



WASHINGTON
POLICY CENTER
Improving lives through market solutions

2020
Annual
Report



WPC President Dann Mead Smith speaks at the 2020 Virtual Annual Dinner.

Dear friends of WPC,

2020 was a year that challenged Washington Policy Center like no other. Work plans were radically altered, and areas of focus quickly adjusted in rapid response to issues raised by the global COVID-19 pandemic and the response of the federal and state governments to it. Our physical offices, like so many others, were closed, but through it all our work continued and, in many cases, thrived.

Our research staff exposed the unscientific nature of the governor's COVID dashboard dials revealing how even when the data showed a worsening situation, the dials indicated improvement. Our exposé resulted in widespread local news coverage and an op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal*. We also exposed Washington state's poor COVID testing record which led to front-page headline in *The Olympian* with the story picked up by other local papers. Two weeks after we exposed the state failure, testing began to increase.

Our Coles Center for Transportation work revealed that projects halted by the Washington State Department of Transportation after voter approval of I-976 (\$30 car tabs) were funded by the gas tax, not car tabs. This research brought public attention to this blatantly political and unfair practice and ultimately led to the resumption of vital road projects.

Most of all, 2020 showed the loyalty and commitment of WPC members. The loyalty and commitment to this free market institution was inspiring and unforgettable. Even with our Annual Dinner Events going virtual, your commitment to our effort to improve lives through free market solutions did not wane.

In gratitude,



Mark Pinkowski
Chair, Washington Policy Center



Dann Mead Smith
President, Washington Policy Center



Rep. Trey Gowdy speaks at the 2020 Virtual Annual Dinner.

Board of Directors

Mark Pinkowski

Heidi Stanley

Kevin Bouchey

Adam Wray

Chair

Vice Chair

Treasurer

Secretary

Dan Absher

Richard Alvord

Dave Barber

Kevin Bouchey

Roger Bowlin

Artie Buerk

Jim Coles

John Connors

Kathy Connors

Anne Cowles

Jo Anne Estes

Hon. Kemper Freeman, Jr.

John J. Hennessy

Daniel Mead Smith, President

Kate Lampson

Martha Lee

Matt McIlwain

Hon. Mary Odermat

John Otter, Past Chair

Benjamin Petter

Greg Porter, Pillar Society President

Nathan Rimmer

Sarah Rindlaub

Phil Scott Schlaepfer

Irene Song

Randy Talbot

Robert Tippet

Janet True

Roberta Weymouth (deceased)

Craig Williamson, Past Chair

Our Staff



Daniel Mead Smith
President



David Boze
Communications Director



Sydney Jansen
Development Director



Chris Cargill
Eastern WA Office Director



Michele Fettel
Executive Coordinator



Maia Espinoza
Communications Manager



Tashina Kreilick
Development Manager



Braden Goodwin
Operations Manager



Marissa Gaston
Young Professionals
Director



Robyn Antoine
EWA Office and
Young Professionals
Coordinator



Claire Anderson
Development Operations
Coordinator



Donald Kimball
Operations Assistant



Paul Guppy
Vice President for Research



Mariya Frost
Director,
Coles Center for Transportation



Franz Gregory
Director,
WashingtonVotes.org



Pamela Lewison
Director,
Initiative on Agriculture



Liv Finne
Director, Center for Education



Todd Myers
Director,
Center for the Environment



Mark Harmsworth
Director,
Center for Small Business



Roger Stark, MD
Senior Fellow in Health Care
Policy



Jason Mercier
Director,
Center for Government Reform



Elizabeth Hovde
Research Analyst, Center for
Health Care and Center for
Worker Rights

Policy Victories

- Highlighted the failures of the state's COVID-19 Risk Assessment Dashboard dials, causing the governor to abandon it and completely redesign it. Our exposé resulted in several news stories and an op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal*.
- Exposed Washington state's poor COVID testing record which led to a front-page news story in *The Olympian* and other newspapers. Two weeks after we exposed the state's failure, testing began to increase.
- Published critical analysis of the State Department of Transportation issuing a manipulative survey to justify making traffic worse – within a week, WSDOT officials took the survey down.
- Revealed that Washington state's CO2 emissions increased in 2017 when the Washington State Department of Ecology delayed releasing the information. Our finding was highlighted on Seattle TV and radio news.
- Working with the Nisqually Tribe on our recommendation to promote salmon recovery projects, the state legislature increased funding for scientifically prioritized habitat projects in Puget Sound.
- Won a total victory in our public records lawsuit against the City of Seattle on its income tax legal memo, revealing that even the city's internal analysis showed such a tax was illegal.
- Two bills based on our work and top recommendations were introduced to fund school choice scholarships: one for special needs and foster children, and one to provide a \$12,000 choice scholarship for any family that sought one.
- Generated pressure to obtain fair and equal education funding for families who signed up for online public schools during the COVID lockdown.
- A bill based on our work allowing felons who have served their time to receive occupational licenses to ease employment prospects passed the State House 98-0. It will be reintroduced in 2021 and has additional support.
- Our work successfully defended temporary worker housing for farmers from restrictions that would have jeopardized the health and safety of migrant and foreign workers by limiting access to the number of beds available at work sites throughout the state.



THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW The Seattle Times



MEDIA IMPACT



PUBLICATIONS

- 2,153 Total Media Hits
- 56 Research Publications
- 105 Op-Eds
- 453 Blogs

27,187
followers across social media platforms

29%
increase in Facebook followers

10%
increase in Twitter followers

28%
increase in LinkedIn connections

10,000,000+
accounts reached through our
Free Markets Destroy campaign

SOCIAL MEDIA

Events

Just after the 2020 legislative session ended, in-person events were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. WPC quickly shifted from in-person events to virtual and continued to reach people across the state.

WPC's 2020 official event participant count was 5,969, almost equal to 2019's 6,062 and very likely undercounted due to couples sharing screens, viewing parties for the Annual Dinner, and call-ins not counted for our Go to Webinar platform.



Our Support

Our annual budget of more than \$4 million, though impressive for a state-based think tank, is dwarfed by those of special interests. We don't receive government money. We don't ask for it and we wouldn't take it even if it were offered. WPC relies on the generous support of our donors – people like you who understand that free-markets are superior to a government-rigged economy and liberty is the air that a free people must breathe.

About WPC's Legacy Partners:

The Legacy Partners program recognizes people who have made a bequest or indicated they have included WPC in their estate plans. Legacy Partners have all the same benefits as our highest levels of membership and the satisfaction of knowing their legacy will live on through WPC's important work.

Legacy Partners

- Ardean Anvik
- Bill & Milly Baldwin
- Bill & Marilyn Conner
- Jim & Raeceil Day
- Patricia Edwards
- Jo Anne Estes
- Len & Estelle Guyt
- John & Kathy Hennessy
- Judith M. King
- Paul Locke
- Mary Marik
- Dann & Sydne Mead Smith
- Joe Pauletto
- Benjamin & Lauren Petter
- Gregory S. Porter
- Eileen Pratt
- Richard & Violette Rokes
- Joe & Susan Rumble
- Heidi & Ron Stanley
- Joanne M. Stubbs
- Craig & Janet Williamson
- Len & Darcy Zarelli
- Anonymous (3)

President's Council (\$10,000+)

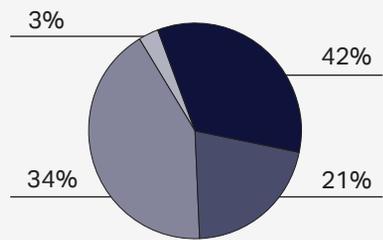
- Adolph Coors Foundation
- Altria Client Services, Inc.
- Apex Foundation
- AT&T
- The Boeing Company
- The Bradley Foundation
- Building Industry
- Association of Washington
- Charles Maxfield and Gloria F. Parrish Foundation
- Chevron USA
- CTIA
- Charles F. Diesing
- Hayden Homes, LLC
- Home Builders Association of Tri-Cities
- Lawrence Pat & Mary Ellen Hughes
- Johnson & Shute, P.S.
- Larry & Karen McDonald
- Erik & Tamara Nelson
- George & Alyssa Petrie
- PhRMA
- William G. Reed
- Richard Seth Staley
- Educational Foundation
- The Roe Foundation
- Rowley Properties
- Patrick & Dianne Schultheis
- Roy & Frances Simperman
- The Spokesman Review
- State Policy Network
- Walmart Stores, Inc.
- Washington State Farm Bureau
- Dennis & Beth Weibling
- Zirkle Fruit Company
- Anonymous (5)

Washington Policy Center is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. To preserve our independence, we accept no government funding, and we do not perform contract work. Contributions are deductible for federal income tax purposes as allowed by law. Our tax ID # is 91-1752769.

2019

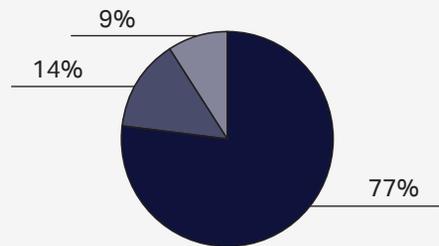
**Total Revenue
\$4,417,092**

Revenue Sources



- Individual donors
- Pillar Society
- Special Events
- In-Kind
- Free Markets Create

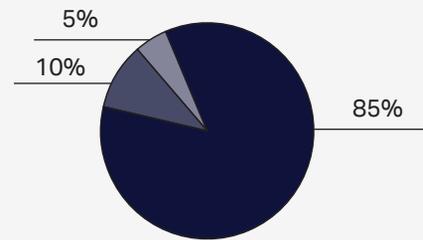
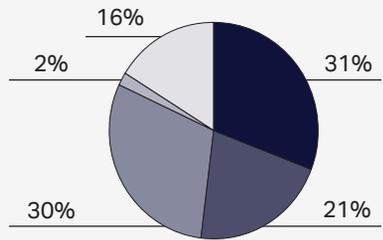
Revenue Breakdown



- Individuals
- Foundations
- Corporations & Businesses

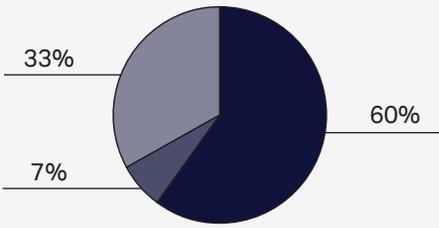
2020

**Total Revenue
\$4,112,829**



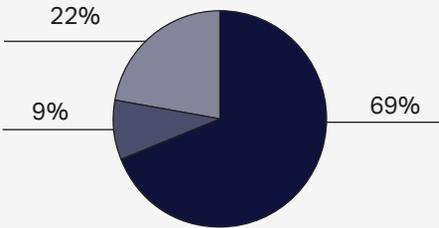
Revenue Use

2019



- Program Services
- Management & General
- Fundraising

2020



About WPC's Pillar Society:

WPC's Pillar Society distinguishes donors who make a substantial three-year pledge to Washington Policy Center. Pledges start at \$15,000 over three years and go up to \$300,000. Each pledge includes VIP tickets or a table of 10 at the Annual Dinner, based on pledge level, as well as personalized support and event sponsorship plans.

PILLAR SOCIETY

\$225,000+

Hon. Kemper Freeman, Jr.*,
Kemper Development, Inc.
Terry & Jane Petter
Schlaepfer Family Foundation
Silver Cloud Hotels

\$100,00 - \$224,999

Richard* & Nancy Alvord
Carol & Spike Anderson
Jim* & CK Coles
John* & Kathy* Connors
Patricia Edwards
Hon. Mary* & Vic Odermat,
Brown Bear Car Wash
Mike Tembreull, TR Wines, Inc.
Wells Fargo Corporation
Anonymous (2)

\$100,00 - \$224,999

Berntson Porter & Company, CPAs –
Greg Porter* & Robert Berntson
Kent & Bonnie Clausen
Brent Frei
John Harnish, The Harnish Group, Inc.
Kirk & Sandy Newby
Quinn Charitable Fund

Sarah* & John Rindlaub
Randy* & Margaret Talbot
Bruce & Peggy Wanta,
Spectrum Controls, Inc.
Washington Trust Bank
Robert & Ruth Wright,
Matthew G. Norton Co.

\$30,000 - \$49,999

Diana & Christopher Ackerley
Ted & Danielle Ackerley
Associated Builders and Contractors
of Western Washington
Sam E. Baker, Jr.
Dave* & Jean Barber, Bartell-Barber
Family Investments, LLC
Gregg & Lauren Bennett
Kevin* & Renee Bouchey
Patrick Cahill
Bill Conner*
Birney & Marie Dempcy
Mike & Leslie Dunn, Dunn Lumber
Empire Bolt & Screw - Ron & Heidi*
Stanley
Fremont Dock Co.
Steve & Melissa Gordon

Elling & Barbara Halvorson
Patrick Hanley
John* & Kathy Hennessy
El Jahnce
Matt McIlwain*, Madrona Venture Group
John* & Molly Otter
Annette & Bob Parks
Puget Sound Energy
Don & Karin Root, GMN
Senske Services
Barry Sherman, National Electrical
Contractors Assn. (NECA)
Martin & Dianne Stever, Pacific West Land
Russ & Tricia Stromberg
Janet* & Doug True, Iron Springs Resort
Jeff & Angela Vandel
WaFd Bank
wafila
Wayne & Terina Williams
Adam & Amanda Wray
John & Nancy Zevenbergen
Anonymous

In 2020: 195 Pillar Society Members | 24 new members joined | \$1,435,500 raised

\$15,000 - \$29,999

Absher Construction Company
 John & Polly Addison
 Bryan & Brenda Alford, Alford Farms, Inc.
 Alliant Employee Benefits
 Harvey & Mei Allison
 Dan Alsaker
 Andrea Alstrup
 Duane & Andrea Alton
 Kent Angier
 Avara Construction
 Avista Corp
 Dr. Doug & Julie Backous
 Lorrie Baldevia & Jim Hartz,
 AssuredPartners MCM
 Judy Baratta & Thomas Pemberton
 Chuck & Linda Barbo
 Paul & Denise Beckstead
 Roger Belanich
 Ronald L. Berenstein
 James & Debra Blodgett
 Catherine Boshaw & Doug Edlund
 James Boulanger, Patriot Fire Protection
 Roger* & Leslie Bowlin, Real Estate
 Transition Solutions, LLC
 Breier-Scheetz Properties
 Joe Brotherton
 Denis Bryant, Living Care Lifestyles
 Warren & Nancy Bryant
 Sue & Artie* Buerk
 Nadine! Burgess, Spokane Gymnastics
 Gary & Catherine Bylund
 Joanna & Kevin Cable
 Mark & Tonyia Cairns
 Rick & Laura Carlson
 Peter & Lisa Carstens, Carstens

Management Co
 James & Doris Cassan,
 Cassan Enterprises
 Mike & Dr. Susie Cero
 Dr. Dennis & Sweelin Chong
 Herb & Lynn Clark
 Randy & Judy Clark
 Ron & Patti Cline, Central Valley
 Helicopters
 Bill Coburn & Darlene Sobieck
 Jo Anne Collet Estes*
 Columbia Bank
 Jim & Diane Coughlin
 Anne* & Stacey Cowles
 Jim & Raeceil Day
 Jon DeVaney, Washington State Tree Fruit
 Association
 Hon. Barbara & Pat Fahey
 Allan H. Ferrin
 Carl & Jan Fisher
 Marion R. Foote & Thomas J. Little
 Jeff & Jana Foushee
 Michael Garvey
 Jim & Linda Gebhardt
 Kristina & Richard Greiling
 Mark & Rosie Griswold
 Dennis & Norma Jean Hanson
 Art Harrigan
 Craig & Andi Hart
 Admiral Tom Hayward
 Tom Herche
 Carl & Betty Hogan
 Charles R. & Nancy Hogan
 Douglas Howe & Robin DuBryn
 J.R. Hayes Corporation
 J.R. Simplot Company

Mike & Linda Jones
 George & Sandy Kachlein
 Tamra & Harlan Kammin
 Judith M. King & Gifford E. Thomas
 Gerry & Kathy Kingen
 Miles Kohl, Allan Bros. Inc
 Garith & Oretta Krause
 Jim & April LaLonde
 Lampson Somerville Family
 Liam Li
 Dr. Benjamin & Emily Ling
 Jeff & Olivia Lippens
 Bruce & Barbara Lippke
 Chuck & Karen Lytle
 Marathon Petroleum Corporation
 Chris & Susan Marker
 Kirby & Diane McDonald
 McDougall & Son's, Inc.
 Dr. Blake & Joan McKinley
 Mark Meyer
 Ryan Neal
 Roger & Kathy Nelson
 Don & Melissa Nielsen, Lumenal Lighting
 Northwest Farm Credit Services
 Kurt & Gayle Orton
 Nancy & Doug Overturf,
 Overturf Properties LLC
 Chris & Dalene Patterson
 Perrault Farms Inc
 Wayne & Christine Perry
 Ken & Claudia Peterson
 Phillips 66 Ferndale Refinery
 Mark* & Andria Pinkowski
 Tom & Lonna Power
 Proliance Surgeons
 Chris Randall

Bruce & Gail Richards
 Allan & Mearle Roy
 Dr. John Thomas & Joyce Rulon
 Peter Saladino, Charter Construction
 Susan Schwasnick
 Edith Seymour
 Northwest CFO, Julie Shiflett Principal
 Dennis & Jullie Simmelink
 Anne Simpson & Charlie Conner
 Irene Song* & Stefan Sharkansky
 Robb Stack
 Eric & Kay Stelter
 Doug & Carlie Stewart
 Mel & Leena Sturman
 Michael Swindling
 Team Foster, Tere Foster & Moya Skillman
 Tyrus & Kathy Tenold
 Robert M. Tippett*, The Tippett Company
 Martin Tobias
 TRICO Companies, LLC
 Robert & Betsy Tutland
 Wallace Properties
 Western Integrated Technologies
 Western Wood Preserving Co.
 Steven & Linda Wilhoit
 Bill & Judi Williams
 Jim & Bev Williams
 Craig* & Janet Williamson
 Daniel Wilskie & Meghann Good,
 UBS Financial Services
 Len* & Darcy Zarelli
 Anonymous (4)

Initiative on Agriculture

Pamela Lewison, Director

In 2020, the Initiative on Agriculture focused its work on communication and outreach. In particular, presenting the needs of farmers and ranchers in an ever-changing policy landscape of the pandemic and the ongoing pressures from consumer perceptions of agriculture.

In early spring of 2020, agriculture was designated “essential infrastructure,” meaning the thousands of farmers, farm workers, ranchers and agriculture businesses were required to continue working throughout the various shutdowns ordered by the governor.

WPC closely monitored safety requirements, farmworker housing mandates, and how the spread of COVID-19 at meatpacking and fruit-packing facilities effected our communities. Initiative research helped roll back an arbitrary bunkbed regulation that would have cut available affordable worker housing in half. The Initiative also defended the successful H-2A jobs program on behalf of agricultural workers in our state.

The King-Pierce Farm Bureau asked for Pam’s input for its “iEat iVote” campaign. The effort is a non-partisan project to encourage citizens to ask lawmakers and candidates for their policy positions on farms, ranches, and food production.

Finally, the Initiative interviewed farmworkers to get their views on arbitrary overtime rules that would cut work hours and conveyed these findings to policymakers so they could hear directly how their policies can harm workers. Those farmworker interviews helped undercut the phony positioning of so-called labor advocates who claim that they are the only ones who can speak for the agricultural labor community.

These efforts combined to showcase the continued need for more focused communication and outreach moving beyond 2020 and provided guidance for the new year.



Center for Education

Liv Finne, Director

The Education Center continued to expose the state's policy of funding discrimination against charter schools and promoting other forms of school choice. When the governor closed the schools, it pointed to the urgent need to expand learning options for kids, and presented options like giving parents \$3,000 to buy technology and curricula. These ideas were picked up by the media in the debate about how to improve schools, and WPC research was cited in coverage of the hotly-contested race for state superintendent of instruction.

At our 2020 Annual Solutions Summit, Liv hosted Rep. Vicki Kraft who described her bill to offer parents \$7,000 Education Choice Scholarships. In addition, The Heritage Foundation solicited Liv's work for their Backgrounder series: "How Special Interests and Entrenched Bureaucracy Drove the COVID-19 Response to Education: The Case of Washington State."

The Center's research revealed the sloppy scholarship of The New York Times' 1619 Project, and it conducted a survey showing that Washington's largest 15 school districts were rightly ignoring this flawed curriculum. WPC also provided research to several parent groups pushing for their schools to reopen. Finally, with researcher Jeff Heckathorn, the Center released a study showing large school districts mislead voters about the real taxpayer cost of school bonds.



Center for the Environment

Todd Myers, Director

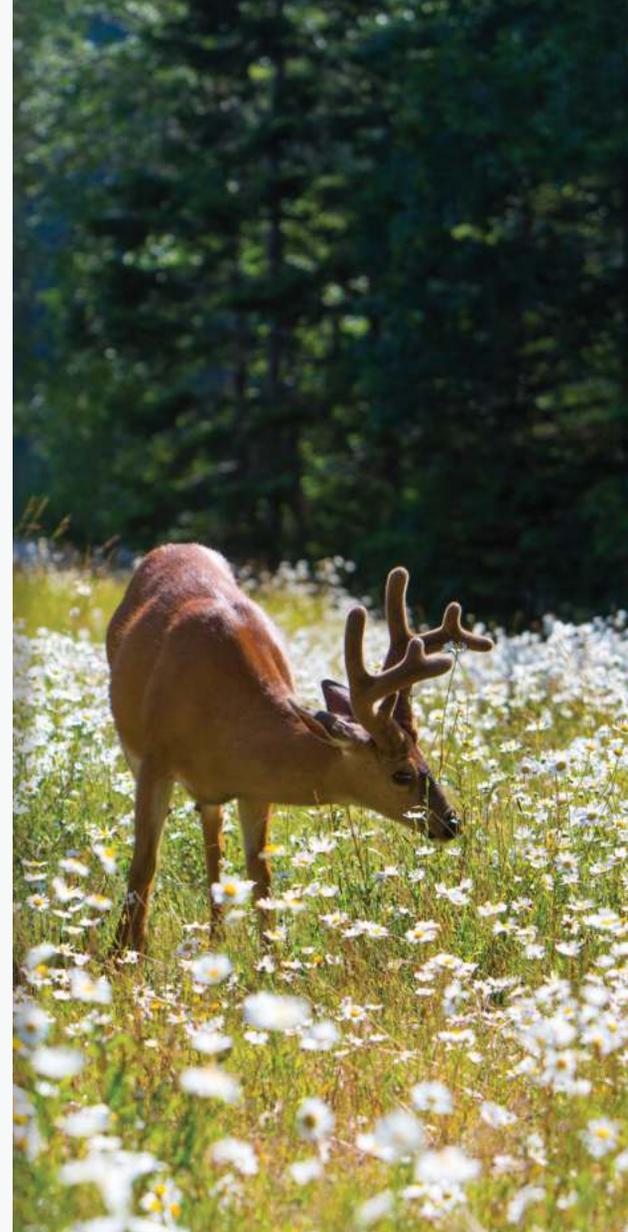
From the Snake River dams, to wolves and murder hornets, 2020 was very busy for the Center for Environmental Policy. Both the legislature and the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency considered a low-carbon fuel standard. Center research on the high cost and ineffectiveness of the policy helped kill it in both places.

In conjunction with PERC, WPC also published a report on Washington's wolf management strategy, offering some key changes to reduce the conflict between ranchers and wolves – which are nearing population levels considered recovered. The Center also worked with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to produce a video about tribal management of wolf populations, which includes a regulated hunting season for tribal members.

The Center also launched a new project to highlight the work of Washington's tribes as stewards of the natural resources on their land. WPC produced three online videos with the Nisqually and Colville tribes on salmon, forest stewardship, and wildlife management. The videos tell the important story that when people have property rights, incentives, and the freedom to act, they are innovative and effective at caring for the environment.

Todd wrote extensively on the benefits of the four Lower Snake River dams and the high cost tearing them down would impose on the economy and on salmon populations. Our work was featured in several newspapers after the federal government concluded that keeping the dams was the best option. We also joined with Governor Inslee's former salmon advisor to publish an op-ed supporting the dams.

Finally, WPC was uniquely positioned to comment on the spread of the Asian Giant Hornet – called the Murder Hornet – in Washington state. As a beekeeper, Todd was interviewed for a report by Fox News, and his video primer on the hornet received more than 3,600 views online.



Center for Government Reform

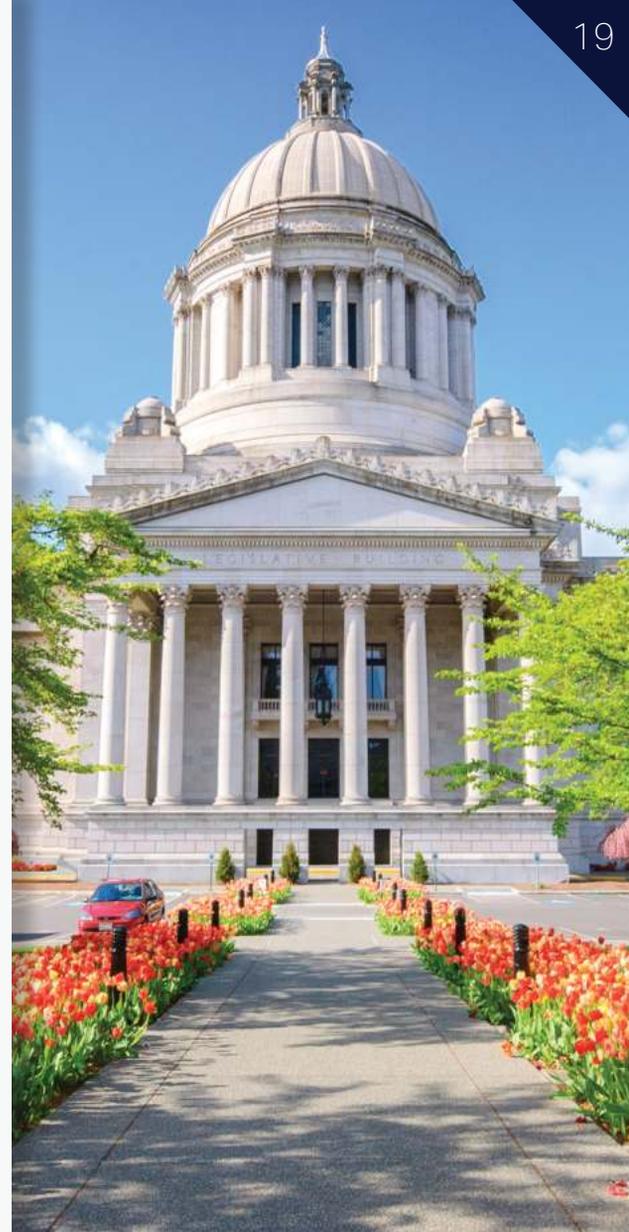
Jason Mercier, Director

The week before session started The Seattle Times published Jason's op-ed, "Washington lawmakers should listen to voters: No new taxes." When the session started, the Center released a statewide poll showing that 72% of Washingtonians oppose local income taxes. Using public records, the Center uncovered and exposed that the true motivation of lawmakers proposing a statewide capital gains income tax is to set up a lawsuit (as Seattle officials did) to get the courts to overturn the state constitution's ban on a graduated income tax.

During the legislative session itself WPC ran a marketing campaign providing information on how a capital gains income tax would hurt Washington. This research and messaging helped define the debate in the legislature, and bills to impose a capital gains income tax or other form of state income tax in 2020 were defeated.

Also during the session, the Center published a Legislative Memo with an analysis of two bills that would have repealed the people's right to vote on ballot initiatives and referenda in odd-numbered years. Once the behind-the-scenes effort of the bill sponsors was exposed the measures were defeated.

On another issue, Jason co-authored a national study on the need for collective bargaining transparency. It was published by the Better Cities Project and distributed across the country to state and local officials.



Center for Health Care

Dr. Roger Stark, Health Care Policy Analyst

The COVID-19 pandemic has had major public health effects, but it has also provided opportunities for government to deregulate and allow other free market changes to our health care system. The Center not only described these positive policy changes, such as an expansion of telemedicine, a relaxation of medical licensing restrictions, and the temporary removal of Certificate of Need laws, but also advocated for making these policy improvements permanent.

In addition to Washington state issues, the Center participated in the national Health Care Consensus Group, a coalition of state and national health care policy experts. The group published a comprehensive free market health care reform plan in 2020. It is our hope that elected officials will use this forward-looking plan as a starting point for meaningful reform to make quality health care more accessible and affordable for all.

The Center accomplished a very successful launch of Dr. Stark's latest book, *Health Care Policy Simplified; Understanding a Complex Issue*. Comments and feedback on the book have been extremely gratifying.



Center for Worker Rights

In 2020 the Center for Worker Rights produced analysis of bills that would have destroyed part-time jobs, slowed the economy and increased costs for products and services. In particular, WPC defended the right of workers to make a living and choose the times and manner in which they want to participate in the workforce. The purpose was to protect the flexibility of freelance and part-time contract workers, and to preserve their ability to accept or reject work assignments at will.

In other work, WPC's Todd Myers worked to reduce occupational licensing barriers for immigrants, low-skill workers and criminal offenders who had completed their sentences. The purpose was to reward work and promote opportunities for people who are often shut out of traditional job opportunities. The effort attracted bipartisan support and built momentum in the legislature to repeal strict and often unnecessary regulations that block access to gainful employment.

Lastly, the Center continues to promote Washington Policy Center's goal of defending individual worker rights, and the ability of employees not to join a union without being fired. The Center, working with WPC's Communications Director, widely distributed information to workers about their legal rights under the U.S. Supreme Court's Janus decision, and promoted an opt-out advertising campaign showing interested workers how they can resist the pressure of labor activists and exercise their right to leave a union.



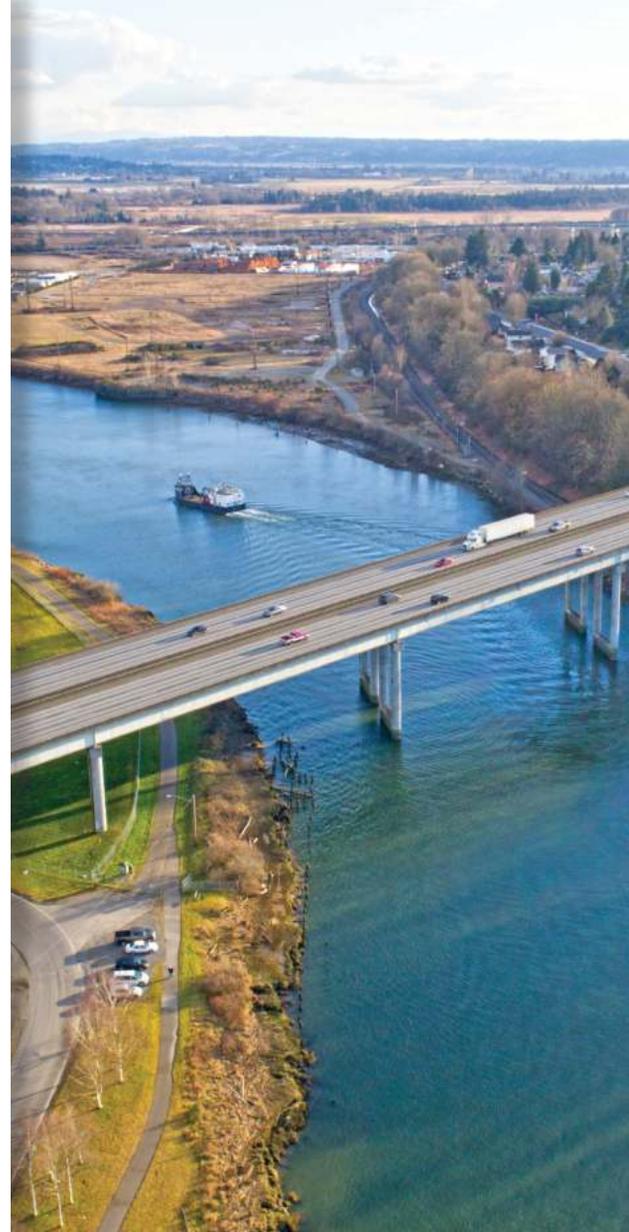
Coles Center for Transportation

Mariya Frost, Director

Mariya initiated, managed and contributed to a major study that included contributions by nationally recognized transportation scholars titled, "Transportation and COVID-19: A State Guide to Policy and Priorities." Other contributors included Robert Pool, Baruch Feigenbaum, Randal O'Toole, Wendell Cox, and Marc Scribner. The study not only provides a resource to national and Washington state policymakers, but also serves as a valuable guide to other state-based think tanks that wish to produce the same high-quality studies for their state leaders.

Another major area of Center work is research on a proposed mileage tax, also called a Road Usage Charge (RUC). The Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) adopted WPC's recommendation that any revenue that may be collected under a mileage tax be protected solely for highway purposes under the state constitution's 18th Amendment in the same way that current gas tax revenues are protected. The Center continues to track opposition to 18th Amendment protections and the quiet efforts by some to undermine it. Center work has been successful at blocking these efforts by bringing them to the attention of media and the public.

In other work, the Center produced Legislative Memos on keeping traffic congestion relief a top policy goal of the state's transportation program, promoting five key principles to guide the use of transportation funding and to make the cost of the gas tax transparent to consumers.



Center for Small Business

Mark Harmsworth, Director

In 2020 the state Employment Security Department (ESD) struggled with significant problems due to slow processing times, adjudication backlogs, millions lost in fraudulent claims, over payments and finally a data breach in late 2020 that added to the troubled agency's list of failures. The Center helped explain the agency's disfunction to the public and provided a series of commonsense reforms. As a result, several bills were introduced that sought to fix some of the core problems of the agency.

Senate Bill 5193 would create new training programs for adjudicators who review unemployment claims for eligibility. This should reduce delays for claimants who in 2020 suffered long wait times to receive their unemployment benefits.

House Bill 1455 would require ESD officials to stop using Social Security numbers to identify individuals if they are not required to do so by federal law. ESD suffered a security breach involving 1.3 million client records. Part of the loss included people's Social Security numbers.

During the pandemic, the Center offered several ideas to help small business, including, suspending or deferring B&O taxes, discounting taxes, rolling back the punitive taxes just passed by the legislature on small business during the 2019 legislative session, offering zero or low interest loans for small business and providing uninterrupted broadband service.

Early in the economic shut-down, the Center pointed out the unfairness of the governor's order which stopped private construction but allowed public projects to continue. Shortly after our analysis was published, the governor changed his order to allow construction workers access to private job sites on the same basis as public ones.



Eastern Washington

Chris Cargill, Director

With COVID restrictions ending out in-person events, our traditionally Eastern Washington WPC events went statewide. During the 2020 legislative session we held our Legislative Lunchbox series allowing Eastern Washington citizens to interact with lawmakers in Olympia and updating them on the latest in state policy. When COVID restrictions hit, we moved our events online and on Facebook live, bringing an Eastern Washington perspective statewide. WPC continued our research in issues specific to our region including government transparency, transportation, and lower Snake River dam issues. We also continued to update radio listeners in Yakima, Tri-cities, Wenatchee, and Spokane with regular WPC updates.

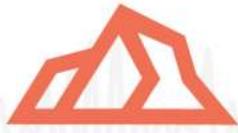
Our 2020 Annual Dinner was combined with Western Washington's in a single virtual event featuring former Governor of Texas, Rick Perry, former Congressman, Trey Gowdy, and acclaimed historian, Victor Davis Hanson.



Young Professionals

EDUCATING, ENGAGING & EMPOWERING

The Next Generation of Free-Market Leaders in Washington State.

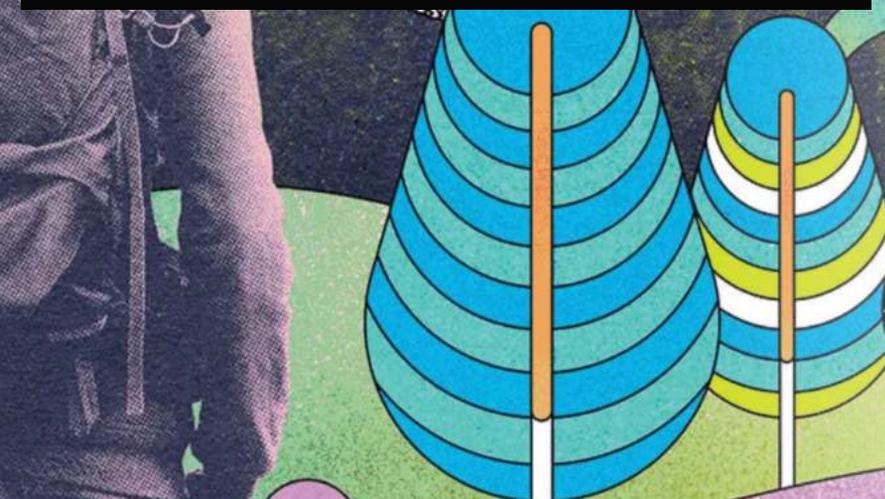
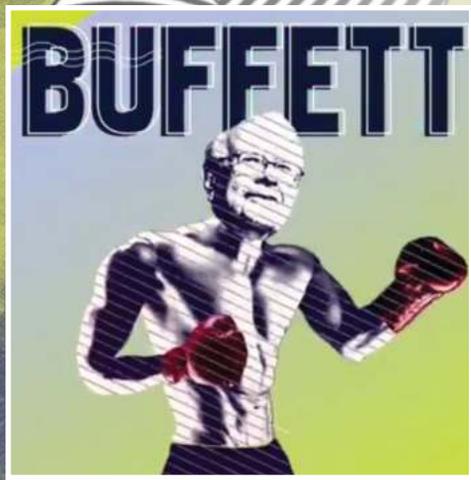


TUNE IN
TO THE YP PODCAST

Events have been key to WPC's Young Professionals' membership development. The COVID restrictions made our typical year impossible, so our YPs innovated, launching our first-ever virtual events. We started a monthly YP Book Club for in-depth discussions on American classics and modern literature and we held an online screening of the inspirational Arthur Brooks' film, *The Pursuit*, with a follow-up Q&A with film director John Papola and special guest Maria Fernanda Bello, who was raised in Venezuela and now speaks out against socialism. For our college clubs, YPs hosted monthly online discussions branded "Hot Topic Tuesdays" featuring WPC center directors and their work. In person events are extremely important to the YP demographic, but our adaptive approach still managed to maintain our membership, increase our email list and grow our social media followers.

FREE MARKETS DESTROY

In 2020, WPC launched our most ambitious project ever - Free Markets Destroy. The effort is a bold, innovative project aimed at convincing younger generations of the creative destruction forces of the free market and the destructive nature of socialism. In its first six months, Free Markets Destroy reached more than 10 million social media accounts, attracted more than 1 million video views and received national attention from journalist John Stossel and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush.



DISEASE

HUNGER

HIGH RENTS

CLIMATE CHANGE

BOREDOM



FREE MARKETS DESTROY

If you want to move fast and change things, the free market is the mechanism that can get you there.

11,300,000 Social Media Accounts Reached

1,492,100 Unique Users Seeing Message

1,505,400 Interaction With Campaign

1,264,645 Video Views

Stay informed with Washington Policy Center



Washington Policy Center

[@WaPolicyCenter](#)

Dann Mead Smith, President

[@Dannwpc](#)

Liv Finne, Education

[@livfinne](#)

Mariya Frost, Transportation

[@MariyaFrost](#)

Jason Mercier, Government Reform

[@olympiawatch](#)

Todd Myers, Environment

[@WaPolicyGreen](#)



[/washington.policy.center](#)

[/wpcyoungprofessionals](#)



[/company/washington-policy-center](#)



[WashingtonPolicy.org](#)

[WashingtonVotes.org](#)

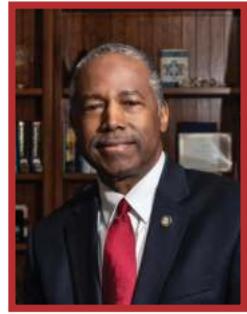


Listen to our podcast, *Washington Policy On The Go* on iTunes, Spotify, Google Play, and more



WASHINGTON POLICY CENTER

ANNUAL DINNER



WESTERN WASHINGTON

Featuring John Mackey,
CEO & Co-Founder,
Whole Foods Market

EASTERN WASHINGTON

Featuring Dr. Ben Carson
Former US Secretary of Housing and Urban
Development / Renowned Surgeon

Hyatt Regency, Bellevue
Friday, October 1st | 7:00pm

Davenport Grand, Spokane
Friday, October 15th | 7:00pm

