

For Immediate Release
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Missed Votes Report for Legislators Online at WashingtonVotes.org

WashingtonVotes.org releases its annual Missed Votes Report, detailing missed roll call votes on bills and amendments for every legislator during the 2007 Session.

WashingtonVotes.org is the state's premier legislative information website that provides concise, plain-English, objective descriptions of every bill, amendment and vote of the Washington legislature.

2007 Session Quick Facts

- Bills introduced: 2592; Amendments introduced: 2106
- Number of legislators who didn't miss any of these votes: 45
- Number of legislators who missed more than 100 votes: 4

WashingtonVotes.org Director Michael Ennis says the missed votes feature shows the advantages of the service. "Obtaining this information from the state would require a person to read and record information from thousands of pages of legislative documents," he said. "The Missed Votes Report is yet another tool from WashingtonVotes.org that Washingtonians use to help make state government more accessible and legislators more accountable."

In most cases absences occur because of illness or uncontrollable circumstances. "Elected officials are just like you and me," Ennis observes. "Sometimes we get sick or have family emergencies. We shouldn't be quick to jump to conclusions or assume bad faith. But if legislators begin to show a consistent pattern of missing votes, citizens have a right to ask why."

To see the total number of votes each Senator and Representative missed during the 2007 Session, go to www.WashingtonVotes.org/MissedVotes.aspx. You can see reports from previous sessions by changing the date criteria at the top of the page. Click on a legislator's name for detailed information about the votes he or she missed.

WashingtonVotes.org contacted the three legislators from each house who missed the most votes. Their comments are included here, as is a complete list of the missed votes for the 2007 Session.

Legislator	2007 Session Missed Votes	Comments
Sen. Lisa Brown (D)	152	No Response
Sen. Erik Poulsen (D)	101	<p>“Excused absences are officially recognized as legitimate by the Lieutenant Governor, who presides as President of the Senate. Illness and uncontrollable circumstances are not the only reasons that necessitate an excused absence. Legislative leaders who are responsible for negotiating the agreements necessary to pass critical bills like this session's landmark climate change package (I am Chairman of the Senate Water, Energy, and Environment Committee), the state budget, and other essential legislation often can not perform these duties while voting on the Senate floor. My missed votes are a reflection of this leadership role I play in the Senate.”</p>
Sen. Cheryl Pflug (R)	97	No Response
Rep. William Eickmeyer (D)	222	<p>“My missed votes this session were due to my back giving out and pinching the sciatic nerve, which can cause a person to become non-ambulatory. The last time (about 25 years ago) that this happened I was hospitalized and put into traction and given narcotics for the pain for a week.</p> <p>My missed votes did not affect policy and did not in any way detract from the representation of my district. I came in and laid on my back in my office with pain killers, ice packs and muscle relaxants whenever it looked like my vote would be needed on the floor to pass closely voted bills.</p> <p>I was excused, as opposed to absent, which means a legitimate reason for being off the floor.”</p>
Rep. Jeff Morris (D)	191	“I was absent for number of floor votes in March because of a medical emergency in my family.”
Rep. Mary Skinner (R)	99	<p>“Thank you for the opportunity to explain why I missed voting on certain days in the House of Representatives. Last year, I was diagnosed with colon cancer. Through intensive radiation and chemotherapy treatments, the cancer went into remission. However, my doctor is continuing a regimen of "maintenance chemotherapy" to ensure that the cancer does not return. Missed votes during the 2007 session were directly related to these health issues and my cancer recovery. During the days I was absent, I was excused from the House of Representatives.”</p>

Number of Missed Votes for Each Legislator in the 2007 Session*

<u>Senate</u>		<u>House</u>			
Sen. Lisa Brown (D)	152	Rep. William Eickmeyer (D)	222	Rep. Alex Wood (D)	2
Sen. Erik Poulsen (D)	101	Rep. Jeff Morris (D)	191	Rep. Mike Armstrong (R)	1
Sen. Cheryl Pflug (R)	97	Rep. Mary Skinner (R)	99	Rep. Doug Ericksen (R)	1
Sen. Adam Kline (D)	94	Rep. Richard Curtis (R)	98	Rep. Christopher Hurst (D)	1
Sen. Jerome Delvin (R)	91	Rep. Dennis Flannigan (D)	71	Rep. Joe McDermott (D)	1
Sen. Bob McCaslin (R)	87	Rep. Bob Sump (R)	66	Rep. Gary Alexander (R)	0
Sen. Jim Hargrove (D)	70	Rep. Tom Campbell (R)	60	Rep. Glenn Anderson (R)	0
Sen. Craig Pridemore (D)	65	Rep. Cary Condotta (R)	55	Rep. Sherry Appleton (D)	0
Sen. Mike Hewitt (R)	52	Rep. David Quall (D)	48	Rep. Barbara Bailey (R)	0
Sen. Ken Jacobsen (D)	46	Rep. Shay Schual-Berke (D)	46	Rep. Don Barlow (D)	0
Sen. Michael Carrell (R)	43	Rep. Dave Upthegrove (D)	46	Rep. Brian Blake (D)	0
Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe (D)	42	Rep. Kathy Haigh (D)	45	Rep. David Buri (R)	0
Sen. Rodney Tom (D)	42	Rep. Mary Helen Roberts (D)	44	Rep. Maralyn Chase (D)	0
Sen. Dan Swecker (R)	41	Rep. Bill Hinkle (R)	42	Rep. Frank Chopp (D)	0
Sen. Joseph Zarelli (R)	40	Rep. Patricia Lantz (D)	41	Rep. Eileen Cody (D)	0
Sen. Don Benton (R)	39	Rep. Judy Warnick (R)	39	Rep. Jeannie Darneille (D)	0
Sen. Mary Margaret Haugen (D)	39	Rep. Phyllis Kenney (D)	38	Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson (D)	0
Sen. Jim Kastama (D)	39	Rep. Jim McIntire (D)	26	Rep. Bill Grant (D)	0
Sen. Darlene Fairley (D)	35	Rep. Bruce Chandler (R)	24	Rep. Steve Hailey (R)	0
Sen. Val Stevens (R)	34	Rep. Larry Crouse (R)	24	Rep. Bob Hasegawa (D)	0
Sen. Jean Berkey (D)	33	Rep. John Ahern (R)	22	Rep. Zack Hudgins (D)	0
Sen. Margarita Prentice (D)	31	Rep. Bill Fromhold (D)	22	Rep. Troy Kelley (D)	0
Sen. Paull Shin (D)	31	Rep. Brian Sullivan (D)	22	Rep. Lynn Kessler (D)	0
Sen. Pam Roach (R)	29	Rep. Hans Dunshee (D)	21	Rep. Steve Kirby (D)	0
Sen. Linda Evans Parlette (R)	26	Rep. Lynn Schindler (R)	21	Rep. Dan Kristiansen (R)	0
Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles (D)	25	Rep. Brendan Williams (D)	20	Rep. John Lovick (D)	0
Sen. Bob Morton (R)	22	Rep. Richard DeBolt (R)	17	Rep. John McCoy (D)	0
Sen. Harriet Spanel (D)	18	Rep. Deborah Eddy (D)	14	Rep. Jim McCune (R)	0
Sen. Steve Hobbs (D)	17	Rep. Ross Hunter (D)	14	Rep. Joyce McDonald (R)	0
Sen. Chris Marr (D)	14	Rep. Joel Kretz (R)	14	Rep. Jim Moeller (D)	0
Sen. Ed Murray (D)	12	Rep. Shirley Hankins (R)	13	Rep. Dawn Morrell (D)	0
Sen. Dale Brandland (R)	10	Rep. Judy Clibborn (D)	12	Rep. Dan Newhouse (R)	0
Sen. Karen Keiser (D)	9	Rep. Mark Miloscia (D)	12	Rep. Ed Orcutt (R)	0
Sen. Karen Fraser (D)	8	Rep. Dan Roach (R)	12	Rep. Kirk Pearson (R)	0
Sen. Claudia Kauffman (D)	8	Rep. Ruth Kagi (D)	11	Rep. Jamie Pedersen (D)	0
Sen. Jenea Holmquist (R)	7	Rep. Al O'Brien (D)	11	Rep. Skip Priest (R)	0
Sen. Marilyn Rasmussen (D)	7	Rep. Sam Hunt (D)	10	Rep. Jay Rodne (R)	0
Sen. Tim Sheldon (D)	7	Rep. Fred Jarrett (R)	10	Rep. Christine Rolfes (D)	0
Sen. Rosa Franklin (D)	5	Rep. Helen Sommers (D)	9	Rep. Charles Ross (R)	0
Sen. Jim Clements (R)	4	Rep. Geoff Simpson (D)	8	Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos (D)	0
Sen. Tracey Eide (D)	4	Rep. Jim Dunn (R)	6	Rep. Larry Seaquist (D)	0
Sen. Phil Rockefeller (D)	4	Rep. Eric Pettigrew (D)	5	Rep. Mike Sells (D)	0
Sen. Brian Hatfield (D)	3	Rep. Tami Green (D)	4	Rep. Larry Springer (D)	0
Sen. Mark Schoesler (R)	3	Rep. Steve Conway (D)	3	Rep. Chris Strow (R)	0
Sen. Brian Weinstein (D)	3	Rep. Mark Ericks (D)	3	Rep. Pat Sullivan (D)	0
Sen. Jim Honeyford (R)	2	Rep. Larry Haler (R)	3	Rep. Dean Takko (D)	0
Sen. Eric Oemig (D)	2	Rep. Timm Ormsby (D)	3	Rep. Kevin Van De Wege (D)	0
Sen. Debbie Regala (D)	2	Rep. Roger Goodman (D)	2	Rep. Deb Wallace (D)	0
Sen. Derek Kilmer (D)	0	Rep. Kelli Linville (D)	2	Rep. Maureen Walsh (R)	0

*Number of Missed Votes includes when legislator was formally excused and when they did not vote

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