



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:** John Barnes

206-937-9691

[jbarnes@wavotes.org](mailto:jbarnes@wavotes.org)

## 2009 Missed Votes Report for Legislators Released

Olympia – [WashingtonVotes.org](http://WashingtonVotes.org) has released its annual Missed Votes Report, detailing missed roll call votes on bills and amendments for every legislator during the 2009 Legislative Session.

[WashingtonVotes.org](http://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.

### 2009 Session Quick Facts

- Number of Roll Call votes in the House: 887
- Number of Bills Introduced in the Legislature: 2,584
- Number of Roll Call votes in the Senate: 847
- Number of Bills Passed by the Legislature: 599
- Number of legislators who didn't miss any of these votes: 47
- Number of legislators who missed more than 100 votes: 6

[WashingtonVotes.org](http://WashingtonVotes.org) Director Brandon Houskeeper says the missed votes tool enables Washingtonians to track the actions of their elected officials in Olympia. "Obtaining this information from the state would require a person to read and record information from thousands of pages of legislative documents," he said, "but the WashingtonVotes.org Missed Votes Report puts that same information in front Washingtonians with just one or two clicks."

There are many legitimate reasons why Legislators miss votes during a session. "Legislators are often meeting with constituents, other lawmakers or dealing with unexpected emergencies, that is the value of the Missed Votes Report." Houskeeper noted, "Washingtonians can use [WashingtonVotes.org](http://WashingtonVotes.org) as an informational resource and tool."

To see the total number of votes each Senator and Representative missed during the 2009 Session, go to <http://www.washingtonvotes.org/MissedVotes.aspx?Sort=Legislator>. 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](http://WashingtonVotes.org) contacted the legislators from each chamber who missed the most votes and gave them an opportunity to explain why they missed votes. Their comments are included here, as is a complete list of the missed votes for the 2009 Session.

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[WashingtonVotes.org](http://WashingtonVotes.org) is a free public service of Washington Policy Center, a non-partisan independent policy research organization with offices in Seattle and Olympia. For more information call 206-937-9691 or visit [WashingtonVotes.org](http://WashingtonVotes.org).

<b>Legislator</b>	<b>2009 Missed Votes</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Sen. Lisa Brown (D-Spokane)	205	"Thank you for the opportunity to explain my excused absences from Senate floor votes. As Majority Leader, it is my responsibility to negotiate major pieces of legislation and to communicate with the Governor and House leadership about Senate positions and priorities. These duties require that I be off the Senate floor for periods of time during floor action, especially near the end of the legislative session.. I am always nearby in a conference room and available if there is a close vote or an uncertain outcome that necessitates my presence."
Sen. Don Benton (R-Vancouver)	157	"In addition to taking some leave for illness this year, I also miss votes while meeting with constituents and while negotiating with members of the House on issues to affect a better outcome. I do this only when I already know that the votes I miss are on issues where the outcome will not be affected by my absence. In other words, when the bill is clearly going to pass anyway without my vote, I will choose to meet with constituents who have come to the capitol to see me."
Sen. Darlene Fairley (D-Lake Forest Park)	136	"I've twice had the "crud" that's been going around, my legs have stopped working a couple times (I'm a paraplegic.), and I just broke my elbow. All this during the last part of the session when most of the votes happen."
Sen. Cheryl Pflug (R-Maple Valley)	120	"I missed a portion of one day for each of the following: a family funeral, my landlord (here in Olympia) taken to the hospital, to attend a college event with my son, accept an award, and flu. I also missed some votes at other times when I left the floor to negotiate bills of importance to my community or meet with constituents who came to Olympia and asked to meet with me on an urgent matter."
Sen. Jean Berkey (D-Everett)	117	No Response
Rep. Dennis Flannigan (D-Tacoma)	164	"I've missed several votes, even days in this legislative session. My (wife) has been, and continues to have difficult health problems."
Rep. Mike Armstrong (R-Wenatchee)	99	"I underwent a non-invasive heart procedure after suffering a mild heart attack."
Rep. Maureen Walsh (R-Walla Walla)	91	"The eight votes that she missed on Jan 28, 2009 was due to a canceled flight (due to weather) from Walla Walla to Seattle... Feb 29 <sup>th</sup> ... She had a meeting scheduled in the district that day to meet with constituents and was not available for the votes. On March 6, 2009 she again was meeting with her constituency in the district"
Rep. Bob Hasegawa (D-Seattle)	78	"I was unable to attend early in the day on April 24 through April 26 due to personal reasons that took me away from the session when most of these votes occurred"
Rep. David Quall (D-Mt. Vernon)	68	No response
Rep. Bruce Chandler (R-Granger)	50	"Rep. Chandler missed votes on April 20 because he was in-district taking care of some urgent business on his farm."

## Number of Missed Votes - 2009

Senate		House			
				Rep. Brad Klippert, (R)	0
Sen. Randi Becker, (R)	5	Rep. Gary Alexander, (R)	0	Rep. Joel Kretz, (R)	0
Sen. Don Benton, (R)	157	Rep. Glenn Anderson, (R)	27	Rep. Dan Kristiansen, (R)	6
Sen. Jean Berkey, (D)	117	Rep. Jan Angel, (R)	0	Rep. Marko Liias, (D)	31
Sen. Dale Brandland, (R)	50	Rep. Sherry Appleton, (D)	2	Rep. Kelli Linville, (D)	5
Sen. Lisa Brown, (D)	205	Rep. Mike Armstrong, (R)	99	Rep. Marcie Maxwell, (D)	0
Sen. Michael Carrell, (R)	15	Rep. Barbara Bailey, (R)	0	Rep. John McCoy, (D)	0
Sen. Jerome Delvin, (R)	55	Rep. Brian Blake, (D)	0	Rep. Jim McCune, (R)	0
Sen. Tracey Eide, (D)	36	Rep. Tom Campbell, (R)	28	Rep. Mark Miloscia, (D)	1
Sen. Darlene Fairley, (D)	136	Rep. Reuven Carlyle, (D)	1	Rep. Jim Moeller, (D)	4
Sen. Rosa Franklin, (D)	4	Rep. Bruce Chandler, (R)	50	Rep. Dawn Morrell, (D)	0
Sen. Karen Fraser, (D)	20	Rep. Maralyn Chase, (D)	4	Rep. Jeff Morris, (D)	32
Sen. Jim Hargrove, (D)	36	Rep. Frank Chopp, (D)	4	Rep. Sharon Nelson, (D)	0
Sen. Brian Hatfield, (D)	21	Rep. Judy Clibborn, (D)	10	Rep. Dan Newhouse, (R)	0
Sen. Mary Margaret Haugen, (D)	36	Rep. Eileen Cody, (D)	0	Rep. Al O'Brien, (D)	0
Sen. Mike Hewitt, (R)	92	Rep. Cary Condotta, (R)	3	Rep. Ed Orcutt, (R)	0
Sen. Steve Hobbs, (D)	11	Rep. Steve Conway, (D)	2	Rep. Timm Ormsby, (D)	0
Sen. Janéa Holmquist, (R)	6	Rep. Don Cox, (R)	0	Rep. Tina Orwall, (D)	0
Sen. Jim Honeyford, (R)	1	Rep. Larry Crouse, (R)	28	Rep. Kevin Parker, (R)	13
Sen. Ken Jacobsen, (D)	92	Rep. Bruce Dammeier, (R)	0	Rep. Kirk Pearson, (R)	0
Sen. Fred Jarrett, (D)	64	Rep. Jeannie Darneille, (D)	8	Rep. Jamie Pedersen, (D)	0
Sen. Jim Kastama, (D)	56	Rep. Richard DeBolt, (R)	22	Rep. Eric Pettigrew, (D)	36
Sen. Claudia Kauffman, (D)	18	Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson, (D)	1	Rep. Skip Priest, (R)	0
Sen. Karen Keiser, (D)	19	Rep. John Driscoll, (D)	31	Rep. Tim Probst, (D)	0
Sen. Derek Kilmer, (D)	0	Rep. Hans Dunshee, (D)	9	Rep. David Quall, (D)	58
Sen. Curtis King, (R)	0	Rep. Deborah Eddy, (D)	4	Rep. Dan Roach, (R)	26
Sen. Adam Kline, (D)	31	Rep. Mark Ericks, (D)	0	Rep. Mary Helen Roberts, (D)	0
Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles, (D)	21	Rep. Doug Ericksen, (R)	4	Rep. Jay Rodne, (R)	24
Sen. Chris Marr, (D)	6	Rep. Fred Finn, (D)	0	Rep. Christine Rolfes, (D)	0
Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe, (D)	37	Rep. Dennis Flannigan, (D)	164	Rep. Charles Ross, (R)	1
Sen. Bob McCaslin, (R)	45	Rep. Roger Goodman, (D)	2	Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos, (D)	0
Sen. Joe McDermott, (D)	2	Rep. Laura Grant-Herriot, (D)	0	Rep. Joe Schmick, (R)	0
Sen. Bob Morton, (R)	24	Rep. Tami Green, (D)	0	Rep. Larry Seaquist, (D)	13
Sen. Ed Murray, (D)	9	Rep. Kathy Haigh, (D)	10	Rep. Mike Sells, (D)	3
Sen. Eric Oemig, (D)	20	Rep. Larry Haler, (R)	0	Rep. Matt Shea, (R)	40
Sen. Linda Evans Parlette, (R)	40	Rep. Bob Hasegawa, (D)	78	Rep. Shelly Short, (R)	25
Sen. Cheryl Pflug, (R)	120	Rep. Jaime Herrera, (R)	10	Rep. Geoff Simpson, (D)	7
Sen. Margarita Prentice, (D)	75	Rep. Bill Hinkle, (R)	4	Rep. Norma Smith, (R)	0
Sen. Craig Pridemore, (D)	34	Rep. Mike Hope, (R)	26	Rep. Larry Springer, (D)	2
Sen. Kevin Ranker, (D)	50	Rep. Zack Hudgins, (D)	0	Rep. Pat Sullivan, (D)	0
Sen. Debbie Regala, (D)	26	Rep. Sam Hunt, (D)	1	Rep. Dean Takko, (D)	0
Sen. Pam Roach, (R)	41	Rep. Ross Hunter, (D)	45	Rep. David Taylor, (R)	0
Sen. Phil Rockefeller, (D)	99	Rep. Christopher Hurst, (D)	30	Rep. Dave Upthegrove, (D)	34
Sen. Mark Schoesler, (R)	2	Rep. Jim Jacks, (D)	0	Rep. Kevin Van De Wege, (D)	14
Sen. Tim Sheldon, (D)	20	Rep. Norm Johnson, (R)	0	Rep. Deb Wallace, (D)	23
Sen. Paull Shin, (D)	41	Rep. Ruth Kagi, (D)	0	Rep. Maureen Walsh, (R)	91
Sen. Val Stevens, (R)	11	Rep. Troy Kelley, (D)	0	Rep. Judy Warnick, (R)	0
Sen. Dan Swecker, (R)	6	Rep. Phyllis Kenney, (D)	1	Rep. Scott White, (D)	0
Sen. Rodney Tom, (D)	60	Rep. Lynn Kessler, (D)	0	Rep. Brendan Williams, (D)	5
Sen. Joseph Zarelli, (R)	64	Rep. Steve Kirby, (D)	37	Rep. Alex Wood, (D)	0