

WEA ENDORSE JAY INSLEE FOR GOVERNOR

This week Jay Inslee received WEA's endorsement for governor.



This recommendation comes after a lengthy process in which all WEA-PAC members were engaged. The WEA-PAC representatives who attended the candidate interview phase this past Saturday asked strong, focused questions--and heard strong, focused answers in return. As many of you will know by now, Jay Inslee was the only candidate to show up for the candidate interviews. This reflects his deep commitment to educators, while listening to the challenges confronting public education in our state. By contrast, the other invited candidate for governor, Rob McKenna, despite assurances to the contrary, bailed from the interview process at the last moment. Unfortunately, this means his education plans couldn't be thoroughly discussed. Instead of engaging with educators, he remains distant and removed, choosing to meet with neo-reformers instead of those on the frontline of public education. His disrespect reinforces a lack of genuine commitment to improving public schools in Washington. WEA leader Mary Lindquist tells me: "Instead of meeting with the people who actually work with students every day — teachers, librarians, counselors and support professionals — Rob McKenna chose to seek guidance from a group of people who aren't in the classroom We genuinely wanted to hear what Mr. McKenna had to say about public education. We wanted him to hear from educators. His decision to forsake teachers is highly symbolic – we need a governor who respects teachers, and who brings everyone together to address the challenges schools face, even if we don't always agree on how to do that."

For those of you who are interested in learning more about how events unfolded, you can read the Associated Press story at <http://www.ourvoicewashingtonea.org/>

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