. Retro programs allow a group of employers to band together to manage claims and improve workplace safety through incentives. Group participants receive a refund if more premiums are paid into the workers’ comp system than are necessary to cover the costs of claims. Farm Bureau calls its retro program “Retro/Safety” because of the emphasis on accident prevention. Farm Bureau opposed this bill.

**Best Available Science** (HB 2207) – This legislation would have defined “best available science” in the Growth Management Act. Farm Bureau supported the bill as a means of reducing the burden and costs to local government. The core of the bill, which enjoyed support from local government and other interests, was to make clear what it means to include BAS, thereby allowing all parties to possibly avoid future instances of the costly litigation that has resulted from existing GMA plans. Futurewise (formerly 1000 Friends of Washington) refused to agree to compromise language that was supported by the planning association, cities and counties, and a diverse collection of business organizations. This bill never received a floor vote.