



WASHINGTON
POLICY CENTER
Improving lives through market solutions

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Tulsi Gabbard speaks at the 2022 Annual Dinner



Dear friends of WPC,

It has been nearly a year since I was given the privilege to lead your Washington Policy Center. In that time, I have personally seen the strength of our Board, the tenacity of our team, and enormity of our task.

2022 was a year of change for WPC. We added a new Director for Eastern Washington who brings a unique mix of relationships in the other Washington (D.C.) and deep connections in Olympia to impact policy priorities for Eastern Washington. We also added a new director of the Coles Center for Transportation, with over 30 years of on-the-ground policy experience here in Washington to speak with clarity on the road ahead.

We notched a big win with the state Superior Court finding the capital gains income tax unconstitutional, relying on the expert work of Jason Mercier in reaching its decision. And, Todd Myers' clarion call on the costs of carbon fees narrated the grinding cost of new gas and diesel price hikes inflicted by the state.

We broadened our reach to illustrate the importance of key issues through our "Solutions on the Table" series. With enthusiastic support from the WPC Board, we closed the year by adopting our new 3-year Strategic Plan : Build | Deploy | Win.

Enjoy the change illustrated in this report. More importantly, stay tuned for the impact ahead.

More to come.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Gallagher
President and CEO
Washington Policy Center



WASHINGTON
POLICY CENTER
Improving lives through market solutions



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CONNORS 34

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Todd Myers
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Senior Fellow in Health Care
Policy



Pamela Lewison
Director,
Initiative on Agriculture



Elizabeth Hovde
Director, Center for Health
Care and Center for Worker
Rights



Susan Cero, MD
Health Care Policy
Research Fellow



Mariya Frost
Director,
Coles Center for Transportation

Eastern Washington



Sean O'Brien*
Director, Eastern WA Office



Robyn Antoine
Eastern Washington
Coordinator



Chris Cargill
Director, Eastern WA Office

**joined in December 2022*

WPC Impacts 2022

Kept Washington Income Tax Free

by providing research used in the Superior Court case to strike down the capital gains tax



478,481

People successfully obtained exemptions from the new Long-Term-Care payroll tax

Parents of 1,091,404 students

Retained authority to decide whether their child would receive a COVID-19 vaccine



261,825

Washington businesses avoided being subject to working conditions lawsuits by non-employees.

4 lower Snake River dams

Defended by WPC research highlighting actual salmon returns and environmental benefits, blunting efforts by dam removal activists.



\$298 Million

Amount WPC research helped cut from school administrative costs. WPC research also aided defeat of a proposal to slash classroom instruction time by 20%.

4,828

Students benefitting from more equitable charter school funding.



1982

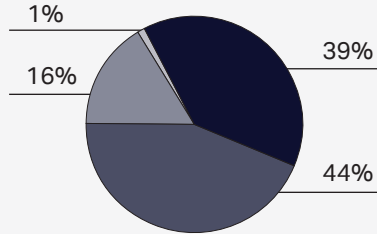
It's been 40 years since the last cut to the state sales tax rate. WPC put it back on the agenda, and while it didn't pass, a Democratic leader introduced a bipartisan bill to enact WPC's recommended sales tax cut.

Our Funding

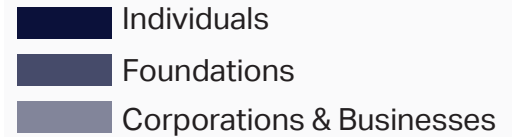
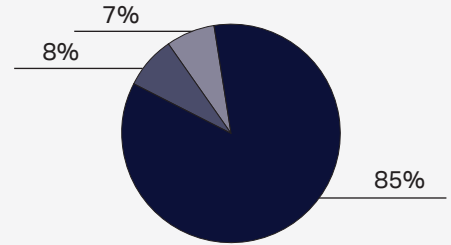
2022

Total Revenue
\$4,344,593

Revenue Sources

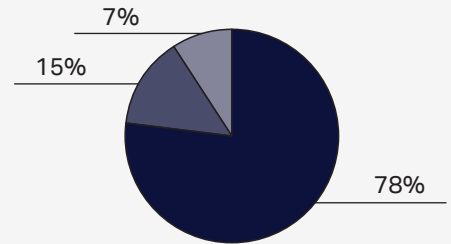
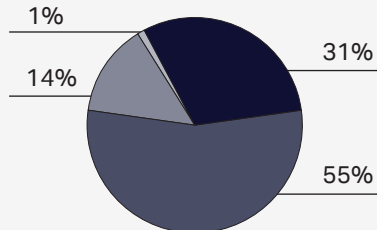


Revenue Breakdown



2021

Total Revenue
\$5,153,940



In 2022, WPC work was covered in:



And over 60 other outlets.

MEDIA TOTALS

1,692 Print and Online articles

342 Op-eds

84 Television Interviews

596 Radio hits

2,454 Total media hits

PUBLICATIONS

Legislative Memos: 17

Blogs: 454

Policy Notes: 16

Policy Briefs: 4

Our Support

Washington Policy Center raised \$4.3 million in revenue in 2022. Our funding comes from various sources including the Pillar Society who makes a three-year pledge to support WPC's work, individuals, small businesses, foundations, and corporations who make meaningful contributions to advance WPC's eight research centers as well as WPC's popular gala event, the Annual Dinner which brings together over 2,500 people from across Washington state to celebrate free market ideas.

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.

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**In loving memory, free market solutions will live on through your legacy*

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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 \$1,000,000. 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.

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\$225,000+

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Terry & Jane Petter
Scott Schlaepfer Family Foundation
In Memory of Roberta Weymouth

\$100,000 - \$224,999

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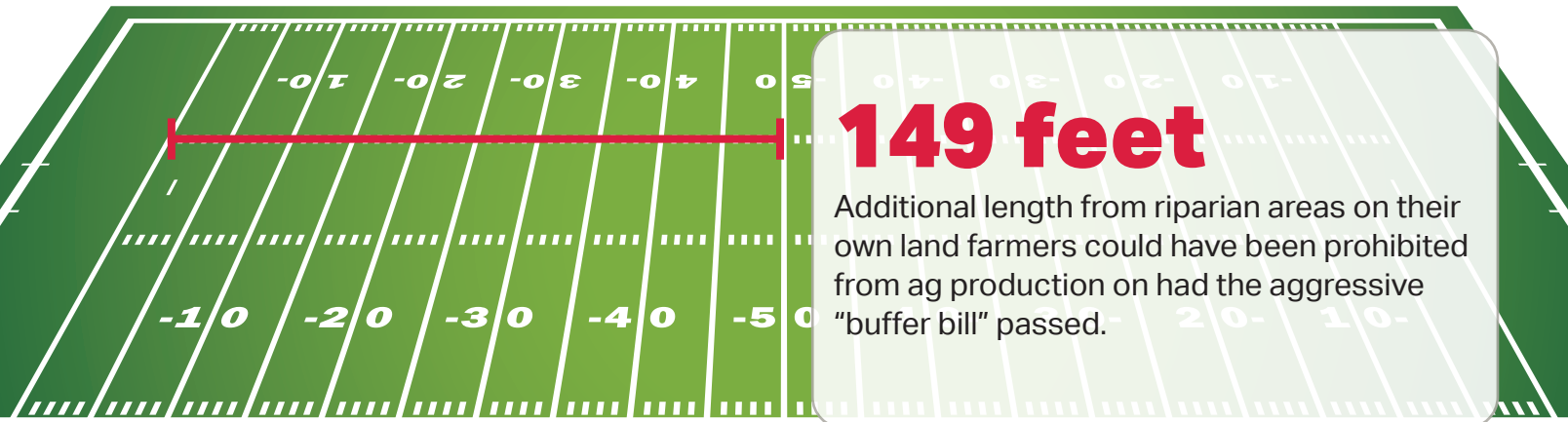
Center for Agriculture

Pamela Lewison, Director

In 2022, WPC worked closely with the Washington Farm Bureau, the Potato Commission and other farm groups to defeat a proposed “Buffer Bill” that would have banned productive use of private land within 100 feet of the 100-year high water mark of every river, creek and stream in the state.

The Center also worked to end outdated COVID work and housing rules imposed on farm workers. Officials at the Department of Labor and Industries indicate they are aware of our research but the rules remain. Returning to normal workplace rules for food production will be a major policy goal in 2023.

WPC has been successful in blocking strict masking regulations that inhibit workers outdoors and highlighting union pressure to force operations to shut down when summer temperatures reach a certain level. To date WPC has been successful in defending Eastern Washington’s economy and stopping the heat rule.



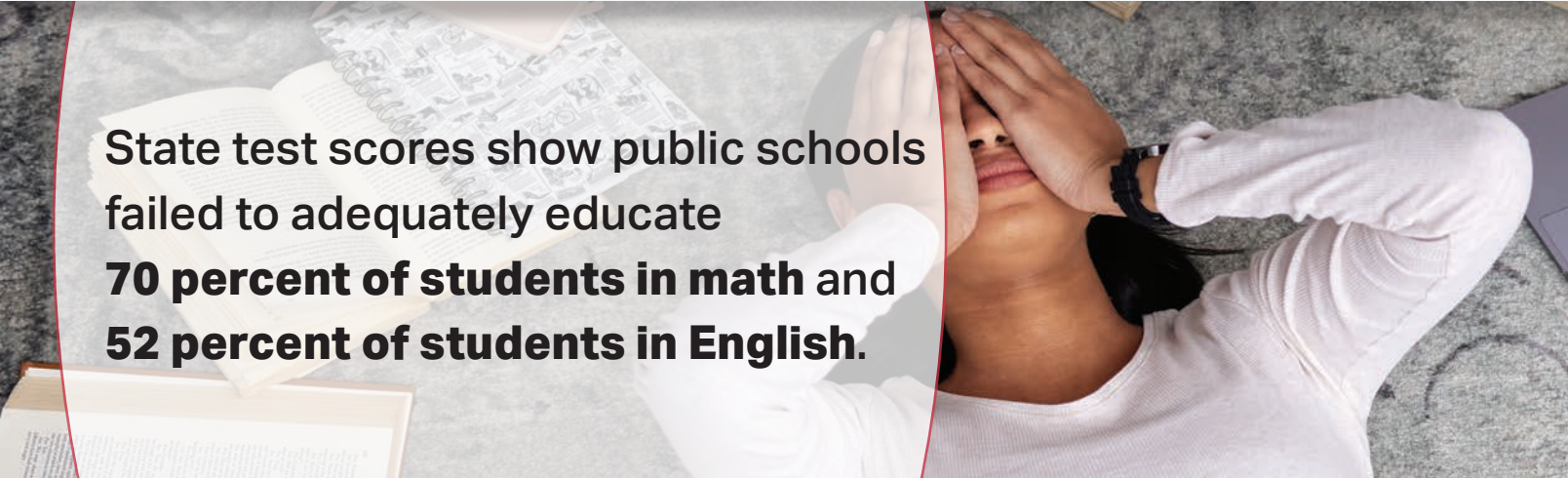
Center for Education

Liv Finne, Director

In 2022 the Center reported key public education facts that officials sought to hide including state test scores showing public schools failed to teach 70 percent of students adequately in math and failed to teach 52 percent of students in English and that 41,000 families had pulled their children out of public schools.

Also, in 2022 the legislature adopted a WPC recommendation by providing greater fairness in funding for charter school families. The measure provided an additional \$8.3 million for charter schools, or about \$1,600 more per child. This reform reduced the systematic inequity in per-student funding for students assigned to traditional schools compared to families who choose charter schools.

In 2022 WPC research helped defeat a proposed bill that would have cut classroom instruction time by 20%, helped cut school administrative costs by \$298 million, and supported parents in opposing hateful Critical Race Theory ideology. WPC's research led to the passage of outright bans on CRT by the Richland and Kennewick school boards.



State test scores show public schools failed to adequately educate 70 percent of students in math and 52 percent of students in English.

Center for the Environment

Todd Myers, Director

WPC joined with the Center for the American Experiment in Minnesota to model the cost to replace the electricity from the Snake River dams. The estimate is \$33.4 billion – more than the total previous estimate for all costs. Using Department of Ecology estimates, we calculated the impact of the new CO₂ taxes and regulations would be about 46 cents per gallon of gas and 56 cents for diesel. We publicized this information on the top of gas pumps inspiring other organizations to replicate them at other stations.

In 2022, the legislature enacted a tax on carbon emissions that will go into effect in 2023. Analysis by WPC showed the tax will further increase the price of gasoline and diesel fuel, and will increase the cost of shipping and delivery for businesses and consumers in Washington state.

Center Director Todd Myers was appointed to the Hanford Advisory Board, which oversees the cleanup of nuclear waste on the Hanford Reservation. He also released his second book, *Time to Think Small* and gave presentations to the Congressional Bipartisan Working Group and Western Congressional Caucus, and was interviewed by several national outlets, including the Babylon Bee podcast and C-SPAN's Book TV.

Replacing the generation of the Lower Snake River dams with 100 percent wind, solar, and battery storage would cost **\$34.3 billion.**



Center for Government Reform

Jason Mercier, Director

In March of 2022 our in-depth research work on the illegal capital gains income tax led to a major court victory in the Douglas County Superior Court which invalidated the capital gains tax as unconstitutional. The judge said he used Mercier's expert testimony in coming to his decision. WPC work was cited numerous times by the lawyers in their briefs, by lawmakers and by the media. The decision is on appeal.

WPC played an essential role in shaping the emergency powers debate during session. Several editorials called for real reform and directed readers to WPC's emergency powers online video.

Also, though it didn't pass, WPC helped put a sales tax cut on the session agenda. A Democratic leader in the Senate, Mona Das, introduced a bipartisan bill to enact WPC's proposed sales tax cut.

Also, at least 28 local governments in Washington have now adopted an income tax ban based on WPC's recommendation. Director Mercier also met with the Idaho Controller to talk about transparency reforms and WPC's tax transparency website proposal.



28 cities and counties

have now adopted an income tax ban
based on WPC's recommendation

Center for Health Care

Elizabeth Hovde, Director

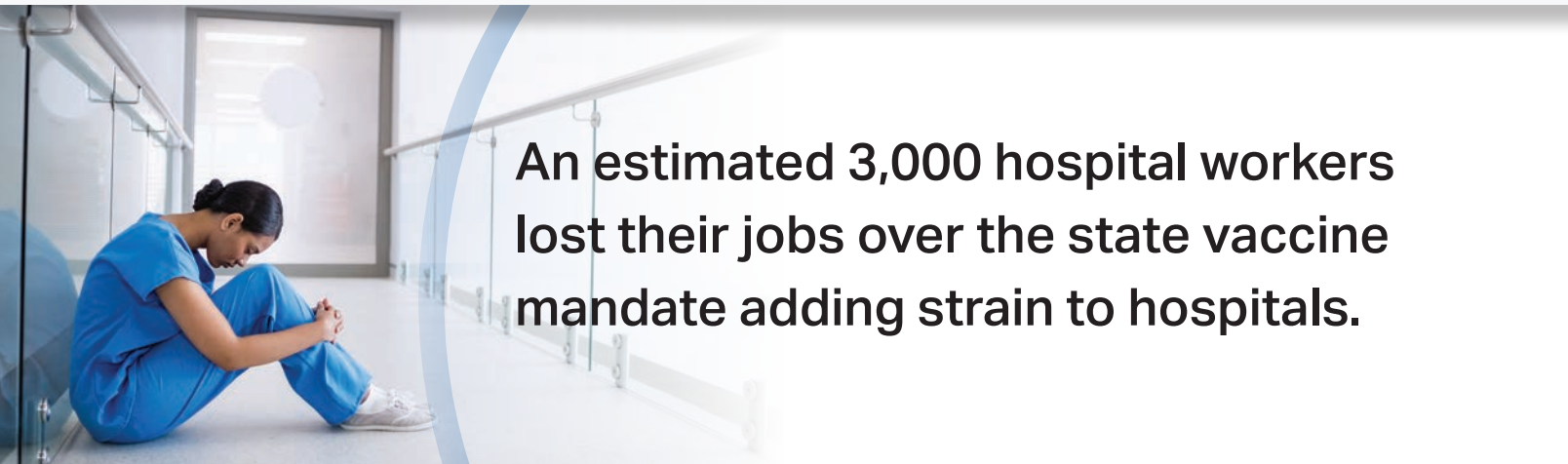
The Center brought attention to counter-productive policies that work against taxpayers, employers and patients. For example, the governor forced a COVID-19 vaccine mandate that hurt state workers and cut vital services to the public. New data shows the vaccine does not stop infection or the spread of disease. Throughout the year, WPC pressed for voluntary policies and to end mandates.

WPC also promoted full and open discussion over the health benefits and risks of COVID lock-downs, mask mandates and treatments.

WPC successfully opposed a campaign to ban private health insurance and impose a socialist health care system in Washington. By reporting on the experience of other states, we showed that government-run health care does not lower costs or improve access and quality. Due in part to WPC's information, the "universal health care" plan failed, getting only 20% of the voter signatures it needed to get on the ballot.

We showed that banning private insurance is unpopular and that most people want to keep their confidential relationship with their doctor.

WPC provided lawmakers with practical reforms to alleviate the ongoing nursing shortage in the state and urged joining the existing multi-state the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC).



An estimated 3,000 hospital workers lost their jobs over the state vaccine mandate adding strain to hospitals.

Center for Worker Rights

Elizabeth Hovde, Director

Paid work is a voluntary exchange between an employee and an employer, for the benefit of both. Bad public policy, however, often harms workers and employers by limiting access to jobs and better pay.

Over the past year WPC highlighted the harm done to workers by mandates, lockdowns and work restrictions that targeted working families but which science shows did little or nothing to protect public health. Meanwhile, higher-paid employees who could work from home were less affected by the lockdown rules.

The Center successfully informed the public about the harsh Long-Term-Care payroll tax that the legislature planned to impose starting in January. Due to WPC's past work the legislature delayed the tax, resulting in a savings of \$58 for every one thousand dollars earned for working families all across the state.



478,481

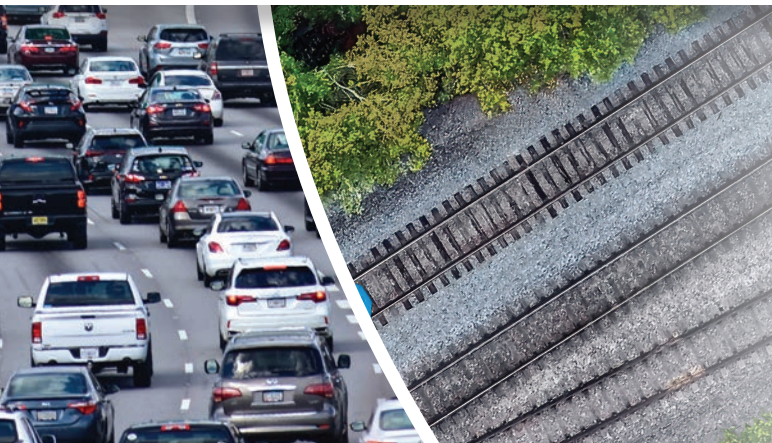
**people successfully obtained exemptions
from the new Long-Term-Care payroll tax.**

Coles Center for Transportation

In 2022 WPC tracked and highlighted the enormous cost overruns in the Sound Transit light rail program, which are expected to push total costs to \$142 billion, as well as the repeated delays of major elements of the program. The timeline for completion now extends out beyond 2040. WPC analysis proved to be accurate in revealing delays and cost increases, all for a wasteful multi-billion dollar program that will carry fewer than two percent of regional daily trips.

WPC retained national transit expert Tom Rubin to study the so-called “business case” for an Ultra-High Speed Rail proposal along I-5. His analysis revealed dubious cost assumptions and optimistic projections which call into question the feasibility of the proposal. The facts raised by WPC’s study are before the legislature’s Joint Transportation Committee, which has now hired its own outside expert to review this flawed proposal.

In spring 2022 WPC said goodbye to Mariya Frost, who had very capably served as Center Director for the last six years. In December WPC welcomed Charles Prestrud, an experienced expert in transportation policy, as Director of the Coles Center for Transportation.



Since 2017, Sound Transit’s full system expansion increased from **\$92 billion** to **\$142 billion**.

After all is spent, Sound Transit will have built a rail system likely to carry fewer than **5% of regional trips**.

Center for Small Business

Mark Harmsworth, Director

The Center highlighted the state's overreach in imposing economic lockdowns and forcing the use of vaccine passports on consumers and revealed the failure of lockdowns and mandates to protect public health while exposing the hypocrisy of rules applied to business owners while many government entities were exempt.

WPC reporting revealed widespread fraud, mismanagement and theft at the state Employment Security Department. WPC's work led to the adoption of reforms to tighten security and oversight.

In the legislature, WPC research helped defeat a radical bill that would have allowed anyone, not just an affected employee, to sue a business owner for supposed workplace violations.

WPC coverage of ridiculous rules against coffee stands protected small-scale entrepreneurs (the state backed off) and WPC highlighted the harm high minimum wage and hazard pay rules were doing to local businesses. WPC also showed how the Insurance Commissioner exceeded his authority in mandating a new credit score rule, which led him to cancel the rule.



The construction industry was **over 700%** more likely than the food processing industry to be fined for COVID mask mandate violations, despite the majority of construction work occurring outside.



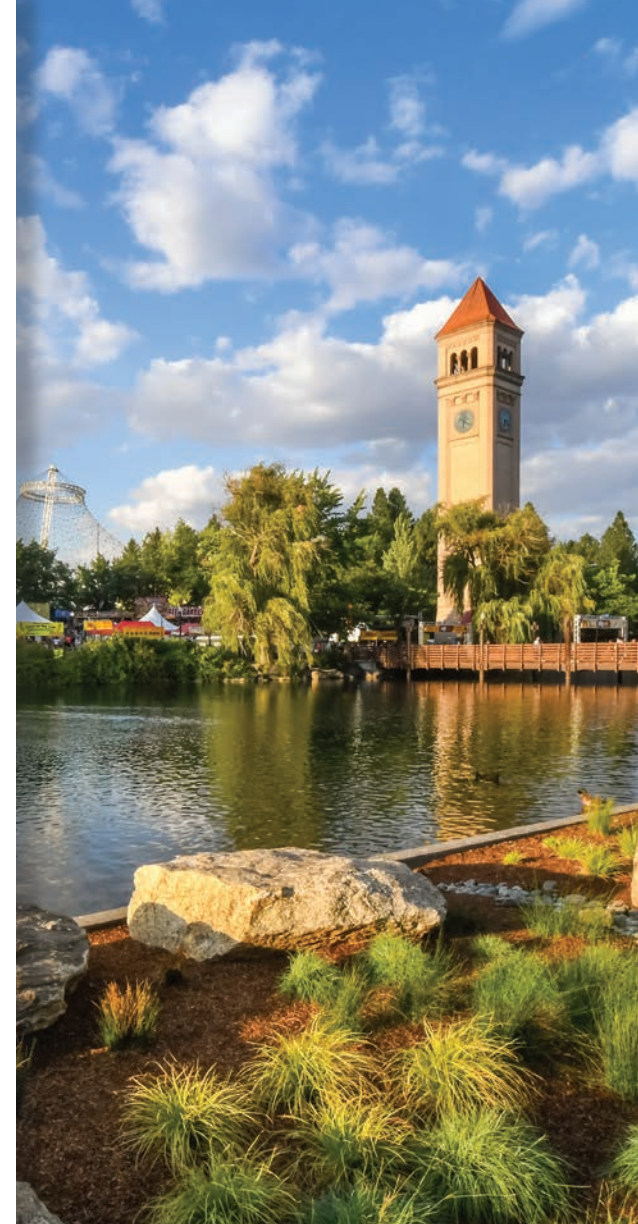
Eastern Washington

Washington Policy Center is devoted to Washington state as a whole. Recognizing that Eastern Washington priorities are often diminished, discounted or dismissed by policymakers more in tune with the urban centers of the Puget Sound region, WPC established an Eastern Washington Office specifically to amplify the policy needs and priorities of the east side.

WPC joined the Center of the American Experiment for a joint analysis of the costs of removing the lower snake river dams, pointing out the total cost of replacing the electricity generation of the dams with 100 percent wind, solar and battery storage would exceed \$34 billion and Washington would go from having the 7th lowest total electricity prices in the country to the 18th highest in 2028.

WPC's Center for the Environment Director Todd Myers was named to the Hanford Advisory Board and Pam Lewison, director for WPC's Center for Agriculture, was elected Grant County Farm Bureau president and the Washington Cattle Women's Association president-elect.

The Eastern Washington Annual Dinner in Spokane featured former Congresswoman and Democratic presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard and acclaimed historian Victor Davis Hanson. The event continues to be among the largest of its kind and the top free-market gathering in the region.





Young Professionals WPC

YP Coordinator Valerie Lucas began her full-time role as YP Coordinator in July.

In 2022, YP continued to involve its membership through social media, events, and relationship-building, serving a constituent base of over 3,500 supporters and contacts and hosting over two dozen events across the state with a total of 1,000 attendees. YP maintained its college clubs at Gonzaga, the University of Washington, Seattle University, and Washington State University through its “What’s up Wednesday” virtual events aimed at educating and engaging college students on key state issues.

YP continued to grow in its social media following, with YP Instagram followers increasing by 76%. YP leveraged this to funnel attendees to our events, build partnerships, and cultivate potential members. YP also continued its mentorship program and, for the fourth year running, supported an annual scholarship for the Summit Sierra Charter School.

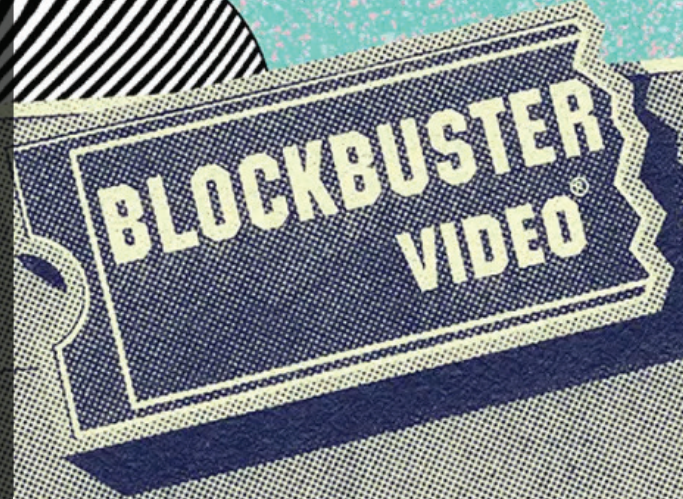
YP’s Book Club launched in late 2020 and matured into a well-loved monthly gathering, fostering a rich sense of community amongst YP members, and regularly funneling new members into the program.

YP hosted both virtual and in-person events for members to engage on topics from public safety to housing to the economy and closed the year with over 200 members.



FREE MARKETS DESTROY

Washington Policy Center's Free Markets Destroy campaign has continued to educate Millennials and Gen Z, introducing a new generation of individuals to see the benefits of free market exchange and creative destruction. Having a reach of over 12 million and high brand familiarity in Washington, this past year FMD expanded its reach by partnering with other think tanks across the U.S. and even garnered international attention with the launch of a podcast. WPC will continue to expand our efforts and look for new ways to share the benefits of free markets with younger audiences.



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Liv Finne, Education
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Mark Harmsworth, Small Business
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Elizabeth Hovde, Health Care & Worker Rights
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Jason Mercier, Government Reform
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