

2000 CENSUS SHOWS POPULATION GROWTH IN EVERY COUNTY IN WASHINGTON

Total population of Washington State in 2000 was 5,894,143

an increase of 1,027,474 (21.11 percent) from the [1990] count of 4,866,669

every county in the state experienced a rising population

Washington's largest counties were King (1,737,034), Pierce (700,820), Snohomish (606,024),

Spokane (417,939), Clark (345,238), Kitsap (231,969), Yakima (222,581),

Thurston (207,355), Whatcom (166,814) and Benton (142,475)

Washington's fastest-growing counties with the most new residents were King (229,729),

Snohomish (140,396), Pierce (114,617), Clark (107,185) and Spokane (56,606)

Washington's five fastest-growing counties by percentage of population were

Clark (45 percent), San Juan (40.3 percent), Grant (36.3 percent), Franklin (31.7 percent)

and Pend Oreille (31.6 percent)

Washington's cities with a population in excess of 50,000 people were Seattle (563,374),

Spokane (195,629), Tacoma (193,556), Vancouver (143,560), Bellevue (109,569), Everett (91,488)

Federal Way (83,259), Kent (79,524), Yakima (71,845), Bellingham (67,171), Lakewood (58,211),

Kennewick (54,693), Shoreline (53,025) and Renton (50,052)

Women barely outnumbered men in Washington, 2,959,821 (50.2 percent) to 2,934,300 (49.8 percent)

between [1980] and 2000, Washington's median age increased from 29.8 years to 35.3 years

Washington's classification by race showed the vast majority were Caucasian

White: 4,821,823 (81.8 percent)

Black or African American: 190,267 (3.2 percent)

American Indian or Alaska Native: 93,301 (1.6 percent)

Asian: 322,335 (5.5 percent)

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: 23,953 (0.4 percent)

Other races: 228,923 (3.9 percent)

Hispanic/Latino people who may be of any race, were counted both in their racial group
and as a separate, multi-racial group

2000 Hispanic/Latino population was 441,509 (7.5 percent of the total state population)

this population had increased by 105 percent in the preceding ten years

Total number of households in Washington was 2,271,398 (an increase of 398,967 over [1990])

1,499,127 married couples represented 52% of all households

married couple households with children: 541,636 (23.8% of all households)

average family size was 3.07 persons

male households living alone: 91,088 (4.1% of all households)

female households living alone: 224,618 (9.9% of all households)

female households (no spouse present) living with children: 146,920 (6.5% of all households)

Washington has a highly educated population:

24.9% of the state's population held high school diplomas

8 % of the population earned an Associate degree

18.4% hold a Bachelor's degree

6.3% have a Master's degree

3% have earned a Doctorate or professional degree

BOEING MAKES SEVERAL DARING MOVES

Boeing was focused on manufacturing commercial aircraft

and government information and communications systems including:

- classified government program opportunities,
- new space-based air traffic management systems,
- movement of broadband information on and off mobile platforms,
- integrated military battlefield and defense systems

Boeing purchased Hughes Electronics Corporation's space and communications business --

for \$3.75 billion in cash -- Boeing became the giant of the Aerospace industry -- January 12, 2000

its annual revenues approached \$10 billion as the company's space and communication revenues and earnings increased by more than a third

Boeing anticipated the space and communications market would grow to \$120 billion annually

Boeing also acquired a leading supplier of electronic components for satellites,

as Hughes Electron Dynamics became part of the Boeing company

Spectrolab, a premier provider of solar cells and panels for satellites, also was purchased

Spectrolab became part of the newly-founded Boeing Satellite Systems

under the Boeing Space and Communications led by President Jim Albaugh

which was headquartered in El Segundo, California

BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION -- NATION'S RICHEST PHILANTHROPIC TRUST

Bill and Melinda Gates announced a gift of \$5 billion in Microsoft stock

to their namesake foundation based in Seattle -- January 24, 2000

this contribution raised the total Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation endowment to \$21.8 billion

and made it the largest transparently operated philanthropic trust in the world

William H. Gates Foundation was merged into the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation aims to promote greater social equity in four areas:
global health, education, public libraries,
and support for at-risk families in Washington and Oregon

HANFORD REACH NATIONAL MONUMENT IS ESTABLISHED

Hanford Reach National Monument was proposed at the location where plutonium production at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation had been established as part of the top-secret Manhattan Project to build the world's first atomic bombs [1943]
plutonium from Hanford was used in the bomb that destroyed the Japanese city of Nagasaki [1945]
federal government eventually built nine nuclear reactors at the Hanford site
that produced the plutonium used in two-thirds of the nation's total nuclear arsenal
atomic reactors produced so much toxic waste that the 586-square-mile nuclear reservation became the most polluted place in the Western Hemisphere
when Hanford was shut down [1991] it was the target of the most complicated, challenging and expensive environmental cleanup effort in history

Because the area was so large and was kept free of people for so long,
it had become a valuable wildlife refuge and home to eagles, black-crowned night herons, prairie falcons, long-billed curlews, a profusion of overwintering waterfowl, coyotes, deer, and other species that all survived in the shadows of the reactors and processing plants
it also includes numerous archaeological and historic sites, among them ceremonial, hunting and burial grounds used by Native Americans for thousands of years¹

Designation of Hanford Reach National Monument was not easy
several previous efforts to preserve the area through congressional action had failed
Washington's Democratic U.S. Senator Patty Murray introduced legislation to designate Hanford Reach as a National Wild and Scenic River [1995]
Washington's Republican U.S. Senator Slade Gorton led the opposition to that bill
two years later, Senator Murray and Congressman Norm Dicks introduced companion bills in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives again seeking
to designate the Reach as a Wild and Scenic River
U.S. Senator Gorton again led the opposition
he argued that local officials were better equipped than the federal government to manage the Hanford Reach and its environs

¹ Cassandra Tate, *Hanford Reach National Monument*, Essay 7438, HistoryLink.org, August 17, 2005.

a coalition of Indian tribes and conservationists continued to press for federal protection
U.S. Senator Patty Murray asked that the area be set aside as a national monument -- 2000
under the [1906] Antiquities Act that allowed presidents to act to safeguard
areas of national historic and scientific interest without congressional consent
undammed "Hanford Reach" of the of the Columbia River stretches for fifty-one miles
from below Priest Rapids Dam to Richland
President Bill Clinton established the 195,000-acre Hanford Reach National Monument
to protect the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River
and to preserve one of the largest undeveloped blocks of shrub-steppe grasslands
left in Washington State -- June 9, 2000

SEATTLE HYDROPLANE *MISS FREEI* BREAKS THE WORLD WATER SPEED RECORD²

Enumclaw native Russ Wicks drove the hydroplane *Miss Freei* (U-25)
sponsored by Internet service provider Freei to a world speed record
for a propeller driven boat -- June 15, 2000
Miss Freei covered the mile-long straightaway course at the north end of Lake Washington
at 205.494 miles-per-hour shattering the thirty-eight-year-old record
Miss Freei, owned by Dr. Ken Muscatel, was built at Friday Harbor, Washington
on San Juan Island [1999]
6,600-pound boat was twenty-eight feet long and fourteen feet wide
its safety canopy used to protect the driver was taken from an F-16 fighter jet
propeller driven boat was powered by a 3,000-horsepower turbine engine
taken from a military Chinook helicopter
at full speed the hydroplane threw up one ton of water in a 200-foot-long rooster tail
that reached forty feet into the air

WILLIAM KENZO NAKARURA RECEIVES THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR³

Nakamura grew up in Seattle's International District, graduated from Garfield High School,
and attended the University of Washington
during the summers worked in a salmon cannery at Union Bay, Alaska

² Greg Lange and Charles Hamilton, *Miss Freei breaks hydroplane world speed record on Lake Washington on June 15, 2000*, Essay 2504, HistoryLink.org, June 21, 2000.

³ Priscilla Long, *William Kenzo Nakamura receives Medal of Honor for World War II heroism in a ceremony on June 21, 2000*, Essay 2767, HistoryLink.org, August 18, 2000.

his studies were interrupted when he and his family were forced to move to the Minidoka Relocation Center (Internment camp) [1942]

William Kenzo Nakamura enlisted in the army

he became a member of one of the most highly decorated regiments in U.S. history the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 34th “Red Bull” Division, U.S. 5th Army

Private 1st Class Nakamura’s platoon was caught in intense machine gun fire from a German machine gun unit

by himself he crawled toward the fire throwing hand grenades

his action halted the fire long enough for his platoon to escape

Nakamura escaped injury, only to die later the same day [July 4, 1944]

when again he approached machine-gun fire in order to draw it away from his comrades he was the first Army volunteer from Minidoka Relocation Center to be killed in action

Japanese World War II veteran William Kenzo Nakamura of Seattle was posthumously presented the nation’s highest military honor by President Bill Clinton -- June 21, 2000

Nakamura and twenty-one other war heroes had been denied Medals of Honor at the time of their bravery because of their Asian ancestry

(King County Council passed a resolution asking Congress to name Seattle’s federal courthouse in honor of Private 1st Class William Kenzo Nakamura [September 19, 2000]

Congress renamed the Seattle federal courthouse at Madison Street and 5th Avenue in his honor [November 2001])

EXPERIENCE MUSIC PROJECT (EMP) OPENS AT SEATTLE CENTER⁴

Experience Music Project (EMP) grew out of Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen’s admiration for the music of Seattle-born revolutionary rock guitarist Jimi Hendrix

who exploded on the international scene at the [1967] Monterey Pops Festival

as a teen, Allen attended Hendrix’s triumphant hometown concert [1968]

as an adult, Allen collected rock ’n ’roll artifacts including a shard of the guitar that Hendrix obliterated during his historic Monterey performance

Paul Allen, co-founder of Microsoft, opened his museum and education center -- June 23, 2000

designed by Frank O. Gehry, the \$80 million building was inspired by Seattle-born rock guitarist Jimi Hendrix [1942-1970]

⁴ Walt Crowley, *Experience Music Project (EMP) opens at Seattle Center on June 23, 2000*, Essay 5424, HistoryLink.org, March 15, 2003.

Gehry's design featured an undulating ensemble of multi-colored surfaces and volumes which some critics compared to a guitar after Jimi Hendrix was done with it EMP and its collection of 80,000 rock artifacts ultimately cost \$240 million when it opened and attracted 800,000 visitors in its first year of operation

WASHINGTON STATE HAD A UNIQUE SYSTEM OF SELECTING CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

Primary Elections were held to allow political parties to narrow the field of candidates seeking office there are several types of Primary Elections:

“Closed Primary” elections required a candidate file by political party before the election voters must register as a member of a specific political party at the election voters receive only their political party's ballot their selection is limited to the candidates running for that political party

“Semi-Closed Primary” elections allow voters registered by political party receive only their party's ballot of candidates as in the Closed Primary but voters unaffiliated with a specific political party can also vote independent voters make their party selection inside the voting booth

“Semi-Open Primary” elections allow voters registered by political party receive only their party's ballot of candidates as in the Closed Primary but voters unaffiliated with a specific political party can also vote independent voters make their party selection inside the voting booth or publicly by registering with any political party on election day

“Open Primary” elections allowed all voters to select from all candidates for an office regardless of their identified political party affiliation sometimes voters “cross over” and vote for the weakest candidate of the opposite party to give their own party the advantage in the general election

“Caucuses” and “Conventions” select “presidential and vice-presidential candidates”

“Political Party Caucuses” representing each of Washington's forty-nine Legislative Districts are held in people's homes and public buildings

all participants must be registered members of the political party holding the caucus attendees discuss their party's “presidential and vice-presidential candidates”

members also write suggestions for the state's “political party platform”

identifying official party positions on a variety of political issues

delegates and alternates are elected to the “County Political Party Convention”

based on their selection of a presidential and vice-presidential candidate

and their position on political party platform issues

“County Political Party Convention” is held
political party delegates discuss the presidential and vice-presidential candidates
who will receive their party’s nomination and identify a candidate or candidates
delegates address “political party platform” issues presented to the body as resolutions
these debates result in the official “County Platform”

“State Political Party Convention” is held
here political party delegates select the “presidential and vice-presidential candidates”
who will receive the state’s twelve electoral votes
delegates also write the official “State Party Platform” identifying specific issues
important to the members of that political party in Washington
delegates to “National Political Party Convention” are selected to represent the state

“Political Party Conventions” may be held to nominate a party’s candidate for General Election
this process is used to nominate a party’s candidate for U.S. “President and Vice President”
who run together as a team in the General Election
convention delegates also write a “party platform” identifying official party positions
on a variety of political issues on which the party’s candidates will run

U.S. SUPREME COURT DECLARES SOME PRIMARY ELECTION LAWS UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Washington voters had used the “blanket primary” system to select candidates
who would run in [November’] General Election
voters did not register to vote by political party in Washington State
candidates would select a political party with which to be affiliated
even if the party did not want them
all of the candidates, regardless of political party affiliation, appear on the ballot
with this system voters in the Primary Election could vote for a candidate from any political party

Blanket primary elections were ruled unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court
in *California Democratic Party v. Jones* because it required political parties
to associate with candidates they did not endorse -- June 26, 2000

SOUND TRANSIT BEGINS COMMUTER RAIL OPERATIONS⁵

Sound Transit’s first *Sounder* commuter train departed from Tacoma -- 6:20 a.m. September 18, 2000

⁵ Walt Crowley, *Sound Transit inaugurates Sounder commuter rail service between Tacoma and Seattle on September 18, 2000*, Essay 2672, HistoryLink.org, September 20, 2000.

it crossed the Puyallup and Kent valleys using Burlington Northern-Santa Fe tracks
bound for Seattle's King Street Station -- 335 passengers arrived on time fifty minutes later
Sounder trains were designed to carry more than 1,000 passengers on each run
Other elements of the \$3.9 billion transportation system included "Link" light rail service
between Seattle and Tacoma, "Sound Express" buses
and expanded "High Occupancy Vehicle" (HOV) lanes
this service duplicated the previous Seattle-Tacoma interurban rail system
(that had been launched [September 25, 1902] and ended [December 30, 1928])
(Sounder service expanded to provide four round trips per day
Lakewood, Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner, Auburn, Kent and Tukwila to Seattle in the South [2012]
and Everett, Mukilteo and Edmonds to Seattle in the North [2003])

SEATTLE KOREAN COMMUNITY LEADER ROCKY KIM IS KILLED⁶

Seattle's Korean community suffered a great loss with the death of Youngsu "Rocky" Kim
who was found shot to death at his West Seattle gas station and minimart -- October 30, 2000
when a customer and an employee reporting for work
found the front door locked and the lights off at 8:20 a.m.

Rocky Kim was a very popular businesses owner and community leader

Kim helped found the Korean American Grocers Association of Washington [1988]
he served as its president several times

he also established the Washington Association of Korean American Convenience Stores,
to advocate Korean merchants' concerns

Northwest Asian Weekly named him "Korean-American Man of the Year" [1993]

Korean American Professionals Society gave him their "pioneer award" [1996]

Kim served on the boards of numerous social service and cultural agencies
such as the Asian Counseling and Referral Service
and the Korean American Professional Society

WASHINGTON VOTERS MAKE SOME CHANGES IN THEIR GOVERNMENTS

Washington voters preferred Democrat Al Gore

to Republican George W. Bush who won the presidency

when a controversial U.S. Supreme Court decision awarded him Florida's electoral votes

⁶ Carey Giudici, *Korean Americans in King County*, Essay 3251, HistoryLink.org, May 31, 2001.

Voters strongly supported incumbent Democratic Governor Gary Locke -- November 7, 2000

In the race for U.S. Senator, voters narrowly elected Democrat Maria Cantwell

over incumbent Republican U.S. Senator Slade Gorton

Cantwell joined Patty Murray in the U.S. Senate

making Washington the third state with two women U.S. Senators

Congressional election results showed only one change in Washington's delegation

Second Congressional District was an open seat U.S. Representative Republican Jack Metcalf

honored his pledge to retire after three terms in office

Snohomish County Councilmember Democrat Rick Larsen was elected

at the same time in the Fifth Congressional District, Congressman George Nethercutt

who had pledged to only serve only three terms [1994] changed his mind and was reelected

State legislative races saw Democrats lose two State Senate seats but retain a 27-22 seat majority

State House of Representatives remained tied 49-49 with Democrat Frank Chopp

and Republican Clyde Ballard continuing to share the Speaker of the House position

Washington voters also enact new laws -- November 7, 2000

- Initiative 713 made trapping with body-gripping traps and the use of some poisons illegal

I-713 passed by a vote of 1,315,903 For and 1,093,587 Against

- Initiative 722 limited property tax increases to no more than 2% per year

I-722 passed by a vote of 1,295,391 For and 1,022,349 Against

- Initiative 728 proposed construction of additional school facilities, a reduction of class size, expansion for learning programs and teacher training to be funded by existing property taxes state budget reserves and lottery proceeds

I-728 passed by a vote 1,714,485 For and 675,635 Against

this was the greatest voter approval in the history of Washington State (72%)

however, the funding source was not identified -- legislators altered the funding amounts

- Initiative 732 demanded an annual cost-of-living salary adjustment be granted to

public school teachers and district employees, and community and technical college employees

I-732 passed by a vote of 1,501,261 For and 89,301 Against (63% approval)

however, the funding source was not identified -- legislators altered the funding amounts

MEMBERSHIP IN THE STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REMAINS TIED

Although a membership tie in the House was a novelty it began to seem commonplace

for the second straight election, voters in November 2000

chose forty-nine Republican Representatives and forty-nine Democratic Representatives

as a result, Representatives Clyde Ballard and Frank Chopp were re-elected as co-Speakers in 2000 that year's session provided was less cooperation and more frustration
as the state House of Representatives failed to reach agreement on the issue many members identified as the most important -- transportation funding
Because state House of Representative members serve two-year terms, the tie created in the 2000 would normally have lasted until the regular [2002] House election
but two Snohomish County House seats were vacated in 2001
Democrat Patricia Scott, who represented the 38th Legislative District, died
Republican Renee Radcliff of the 21st Legislative District surprised colleagues
by resigning midway through her term
special elections to fill both seats were held -- November 2001
Democrat Mukilteo Mayor Brian Sullivan in the 21st and Jean Berkey in the 38th
won both seats by narrow margins
With their new 50-to-48 majority, House Democrats elected Frank Chopp
as the sole Speaker of the House at the start of the 2002 session
Frank Ballard retired at the end of his term following that session
(Democrats increased their majority in the House over the next several elections and as of 2014
Frank Chopp remains Speaker of the House and one of the most powerful politicians in the state

SEATTLE NEWSPAPER WORKERS GO ON STRIKE⁷

Seattle Times and the *Post-Intelligencer* were owned separately
but operated under a joint operating agreement
The Seattle Times and the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* maintained separate newsrooms
with the *Times* handling advertising, production and circulation for both papers
Seattle Times and the *P-I* negotiated jointly with their unions
Pacific Northwest Newspaper Guild Local 82
represented 900 *Seattle Times* news, advertising, and circulation workers
and 130 news and business department employees at the *Seattle P-I*
Times Guild members sought wage increases of approximately \$2 an hour spread over three years
and an end to a two-tier wage structure in which suburban employees were paid less
than those who worked downtown
P-I Guild members demanded changes in their pension plan

⁷ Dave Wilma, *Pacific Northwest Newspaper Guild strikes The Seattle Times and the Seattle Post-Intelligencer beginning on November 21, 2000*, Essay 2945, HistoryLink.org, January 17, 2001.

finally, Local 82 wanted an increase in the number of employees required to join the Guild
Seattle Times offered fifty-five cents an hour over six years and no change in pay structure

Pacific Northwest Newspaper Guild Local 82 rejected a final contract offer

from the *Times* and the *P-I* -- November 21, 2000

at issue were salaries and the use of a merit-pay system

Picket lines were established around both newspapers' buildings

Teamsters Local 174 which represented approximately eighty *Times* truck drivers joined the strike

Teamsters Local 763, which represented 180 other drivers reached a settlement and did not strike

During the strike *Seattle Times* and *P-I* continued to publish smaller editions of their newspapers

using management employees and replacement workers who remained on the job

these editions were delivered free to subscribers for a time

Pacific Northwest Newspaper Guild Local 82 began publishing its own *Seattle Union Record*

named after a labor newspaper published from [1899] to [1928]

during the strike, the new *Union Record* produced eighteen tabloid print editions and a Website

Seattle Mayor Paul Schell issued an order in support of the striking workers

prohibiting city workers and department heads from granting interviews or providing information

to reporters from the *Seattle Times* or the *P-I*

replacement newspaper workers and managers working as reporters

were not granted press credentials but they were allowed to attend news conferences

Schell later softened his stand to a personal refusal to grant interviews to replacement workers

U.S. Senator Patty Murray provided the assistance of a federal mediator

all sides of the labor dispute met in Washington, D.C. in an effort to achieve a settlement

SEATTLE NEWSPAPER STRIKE COMES TO AN END⁸

Pacific Northwest Newspaper Guild Local 82 settled with the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

for a \$3.30 an hour raise phased in over six years -- December 28, 2000

Seattle Times workers stayed out on strike pending resolution of issues

regarding the retention of replacement workers and the rehiring of strikers

Local 82 settled with the *Times* -- January 9, 2001

TWO VACANCIES IN THE STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LEAVES MEMBERS TIED

Democrat Patricia Scott who represented the 38th Legislative District Representative

⁸ Dave Wilma, *Pacific Northwest Newspaper Guild strikes The Seattle Times and the Seattle Post-Intelligencer beginning on November 21, 2000*, Essay 2945, HistoryLink.org, January 17, 2001

died while still in office -- January 7, 2001

Snohomish County activist Democrat Jean Berkey was appointed to the seat [January 25, 2001]
Republican Renee Radcliff unexpectedly resigned her 21st District seat -- [January 10, 2001

Republican Joe Marine was appointed to the vacant seat --January 10, 2001

Political leadership of the State House of Representatives remained tied

Democrat Frank Chopp and Republican Clyde Ballard continued to share House Speaker duties

NISQUALLY EARTHQUAKE SHAKES SOUTHERN PUGET SOUND

Olympia was rocked by a 6.8 magnitude earthquake -- 10:54 a.m. February 28, 2001

legislators, government workers, visiting school children and other tour groups

flooded out of the capitol and other buildings -- the state Senate was in session

this was one of the largest recorded earthquakes in Washington state history

and lasted approximately forty-five seconds

its epicenter was Anderson Island, about eleven miles northeast of Olympia

This quake caused some property damage in Seattle and surrounding areas

although there were no reports of deaths directly from the earthquake, local news outlets

reported there was one death from a heart attack at the time of the earthquake

about 400 people were injured

Nisqually earthquake caused approximately \$305 million of insured losses

and a total of \$2 billion worth of damage in the state of Washington

which was declared a natural disaster area by president George W. Bush

most of the property damage occurred very near the epicenter

or in unreinforced concrete or masonry buildings

air traffic control tower at Sea-Tac Airport was heavily damaged

one buttress splintered under the dome of the capitol building in Olympia,

but the superior craftsmanship of the original builders

and previous earthquake-resistance work prevented serious harm to the building

and its magnificent dome

BOEING ANNOUNCES IT WILL MOVE ITS COMPANY HEADQUARTERS

Boeing had been a financial mainstay in the Seattle area since its incorporation

as the Pacific Aero Products Company in [1916]

when company chairman and chief executive, Philip M. Condit announced

Boeing was moving its headquarters to a new location people were stunned -- March 21, 2001

Condit said he sought a “**leaner corporate center**” that would give Boeing greater “**flexibility to move capital and talent to the opportunities that maximize shareholder value.**”⁹

Boeing said it had no plans to move its giant commercial aircraft unit which manufactures the Boeing 737, 747 and 767 out of the Seattle area Boeing insisted the impact on the Seattle economy would be modest as only about 500 jobs were scheduled to be moved to the new headquarters

TECHNOLOGY HELPS A NEW GREEN RIVER TASK FORCE

Almost twenty years after the first known Green River murder, Detective Dave Reichert, who had become the sheriff of King County, began renewed investigations into the murders it was a case he refused to let go of and he remained determined to find the killer this time the task force had technology on their side¹⁰

King County Sheriff Reichert formed a new task force team consisting of six members -- April 2001 including DNA and forensic experts and a couple of detectives

DNA technology had advanced considerably over the past fifteen years it was not long until the task force grew to more than thirty younger detectives many of whom had been teenagers when the killings first began¹¹ all the evidence from the murder examination was re-examined this group had computers to help create profiles based on the old evidence some of the forensic samples were sent to the labs

PAUL ALLEN FOUNDS VUCLAN INC. -- HIS INVESTMENT AND MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Allen created Vulcan Inc. headquartered in Seattle to direct his investments to such enterprises as:

- more than 140 media companies including:
 - Charter Communication* provides cable television, high-speed Internet and telephone services to more than 4.7 million customers in twenty-five states
 - DreamWorks Animation SKG*, an animation studio that creates animated feature films, television program and online virtual worlds including *Shrek*, *Madagascar*, *Kung Fu Panda* and *How to Train Your Dragon*

⁹ Sam Howe Verhovek with Laurence Zuckerman, *The New York Times*, March 22, 2001.

¹⁰ Rachael Bell, *Green River Killer: River of Death*, www.trutv.com/library/crime/serial_killers/predators/greenriver/routine_2.html

¹¹ Charles Montaldo, crime.about.com/od/serial/a/Gary-Ridgway.htm

- Oxygen Network*, a cable television channel marketed toward women
- Rose City Radio Corporation* which owns several radio stations, including:
 - KXTG-AM and KXJM-FM in Portland, Oregon,
- The Spring News* and *Sporting News Radio* which delivers innovative closed-circuit broadcasts to spectators attending premier sporting events
- museums, theatres, and galleries:
 - Seattle Cinerama Theater is one of only three movie theaters in the world still capable of showing three-panel Cinerama films,
 - The Hospital studios and gallery is a private club in London, England is a creative arts venue which houses a television studio, music studio, screening room, restaurant and art gallery members include novelists, journalists, artists, producers, musicians and film makers
 - Experience Music Project (EMP) and Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame in Seattle is a critically acclaimed interactive museum of music, popular culture and science fiction Allen, a longtime rock music fan with his own band, funded the purchase of many Jimi Hendrix artifacts including the guitar Hendrix played at Woodstock,
 - Living Computer Museum located south of downtown Seattle is a collection of restored vintage timesharing computer equipment,
 - Flying Heritage Collection in Everett, Washington is an assemblage of rare World War II aircraft restored to flying condition
 - Paul Allen donated \$18 million to build a new library at the University of Washington that was named after his father: Kenneth S. Allen [October 1988]
- medical research facilities:
 - University of Washington Medical School received millions of dollars for specific research
 - Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center has received millions of dollars for early cancer detection
 - Internap Network Services Corporation in Atlanta, Georgia [1996] enables route-optimized delivery of content over the Internet including cloud computing
 - Allen Institute for Brain Science in Seattle, [2003] is dedicated to accelerating the understanding of how the human brain works
 - Allen Spinal Cord Atlas [2008] conducts research to unlock the mysteries of the spinal cord and how it is altered during disease or injury
 - seven brain atlases have been published -- free, these are available for public use online
 - Washington State University's Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health [2008] works to enhance and expand Washington's global health impact

Washington State University has become a leading center for global health activities
-PTC Therapeutics in South Plainfield, New Jersey, [2009]

is a pharmaceutical company concentrating on treating genetic disorders

-Stratolaunch Systems in Huntsville, Alabama [2011] is a space transportation venture
specializing in “air launch to orbit” research and development

•Paul Allen is also involved in space exploration of with the Allen Telescope Array [2007]

ATA is a group of telescopes operated by the University of California, Berkeley
that combine their signals and provide a resolution equivalent to that of a telescope
with a diameter equal to the total area holding all of the telescopes

ATA will be used for astronomical observations

and a simultaneous search for extraterrestrial intelligence

Additional enterprises directed by Vulcan Capital, the investment arm of Allen’s Vulcan Inc., include:

real estate such as 505 Union Station and Union Station (Seattle), Sammamish Park Place,
South Lake Union in Seattle and numerous other projects across the nation

Paul Allen has channeled funds into entertainment and sporting ventures:

•he purchased the National Basketball Association’s *Portland Trailblazers* for \$70 million [1988]

he also was instrumental in the development and funding of their entertainment complex
the \$262 million *Rose Garden*

(Allen’s investment is now valued at approximately \$300 million)

Allen often flies the team to games in his private jet

•he purchased the Seattle Seahawks National Football League team [1997]

when former owner Ken Behring threatened to move the Seahawks to Southern California

Allen played a large part in the development of the new Seahawks’ stadium,

CenturyLink Field, although it was funded largely by tax revenue

INDIANS AGAIN SUE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON¹²

Indians were joined by the federal government in filing suit against Washington State

suit asked the court to order the state to repair culverts running under state roads

if they blocked salmon from reaching spawning grounds -- 2001

Washington planned to repair the culverts -- but over a long period

to spread the tremendous cost over decades

tribes were concerned the salmon populations would be extinct

¹² Jennifer Ott, *Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission*, Essay 9786, HistoryLink.org, March 28, 2011.

before the culvert repairs could make a difference
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission staff helped the tribes coordinate their case
and provided expert testimony during the trial
(Judge Ricardo S. Martinez handed down a summary judgment in the case,
known as the U.S. v. Washington Culverts Case, in favor of the tribes [2007])

TWO WASHINGTON STATE SCHOOL DISTRICTS GO ON STRIKE

Prosser School District was struck by its teacher for one day -- September 2001
no court order to return to work was issued
Hoquiam School District was struck by its teachers for fourteen days
no court order to return to work was issued

EDUCATION INITIATIVE FUNDS ARE INCLUDED IN THE NEW STATE BUDGET

Initiative 728 to reduce class size, expand teacher training and build facilities was implemented
295 school districts across the state reported how the money was spent -- 2001-[2002] school year
thus displaying school district administrators' priorities:

- 53.3% was used to reduce class size,
- 14.4% was placed in reserve by school districts,
- 14.3% was used for professional development,
- 11.2% was used to expand learning opportunities for students,
- 3.7% went to improvements in facilities,
- 2.0% was categorized as "other,"
- 1.1% was allowed for early assistance for pre-kindergarten¹³

Initiative 732 provided for \$318 million of state general funds
to support cost-of-living raise raised for public education employees
however, a controversy emerged as to whether or not public school employees
was to be defined as funded by the state or must include staff members
who were employed in federal and local programs
filing a lawsuit to limit the employees eligible kept Initiative 723 from being implemented

FIRST REAL BREAK IN THE GREEN RIVER KILLINGS CASE TAKES PLACE

King County Sheriff Dave Reichert received news from the crime labs

¹³ Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, *Washington's Initiative 728: Examining the first year of implementation.*

that reduced the hardened detective to tears -- September 2001

there was a DNA match found from samples taken from the victims and Gary Ridgway¹⁴

BOEING FACES MAJOR CHANGES

Boeing has gone through a process designed to tie various branches of the company more closely together

Boeing announced plans to move its corporate headquarters from Seattle to Chicago [March 2001]

new Boeing World Headquarters offices opened -- September 4, 2001

Boeing also merged the company's space, defense, government, intelligence and communications divisions into one business unit

called Integrated Defense Systems headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri

DEMOCRATS TAKE THE MAJORITY OF THE STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Because State Representatives serve two-year terms the membership normally would remain tied

but as required by the state constitution a special election was held -- November 1, 2001

to fill the two seats that had been filled by appointment [January 2001]

Democrat Jean Berkey was narrowly elected to the 38th Legislative District she had held

Mukilteo Mayor Democrat Brian Sullivan narrowly defeated Republican Joe Marine

in the 21st Legislative District giving Democrats a 50-48 majority

and giving Democrats control of the State House of Representatives

Democrat Frank Chopp was elected sole State Speaker of House

(he would continue to become the longest-serving Speaker in state history)

GARY RIDGWAY IS CHARGED WITH AGGRAVATED MURDER

Gary Ridgway, a married man from Auburn worked for a computer company at the time of his arrest was stopped on his way home from work by Green River Killer task forces members

He was arrested four counts of aggravated murder -- November 30, 2001¹⁵

Gary Ridgway was jailed without bail

Worried that DNA could confuse a potential jury, the lead detective wanted more evidence

he interviewed Ridgway's ex-wives and old girlfriends and discovered

Ridgway had taken one girlfriend for picnics...in various areas

he had used to cluster the bodies of his victims.¹⁶

¹⁴ Rachael Bell, *Green River Killer: River of Death*, www.trutv.com/library/crime/serial_killers/predators/greenriver/routine_2.html

¹⁵ Rachael Bell, *Green River Killer: River of Death*, www.trutv.com/library/crime/serial_killers/predators/greenriver/routine_2.html

MURDER CHARGES ARE FILED AGAINST GARY RIDGWAY

King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng filed aggravated first-degree murder charges against Ridgway in the deaths of Marcia Chapman, Opal Mills, Cynthia Hinds, and Carol Ann Christensen cases in which there had been a DNA match with Ridgway¹⁷ -- December 5, 2001

GARY RIDGWAY HAS HIS FIRST DAY IN COURT

Garr Ridgway's family hired defense attorney Anthony "Tony Savage," a giant bear of a man who vehemently opposed the death penalty and spent a large part of his career fighting against it Superior Court Judge Brian Gain appointed a defense team for Gary Leon Ridgway

in addition to Savage the defendant would be represented by public defenders Todd Gruenhagen and Mark Prothero and private attorney Michele Shaw

two investigators, and several legal staff to defend Gary Ridgway -- December 16, 2001 Judge Gain ordered the county to provide almost \$300,000 for "expert services," which could include work such as DNA analysis (*Seattle PI*)

Defending the man charged with four Green River slayings would cost King County nearly \$1 million even before the case went to trial

(Gary Leon Ridgway plead not guilty [December 18])

GARY LEON RIDGWAY LEADS A TROUBLED LIFE

Had been born in Salt Lake City, Utah [February 18, 1949] to a domineering mother and a truck driving father who was away from home a great deal

When Gary was eleven, the family moved from Utah to Washington State

Ridgway was a poor student, suffering from a below average I.Q. of 82 and dyslexia at age sixteen he led a six-year-old boy into the woods

where he stabbed the child through his ribs and into his liver

later the boy said Ridgway walked away laughing¹⁸

Just out of high school, twenty-year-old Gary Ridgway decided to join the Navy rather than get drafted he also married his first steady girlfriend, Claudia Barrows, before going to Vietnam Claudia, alone and nineteen-years-old, began dating while Ridgway was in Vietnam

¹⁶ Charles Montaldo, crime.about.com/od/serial/a/Gary-Ridgway.htm

¹⁷ Charles Montaldo, crime.about.com/od/serial/a/Gary-Ridgway.htm

¹⁸ Charles Montaldo, crime.about.com/od/serial/a/Gary-Ridgway.htm

in less than a year the marriage ended
Ridgway married Marcia Winslow and the couple had a son [1973]¹⁹
during the marriage Ridgway became a religious fanatic, proselytizing door-to-door,
reading the Bible aloud at work and at home,
he insisted Marcia follow the strict preaching of the church pastor
Marcia struggled with accepting Ridgway's relationship with his mother²⁰
who controlled their spending and made the final decisions on their purchases
she went as far as buying Ridgway's clothing
Gary's mother also accused Marcia of not properly taking care of their son
Knowing Ridgway would never defend her, Marcia was left on her own
to try to control her domineering mother-in-law
Seven years into the marriage the couple divorced
later Marcia claimed that Ridgway placed her in a chokehold during one of their fights²¹
Body of Wendy Lee Caulfield was discovered [July 8, 1982]
Gary Ridgway worked as a truck painter for Kenworth Truck Company in Renton at the time
Ridgway owned many trucks during that time, one, a 1977 black Ford F-150,
allegedly was connected with some of the victims

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHES ITS OWN EDUCATION STANDARDS

United States Congress changed the [1965] Elementary and Secondary Education Act
to support "standard-based education reform" on the premise that setting high standards
and establishing measurable goals would improve individual outcomes in education
this became known as "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) -- January 8, 2002
NCLB required the states to develop an assessment of students' basic skills
although each state could develop its own standards, federal school funding required
these assessments be given to all students at all grade levels
NCLB expanded the federal role in public education through annual student testing,
recording annual academic progress and report cards, evaluating teacher qualifications
and changing the basis of federal funding of education
schools with a high percentage of students from low-income families
received Title I federal funding

¹⁹ Charles Montaldo, crime.about.com/od/serial/a/Gary-Ridgway.htm

²⁰ Charles Montaldo, crime.about.com/od/serial/a/Gary-Ridgway.htm

²¹ Charles Montaldo, crime.about.com/od/serial/a/Gary-Ridgway.htm

if these studentS failed to meet “Adequate Yearly Progress”
they must receive free tutoring, offer after-school programs
or offer eligible children the chance to transfer to higher-performing local schools
NCLB imposed a system of incentives and penalties on educators
that sometimes motivated schools, school districts and states to manipulate test results
states that impose high student standards and did not demonstrate annual improvement suffer
states that accept low student standards can achieve their required student educational goals
but at a cost to their students

WASHINGTON STATE FACES CONTINUING FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

Mounting fiscal pressures created by a stalled economy, rising unemployment rates,
a state budget deficit and an ever-growing transportation problem compounded financial needs
state legislators responded by reducing the state budget by approximately \$48.8 million
public school funding as the largest part of the state’s budget took the greatest losses -- 2002

ALTERNATIVE TESTING IS INCORPORATED INTO THE WASL EXAMINATIONS

Washington Alternate Assessment System (WAAS) Portfolios were incorporated
as an alternative to the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) examination -- 2002
Portfolio assessment was added as an alternative to the WASL examination
in fourth and seventh grades

WASHINGTON STATE CAPITOL BUILDING IS RENOVATED

While work was in progress to upgrade the earthquake protection for the state capitol
of major concern was the safety of the 26,000-metric ton dome held in place by gravity
the 6.8-magnitude [February 2001] Nisqually earthquake
caused the sandstone support columns to shift up to three inches
rendering the dome unsafe
a second extensive renovation of the capitol campus was begun -- 2002
this would replace the capitol’s heating and cooling system, remove asbestos,
modernize electrical systems and repair damage caused by the Nisqually Earthquake
(when work was completed [2004] the capitol building and its dome were made safe [2003])

SEVERAL BOEING DIVISIONS REMAIN BASED IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Boeing Commercial Airplanes products included the 717, 737, 747, 757, 767, and 777 jetliners

and the Boeing Business Jet Division remained headquartered in the Pacific Northwest -- 2002
Boeing's Commercial Division began to build two new longer range jetliners,
the 747-400ER (extended range) and the 777-300 ER

Boeing Capital Corporation, the leasing and lending financial services arm of the company,
remained based in Renton

Boeing's global communications network which provides high-speed Internet, entertainment
and data services to mobile platforms is based in Seattle

Boeing Air Traffic Management which develops solutions for air traffic control and air operations
continues to be located in Bellevue

America's Chicago-based aviation giant that had evolved from combining rival companies
Boeing, Douglas, McDonnell and North Americans under the Boeing name
serves customers in more than 145 countries had operations in twenty-six states
and employees in more than sixty countries

Boeing is now a vast global enterprise building the future of flight on Earth and beyond

WASHINGTON STATE TEACHERS SUE TO RECEIVE A COST OF LIVING PAY RAISE

Washington Education Association which represented the state's teachers sued the state legislature
to force payment of the Cost of Living adjustments granted by the states' voters
with passage of Initiative 732 [in 2000] -- 2002

State Supreme Court justices ruled that all school employees must be funded
regardless of whether their salary was paid by the school district, state, or federal governments

TWO WASHINGTON STATE SCHOOL DISTRICT FACE TEACHER STRIKES

Issaquah School District teachers struck for twenty days -- September 2002

when a court injunction was entered to end the strike the teachers voted to defy the order
however, the strike was settled before the first contempt of court order could be issued
forcing the strikers to go to jail

Snohomish School District teachers struck for twenty-one days

no court order was issued and the contract issues were negotiated to a successful resolution

GOVERNOR LOCKE SUSPENDS THE EDUCATION INITIATIVES APPROVED BY THE VOTERS

Democratic Governor Gary Locke proposed to suspend indefinitely the education mandates
demanded by voter approved in Initiative 728 and Initiative 732

as he claimed the necessary funds were not available -- December 20, 2002

TEACHERS HOLD THE LARGEST RALLY IN THE HISTORY OF THE STATE

Washington Education Association which represents the states' school employees called for a **"day of action"** -- January 14, 2003

rallies were held in Spokane, Kennewick and the largest protest rally in Olympia's history which was attended by about 20,000 school district employees, students, parents, administrators and school supporters to demand legislators up-hold the voter-approved Initiative 728 [in 2000] that proposed construction of additional school facilities, and a reduction of school class size and Initiative 732 [passed in 2000] which funded cost of living pay adjustments

Schools in about 100 school districts were closed

many districts cancelled school willingly in support of their teachers

some students attended the rally

busloads of protestors began to arrive in Olympia by midmorning

some wore blue rain ponchos that read "Keep the Commitment"

by noon the Olympia's main street leading to the Capitol campus was clogged with people

Democratic Governor Locke refused to speak to the teachers directly

NEW STATE BUDGET CUTS FUNDS TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Funding for the state's public schools took a hit at all levels -- 2003

in addition, voter passed Initiative 728 reduce class sizes, extend learning programs,

expand teacher training and construct facilities would not be funded

nor would voter approved Initiative 732 to provide cost-of-living pay increases

to school employees

MAJOR CHANGES TO THE WASL TAKE PLACE

Listening testing was discontinued from the WASL examination after 2003

Science was added to the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) examination

tenth grade students were assessed in four subjects: reading, writing, math and science

in addition, eighth grade students also began testing but only in science -- 2003

(science testing in fifth grade began during the 2003-[2004] school year)

EAST HALF OF THE HOOD CANAL FLOATING BRIDGE IS REPLACED

Washington's Hood Canal Floating Bridge (officially the William A. Bugge Floating Bridge)

had been sunk by a [1979] windstorm -- repairs were undertaken -- 2003
when the east-half floating portion of the bridge, the east and west approach spans,
the east and west transition spans and the west-half electrical system were replaced
at a total cost of \$471 million paid for with state, federal
and Washington Department of Transportation funds
this project would require the bridge to close to traffic for five weeks to allow
for the old pontoons of the east-half to be cut away and new pontoons
floated into position, cabled together and connected by cables
to large anchors on the sea floor
transition spans and center draw span were also replaced during this closure
Pontoons and anchors for the bridge could not be built at the bridge site due to space limitations
different sites were evaluated -- Port Angeles graving dock was chosen
for its accessibility to water and land as well as the work force
before the land for construction could be purchased the National Historic Preservation Act
required archaeologists to perform a review of the historical site
“there was no evidence of historic properties or cultural resources”²²

Within the first two weeks of construction of the pontoons and anchors for the bridge,
Native American artifacts were found at an ancestral burial ground
from an ancient village called Tse-whit-zen
all work at the site stopped and a government-to-government consultation process began
among the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Washington State Department of Transportation,
Federal Highway Administration, Army Corps of Engineers
and the State Historical Preservation Office
Washington State Department of Transportation agreed to donate the site
to the Lower Elwha Klallam tribe, rebury all remains uncovered
and pay \$2.5 million in damages [August 14, 2006]
Governor Locke and State Transportation Secretary Douglas MacDonald announced that
Washington State Department of Transportation would stop pontoon and anchor construction
at the Tse-whit-zen site in Port Angeles [December 21, 2004]
Many construction sites to build the pontoons and anchors for the bridge were investigated
but the best option to be found was in Tacoma at Concrete Technology
(Hood Canal Floating Bridge, officially the William A. Bugge Floating Bridge

²² National Historic Preservation Act Re-evaluation Consultation, Federal Highway Administration

reopened [June 3, 2009])

PAUL ALLEN REACHES FOR THE FUTURE

Microsoft co-founder along with Bill Gates was estimated

to be the world's fourth wealthiest citizen worth \$21 billion -- 2003

He remained dedicated to developing new business and investment opportunities

he envisioned a "wired world" in which computers and related technology

would serve as the primary source of communication and information-gathering,

to achieve this goal Allen founded *Asymetrix*, which produced applications

that allowed both programmers and non-programmers to develop their own software

Vulcan Ventures, Allen's investment firm, then focused on the technology

Allen also invested in numerous companies, including Ticketmaster, America Online,

Egghead Software and Darwin Molecular Corporation, a pharmaceutical company

other investments focused on cable television, wireless modems, and Web portals

Allen plowed millions into brain research, space travel, and other ambitious, high-concept ventures

his most recent efforts include:

- SpaceShipOne -- the first privately-backed effort to successfully put a civilian in suborbital space,
- Stratolaunch Systems -- an innovative airborne launch system that will use the largest aircraft to ever be manufactured and will provide orbital access to space with greater safety, cost-effectiveness and flexibility

GARY RIDGWAY FACES THREE MORE COUNTS OF AGGRAVATED MURDER

Paint samples matched with paint spray used at the Kenworth Truck Company in Renton where Ridgway worked

Gary Ridgway was charged in the aggravated first-degree murder in deaths

of Wendy Lee Coffield, Debra Estes and Debra Bonner -- March 27, 2003

Ridgway pled not guilty to the charges

At the time forty-nine young women were listed as victims of the serial killer

UNIDENTIFIED HUMAN REMAINS ARE AGAIN DISCOVERED

Jane Doe "B-20" was discovered at a site off the Kent Des-Moines Road -- August 3, 2003

location of the skeletal remains was explained by Gary Ridgway

he described her as white, sixteen to twenty years old, skinny

with brownish blond shoulder length hair
he could not remember if he had killed her in 1982 or 1983 but it could have been
“as far back as the seventies”
DNA from the remains did not match the bones with any of the official Green River victims

GARY RIDGWAY CONTINUES TO COOPERATE WITH INVESTIGATORS

Gary Ridgway, the Green River Killer, knew he would face execution -- he did not want to die²³
in a plea bargain, he agreed to provide complete, truthful and candid information
concerning the crimes that he had committed in King County
and answer all questions during interviews conducted by the detectives prosecuting attorney
in exchange for a life sentence -- King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng agreed to the offer
For months detectives methodically interviewed Ridgway
gathering the details of each of the murders he committed
sometimes he killed his victims inside his house, other times he would kill them in the woods
Ridgway took them to locations where he had left several of the bodies
he disclosed how he killed each one and the evidence he left to throw off police
Detectives and search crews found human skeletal remains in a wooded area
near Highway 410 east of Enumclaw -- August 16, 2003

GREEN RIVER KILLER GARY RIDGWAY CONFESSES TO KILLINGS WITHOUT BODIES

Kase Ann Lee was victim number seven of the Green River Killer
Kase Ann, age sixteen, was last seen by her husband who gave her \$20 to go to a nearby grocer
to buy ground beef and other supplies for their dinner [August 28, 1982]
she left their apartment on South 208th Street in what is now Sea-Tac, Washington
without making it to the store she and vanished
when Kase did not return that night, her husband phoned her mother
who then called the Sheriff's office and filed a missing persons report
Gary Ridgway confessed to strangling Kase Ann Lee to death [2002]
but he could not recall the location of her remains
Keli Kay McGinness was victim number thirty
Keli's parents divorced when she was almost three years old
her mother, a talented singer and owner of several restaurants in Washington and Oregon

²³ Charles Montaldo, crime.about.com/od/serial/a/Gary-Ridgway.htm

remarried -- her step-father was a teacher
at age of thirteen while babysitting, Keli was gang-raped by a group of drunken boys
she was too afraid to testify and soon after ran away from home for good
Keli her two children at home and last seen standing by the street
on South 216th Street and Pacific Highway South (about 7:30 p.m. [June 28, 1983])
Gary Ridgway admitted to killing Keli Kay McGinness by strangulation
but her remains have never been found and he is uncharged for her murder at this time
Patricia Anne Osborn, age nineteen, was the thirty-first victim of the Green River Killer
she grew up with a single mom with whom she was very close
but when she hit her teenage years she began to rebel and experiment with drugs
she always maintained contact with her mother with frequent phone calls and birthday cards
Patricia Anne was last seen in the area of North Aurora Avenue in Seattle [October 20, 1983]
headed to a nearby restaurant -- was never seen again
Gary Ridgway told police he remembered picking up and killing a woman in that area at that time
but he did not recall where he left her remains
with no evidence against him, he remains uncharged to date in Patricia's murder

WASHINGTON STATE TEACHER STRIKES CONTINUE

Lake Stevens' teachers called a strike to protest the failure of the school district
to provide an acceptable contract -- 2003
this strike lasted for fourteen days and was settled without court-ordered action
Marysville School District teacher struck for a record setting forty-nine days -- 2003
Marysville Teacher Association members cited three points
that could not be resolve through contract negotiation:

- Marysville School District wanted to shift from local pay schedule to the state schedule;
- Marysville School District wanted to add to workdays without added pay;
- Marysville School District resisted union demands for increase locally supplemented pay
and health care benefit contributions

Governor Gary Locke appointed a fact-finding team that chastised both sides
it recommended the teachers return to work and continue negotiating -- this was rejected
an investigation by retired State Supreme Court Justice Robert Utter
and former state legislator (and later Congressman) Denny Heck supported the teachers
after a court injunction forced the teachers back into their classrooms the district superintendent
and three school board members had been replaced

and the two incumbent board members were under fire from the public

GARY RIDGWAY ENTERS A GUILTY PLEA

Ridgway pled guilty to forty-eight charges of aggravated first degree murder -- November 2, 2003
each committed in King County

He also confessed to moving body parts to Oregon to throw off the investigation
and to having sex with six of the bodies after he had killed them

GARY RIDGWAY AVOIDS THE DEATH PENALTY

Gary Leon Ridgway, age fifty-four, avoided the death penalty in King County -- November 5, 2003
by confessing to the murders of forty-eight women, most of whom were murdered in [1982-1984]
for his cooperation in locating the missing bodies and describing his crimes

Ridgway received forty-eight life sentences with the possibility of parole
however, because some of the victims were buried and possibly killed in Oregon
and other areas outside of King County, Ridgway could face the death penalty there

Families of the victims were angry and legal scholars were confused

they had been led to believe that prosecutors would seek the death penalty²⁴

legal scholars wondered, if a man who premeditatedly murders forty-eight women

does not get the death penalty then who would

(Gary Ridgway is currently at the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla

FULL EXTEND OF GARY RIDGWAY'S CRIMES ARE NOT KNOWN

In the released video tapes taken as Ridgway detailed the murders to investigators -- 2003

he confessed once to killing sixty-one women and in another tape he said it was seventy-one

But at the conclusion of the interviews, Ridgway could only recall forty-eight murders

all of which he said occurred inside King County

in a effort to avoid the death penalty in other jurisdictions

he refused responsibility for seven victims previously attributed to the Green River Killer

GARY RIDGWAY CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOUR SETS OF UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS

While Gary Ridgway will claim responsibility for four sets of unidentified remains -- 2003

he will not enter pleas to seven deaths previously attributed to the Green River Killer

²⁴ Rachael Bell, *Green River Killer: River of Death*, www.trutv.com/library/crime/serial_killers/predators/greenriver/routine_2.html

however, he remains a suspect in those deaths:

Amina Agisheff, age thirty-six last seen leaving her Seattle apartment [July 7, 1982]

her remains were found near Highway 18 and Interstate 90 [April 18, 1984]

Kassee Ann Lee, sixteen, was last seen at her south King County home at 11:30 a.m

by her husband [August 28, 1982] at her south King County home by her husband

her remains have not been found

Rebecca T. Marrero, twenty, was last seen [December 3, 1982]

at the Western Six Motel on Pacific Highway South

her remains have not been found

Tammie Charlene Liles, sixteen, was last seen in downtown Seattle [June 9, 1983]

her remains were found in Tualatin, Ore., south of Portland [April 23, 1985]

Keli K. McGinness, eighteen was last seen on Pacific Highway South [June 28, 1983]

her remains have not been found

Patricia Anne Osborn, nineteen, was last seen on Aurora Avenue North

in Seattle [October 20, 1983]

her remains have not been found

and one final set of unidentified remains

(There still an unsettling aspect to the case as Ridgway went into a killing frenzy [1982-1984]

and then stopped completely, until he murdered once more [1990] and then once again in [1998]

this does not fit the pattern of a serial killer

occasionally when there is a great deal of police activity they slowed down

but not really stop)

OTHER VICTIMS OF THE GREEN RIVER KILLER CONTINUE TO BE DISCOVERED

Gary Ridgeway is suspected of murdering other women although no charges have been filed -- 2003

Unidentified Female, age 13-24, disappeared [1973-1993]

her remains were found [August 2003]

Unidentified White Female, 14-18, disappeared sometime [December 1980- January 1984]

her remains were found [January 2, 1986]

Amina Agisheff, age thirty-five, disappeared [July 7, 1982]

her remains were found [April 18, 1984]

Kristi Lynn Vorak, age thirteen, disappeared [October 31, 1982]

her remains have not yet been found

Rebecca "Becky" Marrero, age twenty, disappeared [December 3, 1982]

her remains were found [December 21, 2010]
Kelly McGinness, age twenty-two, disappeared [June 28, 1983]
her remains have not yet been found
Angela Marie Girdner, age sixteen, disappeared [July 1983]
her remains were found [April 22, 1985]
Patricia Ann Leblanc, age fifteen, disappeared [August 12, 1983]
her remains have not yet been found
Kasee Ann Lee (Woods), age eighteen, disappeared [August 28, 1983]
her remains have not yet been found
Patricia Osborn, about nineteen, disappeared about [October 20, 1983]
her remains have not yet been found
Rose Marie Kurrana, sixteen, disappeared [August 26, 1987]
her remains were found [August 1987]
Marta Reeves, age thirty-six, disappeared [March 5, 1990]
her remains were found [September 20, 1990]
Darci Warde, age sixteen, disappeared [April 24, 1990]
her remains have not yet been found
Cora McGuirk, age twenty-two, disappeared [July 12, 1991]
her remains have not yet been found
April Dawn Buttram, age sixteen, disappeared [August 18, 1983]
her remains were found [August 30, 2003]
Patricia Yellowrobe, age thirty-eight, disappeared [January 1998]
her remains were found [August 6, 1998]

RENOVATION OF THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING IS COMPLETED

After the [2001] Nisqually Earthquake the three-year rehabilitation and earthquake-repair project was completed -- 2004

This \$120 million project added modern heating and cooling, plumbing, fire protection and state-of-the-art wireless technology systems, while maintaining historic features it also repaired earthquake damage, improved accessibility, added new public space, and made additional seismic and security upgrades

more than eighty percent of the construction waste was recycled

8,000 tons of wood, concrete, paper, bricks, dirt, metal and drywall
renovated Legislative Building is comprised of more than 173 million pounds

of stone, brick, concrete and steel
it is the fourth tallest masonry dome in the world, rising 287 feet high
144 solar panels were placed atop the fifth-floor roof of the building
this is the largest array of solar panels on a capitol in the United States

WASHINGTON STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION PASSES A SPECIAL DUES ASSESSMENT

Delegates attending the Washington Education Association's annual state convention -- May 2004
voted in increase in their union dues to launch a legal battle over inadequate school funding
this money was used to form a coalition of parents, school district and education supporters
that sued the state legislature to adequately fund the public schools
(this case ultimately reached the State Supreme Court [in 2010])

U.S. NAVY DEVELOPS NAVAL BASE KITSAP ON THE KITSAP PENINSULA

This base resulted from the merger of the former Naval Station Bremerton
with Naval Submarine Base Bangor -- 2004
Naval Base Kitsap is the third-largest Navy base in the United States
and the largest naval organization in Navy Region Northwest
it is composed of installations at Bremerton, Bangor, and Keyport, Washington
Naval Base Kitsap is the home base for the Navy's fleet throughout West Puget Sound
it provides base operating services including support for both surface ships
and Fleet Ballistic Missile and other nuclear submarines stationed at Bremerton and Bangor
it is one of the U.S. Navy's four nuclear shipyards and is one of two nuclear-weapons facilities
it also has the only West Coast dry dock capable of handling a Nimitz-class aircraft carriers
and houses the Navy's largest fuel depot

WASHINGTON STATE GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

Democrats retained control of the state's congressional delegation -- November 2, 2004
Democratic Senator Patty Murray easily defeats Republican U.S. Representative George Nethercutt
to become only the fourth senator from the state to win a third consecutive term Democrat
National House of Representatives election saw six Democrats and three Republicans elected

- Democrat Jay R. Inslee was elected in the First Congressional District;
- Democrat Rick Larsen was elected in the Second Congressional District;
- Democrat Brian Baird was elected in the Third Congressional District;
- Republican Doc Hastings was elected in the Fourth Congressional District;

- new comer Republican Cathy McMorris was elected in the Fifth Congressional District;
- Democrat Norman Dicks was elected in the Sixth Congressional District;
- Democrat Jim McDermott was elected in the Seventh Congressional District;
- new comer Republican Dave Reichert was elected in the Eighth Congressional District;
- Democrat Adam Smith was elected in the Ninth Congressional District

Democrat John Kerry won the state's eleven electoral votes

but lost the national presidential election to Republican George W. Bush

BALLOT ISSUES DREW A GREAT DEAL OF VOTER ATTENTION

Two initiatives to the people were overwhelmingly approved by the voters -- November 2, 2004

Republican and Democratic parties joined forces to attack Initiative 872

sponsored by the Washington State Grange and approved by nearly sixty percent of the voters

Initiative 872 established a top two primary election to replace the popular "blanket" primary

which the federal courts invalidated [in 2003] at the urging of the political parties

"blanket primary" elections had been adopted in Washington in [1935]

with support of the Washington State Grange

it allowed a voter to select candidates from different political parties

with the highest vote-getter in each party for a particular office

advancing to the general election

thus the Democrat and Republican with the most votes for an office advanced

regardless of the party affiliation of the voter -- voters could "cross over"

Republicans quickly joined by the Democrats filed suit and won an injunction

against the top two primary before it could be used in the [2005] election

three years later the United States Supreme Court reversed the lower courts

and allowed the primary system enacted by I-872 to proceed [March 2008]

Washington's first top two primary was held [August 19, 2008]

Initiative 297 was intended to clean up the Hanford nuclear site

it received more "Yes" votes than any initiative in the state's history, with sixty-nine percent

but within days of the vote the federal government brought a lawsuit to overturn I-297

which prohibited the U.S. Government from sending out-of-state nuclear waste to Hanford

until existing waste there was cleaned up

U.S. District Judge Alan McDonald [in 2006] ruled that I-297

violated the supremacy clause of the United States Constitution

(under which federal law pre-empts state regulation)

and commerce the clause (forbidding state interference with interstate commerce)
that ruling was affirmed by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals [2008]
and the State Attorney General's office chose not to appeal to the Supreme Court
ironically, on the same day that I-872 was finally implemented

CLOSEST EVER GOVERNOR'S RACE IS DECIDED

Washington State's governor's race was the closest in the nation's history -- November 2, 2004
as Democratic Attorney General Christine Gregoire
virtually tied with Republican former State Senator Dino Rossi
with about two percent of the voters favored Libertarian Ruth Bennett
when all thirty-nine counties completed their initial vote count [November 17, 2004]
Rossi had a lead of 261 votes, with 1,371,414 to 1,371,153 for Gregoire
and 63,346 for Libertarian Bennett
because the leading candidates were separated by fewer than 2,000 votes
state law required a machine recount of the ballots
in that count, Rossi gained 1,070 votes but Gregoire gained 1,289 votes
whittling Rossi's lead to only forty-two votes
although Republican Secretary of State Sam Reed certified that result [November 30]
state law allowed any candidate or party to request an additional recount if they paid for it
this payment would be refunded if the recount changed the outcome
Democrats requested and paid for a manual (hand) recount
this was completed [December 23, 2004]
it showed that Gregoire had won by 129 votes, as she picked up another 919 votes
while Rossi's total increased by only 748 votes
final results were: Gregoire 1,373,361 votes (48.8730 percent);
Rossi 1,373,232 votes (48.8685 percent); and Bennett 63,465 votes (2.2585 percent)
Secretary of State Reed granted Gregoire a certificate of election,
State Legislature approved the election results
and Gregoire was sworn in as governor [January 12, 2005]
Even before Gregoire took office, Republican leaders challenged the election results in the media
and in a lawsuit filed in Chelan County asserting that hundreds of convicted felons voted illegally
(Washington law requires felons to have their civil rights restored before they can vote)
they charged many other irregularities particularly in the Democratic stronghold of King County
After a trial lasting two weeks Superior Court Judge John Bridges rejected the Republican claims

Bridges ruled the King County errors were significant
but not the result of fraud or intentional manipulation
no evidence was presented, except in five instances, that showed
which gubernatorial candidate (if any) the 1,678 illegal votes identified were cast
since the Democrats introduced declarations by four felons that they voted for Rossi
(and one who voted for Bennett), Bridges deducted those votes from the official totals,
leaving Governor Gregoire with a final margin of 133 votes
the closest in any gubernatorial election in United States history

LEGISLATORS CREAT THE “WASHINGTON LEARNS STEERING COMMITTEE”

Washington State’s Legislature passed SB (Senate Bill) 5441 -- April 18, 2005

this created the “Washington Learns Steering Committee” whose members included

- the governor who chaired the steering committee;
- the director of the office of financial management;
- two members from the house of representative with one appointed by each major caucus;
- two members from the senate with one appointed by each major caucus;
- four citizens appointed by the governor
- the chairs of each of the three advisory committees:
 - superintendent of public instruction shall chair of the “Advisory Committee on K-12”
 - chair of the “Advisory Committee on Early Learning” shall be the nongovernmental co-chair of the newly-created “Washington Early Learning Council”
 - chair of the “Advisory Committee on Higher Education” shall be selected by the governor from a list of three names submitted by the higher education coordinating board, by the state board for community and technical colleges and the council of presidents

“Washington Learns Steering Committee” was to develop a final report

providing long-term recommendations for creating a world-class, learner-focused, seamless education system for Washington

this transformation of the entire education system required sustained participation

by state and local governments, by parents, caregivers, teachers and community members,
by business and private enterprise, by every level of educational institution,
and by students themselves

the goal of the “Washington Learns Steering Committee” was to develop a new education system

“that will excite learners, invigorate teachers and impress employers”²⁵

WASHINGTON STATE IMPLEMENTS NEW PRIMARY ELECTION LAWS

State legislators passed two sets of new primary election laws -- April 24, 2005

two election systems were approved with the governor to make the final choice

one system, the “nonpartisan blanket” Primary Election system or “Top Two” system

all candidates for office run against each other without regard to political party affiliation

top two candidates receiving the most votes move to the General Election ballot

thus a candidate from each political party may be selected

as could two candidates from the same party

this system was advocated by Republican Secretary of State Sam Reed

another system, the “Open Primary” was offered as an alternative choice

voters select the ballot for one of major political parties

and selects from the list of candidates running for each office

while the ballot for the other political party is never seen

each party’s candidate that received the most votes for an office

run against each other in the General Election

Washington’s Democratic Governor Gary Locke vetoed out nonpartisan blanket primary option

leaving the Open Primary as the election system to select candidates for the General Election

In response Initiative 872 was filed by the Washington State Grange

to implement the nonpartisan or Top Two Primary Election system [2004]

advocates of the Open Primary system sued in federal court

STUDENTS FAILING THE WASL CREATE SERIOUS PROBLEMS

When a high percentage of high school sophomores failed the high-stakes WASL examinations

educators and legislators faced a crisis

students who failed could not receive a high school diploma

It was decided that juniors and seniors who had failed the WASL as sophomores

would be allowed to retake the WASL examination -- May 2005

CONVICTIONS IN THE FORT LAWTON CASE ARE OVERTURNED

U.S. Rep Jim McDermott (D-WA) introduced HR 3174 -- July 1, 2005

²⁵ Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5441 as passed April 18, 2005

demanding that the United States Army reopen the [1944] Fort Lawton case
this bill, with dozens of co-sponsors, remained in the House Armed Services Committee
until the chairman of that committee, U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-California)
received a letter from constituent Julianna Hamann -- author Jack Hamann's mother
Jack Hamann and his wife Leslie wrote a book about the [1944] riot and lynching at Fort Lawton
based on General Elliot Cooke's newly-declassified report to the Army Inspector General
On American Soil: How Justice Became a Casualty of World War II [2006]
After the House Armed Services Committee staff vetted the book,
Rep. McDermott and Rep. Hunter agreed [June 8, 2006]
to exercise a Congressional privilege allowing them to insist
the US Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) review the convictions
ABCMR ruled unanimously [October 26, 2007] that Leon Jaworski committed an "egregious error"
in his prosecution of the Fort Lawton case
particularly by refusing to make General Cooke's Report available to the defense
ABCMR called the trial "fundamentally unfair,"
convictions of all twenty-eight of the Fort Lawton defendants were overturned
they also ordered that defendants be issued retroactive honorable discharges
in addition, the surviving defendants or the estates of those who have since died were deemed
entitled to "all rights, privileges and property lost as a result of the convictions,"
including "all due pay and allowances"
U.S. Representative Jim McDermott introduced HR 5130 in the House [January 23, 2008]
which authorized the US Army to pay interest on the Fort Lawton awards
Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) introduced companion bill S 2548 in the Senate
these bills were approved by the Armed Services Committees of both houses
and were supported by testimony from Secretary of the Army Pete Geren
who called Private Samuel Snow's small check "a travesty of justice"
U.S. Army had located two living defendants [summer 2008]
Samuel Snow of Florida and Roy Montgomery of Illinois
plus the families of ten others who had since died
King County Executive Ron Sims and Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels organized a tribute
to the Fort Lawton defendants and their surviving families [July 26, 2008]
which was held at Seattle's Discovery Park near the former Fort Lawton chapel
this featured a dinner, parade, formal military ceremony
and a Catholic mass honoring the memory of Guglielmo Olivotto

at the military ceremony, Assistant Army Secretary Ronald James offered a tribute,
including an apology and the presentation of belated honorable discharges
During the morning of the Seattle military ceremony, Samuel Snow became ill
only hours later, his family brought his honorable discharge to his hospital bedside,
where he held it to his chest and smiled broadly
that same evening, he died of heart failure, with his wife and son at his side
he received a burial with full military honors

Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act

was signed by President George W. Bush signed [October 14, 2008]

this bill included legislation authorizing the army to add tens of thousands of dollars interest
to the Fort Lawton veterans' awards

WASHINGTON LEARNS STEERING COMMITTEE GIVES ITS FINAL REPORT

Members of the *Washington Learns Steering Committee* reported out a set of ten-year goals -- 2006

1. Parents will be their children's first and best teachers, and will have the support they need to help their children "learn to learn" in their first years of life.
2. Families will have access to high-quality, affordable child care and early education programs staffed by providers and teachers who are adequately trained and compensated.
3. All children will enter kindergarten healthy and emotionally, socially and cognitively ready to succeed in school and in life.
4. All students will transition from third grade with the ability to read well and do basic math, and with the ability to actively participate in a learning environment.
5. All students will transition from eighth grade with demonstrated ability in core academic subjects, citizenship skills and an initial plan for high school and beyond.
6. All students will graduate from high school with an international perspective and the skills to live, learn and work in a diverse state and a global society.
7. All students will complete a rigorous high school course of study and demonstrate the abilities needed to enter a post-secondary education program or career path.
8. All Washingtonians will have access to affordable post-secondary education and workforce training opportunities that provide them with the knowledge and skills to thrive personally and professionally.
9. Washington will have a well-trained and educated workforce that meets the needs of our knowledge-based economy.
10. Academic research will fuel discoveries and innovations

that allow Washington businesses to compete globally.

STATE LEGISLATORS MAKE A COMMITMENT TO FUND EDUCATION

Any new funding structure was missing from the “Washington Learns Steering Committee” report but it advocated tying the funding structure to academic performance requirements rather than the current system of funding a set number of hours of instruction

Newly-elected Governor Chris Gregoire set an agenda for the state legislature that called for more money for schools as a “down payment” on continued increases in education spending for the state’s schools -- 2006

Washington Education Association (WEA) representing school employees launched a “Living Wage Campaign” to elevate the pay of Educational Service Employees (non-certified staff members)

FEDERAL NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND TESTING IS REQUIRED IN WASHINGTON SCHOOLS

Federal updates to the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) laws required testing in reading and math -- 2006

third graders were tested for the first time

fifth graders were tested in science for the WASL and in reading and math for NCLB

eighth graders were tested in science for the WASL and in reading and math for NCLB

WASL TESTING RESULTS RAISE CONCERNS

About half of tenth graders did not pass the math section of the 2006 WASL examination scores also fell across the board in other grades as many unrelated schools and districts recorded abrupt drops in their testing results

some educational leaders, including the President of the Washington Education Association, believed the lack of transparency in examination scoring procedures was reason enough to drop the WASL as a graduation requirement

other education leaders such as Superintendent of Public Instruction and former WEA President Terry Bergeson believed it would be a mistake to step away from high graduation standards however, it was apparent some adjustments must be made

Many parent and teacher groups had protested against the WASL since its inception noting unreasonable student expectations and resisting the requirement that students with severe learning disabilities must take the test qualifications of the test scorers were challenged by some educational activists

WASL examinations were developed and originally graded by practicing teachers
soon scorers were only required to have a bachelor's degree and minimal testing training
each student's examination was assessed by multiple scorers
only a little more than fifty-five percent agreement on any given score was expected
inconsistencies in scorers' evaluations of answers undermined the legitimacy
of the WASL examinations' results

delegates at the 2006 Washington State PTA convention unanimously voted to **“oppose any efforts to use a single indicator for making decisions about individual student opportunities such as grade promotion, high school graduation, or entrance into specific educational programs.”**²⁶

SEATTLE SUPERSONICS ARE SOLD

Seattle SuperSonics (commonly referred to as the **“Sonics”**) was the professional basketball team based in Seattle that represented the Pacific Northwest in the National Basketball Association
Howard Schultz chairman and CEO of Starbucks sold the Seattle SuperSonics -- July 18, 2006
after failing to reach an agreement with the city of Seattle over publicly funding an expansion of the city's Key Arena at a cost of \$220 million
Key Arena was remodeled [1995] but was the National Basketball Association's smallest arena
local buyers for the basketball team could not be found so Schultz agreed to sell
to an ownership group in Oklahoma City headed by Clay Bennett for \$350 million
this sale was approved by the by other basketball franchise owners [October 25, 2006]
contingent on the new ownership make a good faith effort
to secure a new arena lease somewhere in the Greater Seattle area

ADJUSTEMENTS ARE MADE TO THE WASL TESTING PROGRAM

Washington Alternate Assessment System (WAAS) Portfolios were incorporated
as an alternative to the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) examination
in third, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades -- 2006
In addition to WASL testing and Portfolio assessment
it was decided that some students could take the WASL examination below their grade level
Washington Alternate Assessment System (WAAS) Developmentally Appropriate (DAW) WASL
became the designation of this alternative testing program
Ninth grade students could attempt the high school required WASL examination early -- 2006

²⁶ Washington State PTA Board Positions and Resolutions

this option was intended for gifted or advanced students that had met WASL subject requirements
WASL summer and fall re-test sessions were introduced to provide students another opportunity
to meet Washington state Legislature tenth grade graduation requirements

BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION WORKS TO IMPROVE LIFE WORLD WIDE

Bill Gates announced he would begin to transition out of a day-to-day role with Microsoft
allow him to devote more time to working with the foundation -- June 15, 2006

Warren Buffett, then the world's richest person, pledged to give the Gates Foundation
approximately \$1.5 billion -- June 25, 2006

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will give hundreds of millions of dollars in the next few years
to programs aimed at encouraging saving by the world's poor

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation quickly became a major influence upon global health
foundation gives approximately \$800 million every year -- an amount that approaches
the annual budget of the United Nations World Health Organization (193 nations)
research into prevention of diseases has been emphasized:

- Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization,
- Children's Vaccine Program,
- University of Washington Department of Global Health targeted three areas:
education and global access to higher education, Pacific Northwest and global health
- HIV/AIDS research, Global TB Vaccine Foundation,
- Aeras Global Tuberculosis Vaccine Foundation,
- Visceral Leishmaniasis Research to eradicate the second-largest parasite killer after malaria,
at both the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and The Institute for One World Health

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation supports local enrapture efforts:

- Financial Access Initiative provided micro financing in impoverished countries around the world,
- Pro Mujer provided micro financing in Latin America,
- Grameen Foundation provided microloans to five million families attempting to escape poverty

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation supports agricultural development around the world:

- International Rice Research Institute to support higher crop yields,
- Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa to enhance agricultural science
and small-farm productivity in Africa

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation also support specific charities which address global issues:
these charities include:

- CARE international,

- International Rescue Committee,
- Mercy Corps,
- Save the Children,
- World Vision

This is only a portion of the work undertaken by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation other significant projects focus on world issues such as water, hygiene and sanitation response to specific natural disaster like earthquakes, floods and hurricanes is immediate Gates Foundation also has focused on specific issues needing to be addressed in the United States Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is valued at more than \$30 billion more than a billion dollars a year is given away

“JOINT TASK FORCE ON BASIC EDUCATION FINANCE” IS CREATED BY LEGISLATORS

In an effort to follow-up on the final report of the Washington Learns Steering Committee State Legislators passed E2SSB (Engrossed Senate Substitute Bill) 5627

which created the “Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance” -- 2007

Members of the Task Force were to review the current definition of “basic education” and its funding formulas and develop a new definition and funding structure to finance the report of the Washington Learns Steering Committee report and current law

Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance was composed of fourteen members:

- eight legislators,
 - Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn,
 - a representative of the Governor’s Office or the Office of Financial Management,
 - four members appointed by the Governor
- (a chair with experience in finance and knowledge of the K-12 funding formulas, and three members with significant experience with K-12 finance issues)

Washington Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) was to provide research support

Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance was further instructed that its report must include:

- recommendations for at least two, but not more than four, options for revising K-12 funding with one option to be a redirection and prioritization within existing resources based on research-proven education programs;
- final report must include a timeline for phasing in the new funding structure and a projection of the expected effect of the investment made under the new funding structure

OTHER CHANGES IN THE WASL ALTERNATIVE TESTING PROGRAM TAKES PLACE

In addition to WASL and WAAS-DAW WASL testing and WAAS-Portfolio assessment, WAAS-DAW2 was also introduced to allow a student with some form of disability to take their on-grade WASL -- but have it graded on a lower scale (this alternative was renamed "WASL-Basic assessment" -- 2007) WAAS-DAW and WASL-Basic examination could also be taken during summer autumn retesting was limited to special education students attempting to retake the WAAS-DAW or WAAS-Portfolio assessments

Governor Chris Gregoire officially called for the delay of the math and science sections of the WASL test -- May 8, 2007

students in the Class of [2008] would have to pass only the reading and writing sections Washington Alternate Assessment System (WAAS) Developmentally Appropriate WASL (DAW) was updated to limit the test to eleventh and twelfth grades only -- 2007 if passed the examination would count toward a student's graduation eligibility in the eyes of the state, but the test could no longer be counted toward federal requirements to meet Adequate Yearly Progress requirements for federal Title I funding Ninth grade students were no longer allowed to attempt the science portion of the WASL examination

SCHOOL LEVIES BECOME EASIER TO PASS

Washington Education Association (WEA), the union representing school employees in the state successfully lobbied the Legislature to change the state's constitution to remove the super-majority requirement that sixty percent of the voters voting must approve "maintenance and operation" levies to fund local school programs -- 2007 this constitutional change had been approved by the voter [November 2006] only a simple majority of the voters voting must grant approval for a school levy to pass

SCHOOL STRIKES CLOSE TWO LOCAL DISTRICTS

Bethel School District staff went on strike for three days over compensation -- September 2007 Shoreline School District employees struck for one day to point out financial mismanagement and increases in class size their school district -- late September

SEATTLE BUS TUNNEL IS RETROFITTED AS A TRAIN TUNNEL

Seattle's bus tunnel under the city first opened [September 1990] fifteen years later the tunnel was closed for upgrading and retrofitting [September 2005] so that it could be used by both buses and Sound Transit's Central Link light rail trains

buses were dual-powered operating as diesel buses on city streets
and as trolleybuses in the tunnel using electricity from overhead wires
this retrofit was part of the Sound Transit light rail project approved by voters in [1996]
although rails were included when the tunnel was first built,
they were not adequately insulated to prevent stray electric current from trains
from corroding nearby utility lines
because this required removal of the original rails, Sound Transit took the opportunity
to lower the tunnel roadway to allow level train boarding
After two years Seattle's Metro Bus Tunnel reopened -- Monday, September 24, 2007

TEAM OWNER CLAY BENNETT TAKES STEPS TO MOVE THE SEATTLE SUPERSONICS

Clay Bennett and his ownership group of the Seattle Supersonics proposed a new arena
be constructed in Renton at a cost \$500 million to the state's taxpayers [February 12, 2007]
state legislators refuse to make the commitment
Bennett asked that an arbitrator be appointed to address breaking the team's lease of the Key Area
this proposal was ruled to be illegal by a Superior Court judge in Seattle
who stated the lease would remain in place until it expired [2010]
when this decision was appealed to federal court, United States District Court Judge Ricardo Martinez
also ruled the Key Area must remain in place
Clay Bennett gave a deadline of two days to arrange public financing of a new arena
when this deadline was reached Bennett announced the team would be moved to Oklahoma City
this announcement was made one day after the Super Sonics' home opener -- October 31, 2007

SEATTLE IS GRANTED A FRANCHISE FOR MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

Major League Soccer (MLS) began selling franchises to cities across America [1994]
Seattle was considered a viable location for a professional team as were more than thirty other cities
Adrian Hanauer, owner of the United Soccer League's (USL) Sounders, a rival to MLS soccer
was interested in acquiring a soccer team for Seattle
however, the lack of a soccer-only stadium in Seattle dimmed their prospects
in spite of a strong soccer fan base
when franchise cities were named Seattle was not among the those selected
Seattle Seahawk owner Paul Allen worked with the city to build a new football stadium for his team
with the possibility of a soccer team being co-tenant [1996]
Another obstacle to Seattle's acquiring a soccer team franchise surfaced when Major League Soccer

moved from league-operated teams to investor-owned teams [2000]

wealthy individuals would need to commit before Seattle could gain a team

When Major League Soccer announced additional teams would be added

Adrian Hanauer was in discussions with MLS making Seattle was a strong contender

for an expansion team [2003] but it was announced Seattle failed to acquire a franchise [2004]

Hanauer announced that he would not be able to secure an expansion team

without the help of more investors willing to cover the increasing MLS franchise fees

which had grown beyond \$10 million

Hanauer joined with Hollywood producer Joe Roth

to make a \$30 million bid for an expansion franchise [2007]

Paul Allen whose company Vulcan Sports & Entertainment

owned Qwest Field (CenturyLink Field) became part of the ownership

joined in the ownership of the Seattle Sounders FC

TV personality Drew Carey also joined in the effort to purchase a team for Seattle

Seattle was announced Seattle was awarded a Major League Soccer (MLS) franchise

making it the fifteenth team in the league -- November 13, 2007

fans chose the "Sounders" name through an online poll [2008]

making the "Seattle Sounders FC" the third Seattle soccer club to share the name

"FC" in the name stands for Football Club

Microsoft was announced as the team's sponsor in a five-year arrangement would \$20 million

as part of the agreement Xbox 360 and Xbox Live brands appears on the Sounders FC jerseys

and throughout the stadium

SEATTLE SUPERSONICS ARE MOVED TO OKLAHOMA CITY

Team owner Clay Bennett's group gave the City of Seattle one day to accept an offer

of \$26.5 million to buy out the Seattle SuperSonic's Key Arena lease

this was rejected by the city

Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer promised his investment group would half of the \$300 million

necessary to renovate Key Arena if the other half was provided by the city and county government

state legislators did not give the necessary approval for the county to provide the funds

Seattle sued the National Basketball Association -- but to no avail

Team and community morale was low at the beginning of the Supersonics 2008 season

talks with the City of Seattle for a new arena had broken down

Sonics had gotten a franchise player with second overall pick in the NBA draft with Kevin Durant

however, with the Ray Allen trade the Sonics did not have much talent to surround their rookie they lost their first eight games under Coach P.J. Carlesimo on the way to a 3-14 record in the first month of the season

Durant would live up to expectations, as he led all rookies in scoring at 20.3 points-per-game and won the Rookie of the Year

however, the Seattle Supersonics posted a franchise worst record of 20-62

This would be the final season in Seattle as the was sold and relocated to Oklahoma City -- 2008 they would become the “Oklahoma Thunder” -- February 15, 2008

U.S. SUPREME COURT RULES NONPARTISAN OR TOP TWO PRIMARY CONSTITUTIONAL

United States Supreme Court in *Washington State Grange v. Washington State Republican Party* ruled that Washington’s Initiative 872 was constitutionally permissible -- March 18, 2008 because unlike the earlier “blanket primary” long used in Washington it officially disregards party affiliation -- candidates only state their “party preference”

MATHEMATICS PORTION OF THE WASL EXAMINATION IS DROPPED

Governor Chris Gregoire removed the mathematics portion of the tenth grade WASL examination due to low pass rates and heated debate over its long list of problems -- March 26, 2008 but students would have to pass the mathematics WASL examination until [2011] when the test was be to replaced by end-of-course exams in algebra and geometry [2014]

WASHINGTON USES ITS NEW PRIMARY ELECTION SYSTEM FOR THE FIRST TIME

Washington voters participated in the first “nonpartisan” or “two party” Primary Election to select candidates to appear on the November General Election ballot -- August 19, 2008 Primary Election is used to select candidates for the [November] General Election voters did not declare a party affiliation candidates are not required to state a political party preference two candidates receiving the most votes in the Primary Election qualify for the General Election candidates must also receive at least one percent of the votes cast in the race to advance to the General Election. Other rules apply to judicial races

SCHOOL EMOLOYEES IN BELLEVUE GO ON STRIKE

Bellevue School District was struck for thirteen days -- September 2008

as teachers protested a proposed district requirement for mandatory, pre-scripted, minute-by-minute daily lessons downloaded from the district **“curriculum web”** district administrators threatened to use a court injunction to force teacher’s back to classes but parents and community members attacked the proposal in a public hearing teachers used a web-based strike communications system to elicit support from parents You Tube videos were used to share personal accounts of the issues at stake and indicated why the school district’s plan hurt student learning

State-wide efforts to reform school funding continued

Washington ranked forty-fifth in the nation in per-pupil spending

Washington’s class sizes were the forty-sixth largest in the nation

JOINT TASK FORCE ON BASIC EDUCATION FINANCE ISSUES ITS FINAL REPORT

Members of the Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance were charged with

reviewing the current definition of “Basic Education” and develop a new funding structure

Several changes in the basic education requirements were proposed -- January 14, 2009

- high school graduation requirements increase from nineteen to twenty-four credits,
- early learning be provided for all pre-school children from low-income families,
- sufficient funds for additional time and resources for struggling students will be provided

Two changes in teacher compensation were proposed:

- a new career ladder for teachers be put into place,
- mentoring of new teachers by master teachers be funded,
- peer reviews be performed by master teachers who have no conflicts of interest

Funding proposals were delivered by the Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance:

- Initiative 728 that proposed construction of additional school facilities, reducing school class size, expansion of learning programs and teacher training be implemented,
- Initiative732 providing cost-of-living increased to educators be implemented but not as a basic education requirement,
- all school districts be required to use a new common fiscal accounting and budgeting system,
- local school levies remain a part of the way Washington funds public education beyond the basics

SEATTLE’S “SOUNDERS FC” BECOMES A HUGE SUCCESS

Seattle Major League Soccer (MSL) franchise sold all 22,000 season ticket packages in the first year giving the team the most season ticket holders in the MSL

Sounders FC played their first home match to a sold-out crowd -- March 19, 2002

32, 523 fans watched their team defeat the New York Red Bulls 3-0
Seattle was the first MLS team to win its first three matches -- without giving up a point
Sounders sold out every home game during its first season and set a new MLS records
for average match attendance and the most season tickets sold in the league
66,848 fans attended a friendly match with Barcelona, Spain [August 5, 2009]
this was a state record for soccer attendance
but this record was later broken when 67,052 attended
as Seattle hosted England's Manchester United
Sounders FC became only the second MLS expansion team in league history
to win the U.S. Open Cup tournament in its first season
as they defeated D.C. United 2-1 on the road in Washington, D.C.
(they became the first team in almost three decades to repeat as U.S. Open Cup champion
they did it in front of the largest crowd to ever witness an Open Cup Final
in the history of the 97-year-old tournament [201])

MASSIVE EDUCATION REFORM LAW PASSES THE LEGISLATURE

As a result of the report of the Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance
legislators passed ESHB (Engrossed Substitute House Bill) 2261-- signed into law -- May 19, 2009
that redefined the state's *Program of Basic Education* and the funding amounts and methods
needed to fully support it

ESHB 2261 changed the State's basic education laws:

- it included enhancements to Washington State's education system:
 - increased instructional hours;
 - increased high school diploma requirements;
 - developed a new transportation funding formula;
 - added all-day kindergarten to Basic Education definition:
- in addition it required:
 - all school districts report allocated funds and expenditures on a prototype school model;
 - biannual review of the State of Washington's education system's capacity
by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction;
 - Basic Education definition would be periodically updated by a "*Quality Education Council*"

Governor Chris Gregoire vetoed out two portions of the bill passed by the legislature:

- designation of Early Learning for disadvantaged students three- and four-year-old children
as a basic education retirement for state funding;

- develop of a “highly capable student” safety net structure as a “Basic Education” requirement

Full implementation of ESHB 2261 was delayed until [2018]

LACK OF FUNDING RESULTS IN A CHANGE TO WASL TESTING

State legislators passed House Bill 2261, an education reform bill

but two major problems were identified regarding the legislation:

it delayed actual funding of education reform for at least nine years [until 2018]

it eliminated the [1977] Basic Education Act establishing minimum teacher-student ratios
(fifty certified teachers per one thousand students)

new minimum standards to be funded by the state were only vaguely outlined
and thus adjustable by future legislatures

House Bill 2261 cut over one billion dollars in public school funding

after a partial veto removing early learning programs for three and four-year olds
and funding programs for highly capable students from Basic Education

Governor Chris Gregoire signed the bill into law -- May 19, 2009

Because of announced cutbacks in school funds ninth graders

were not be allowed to take any portion of the high school WASL -- 2009

LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS SUFFER A FINANCIAL CRISIS

Teachers around the state were angry over a decision by Governor Gary Locke and the Legislature
not to fully fund Initiative 732 which guaranteed cost-of-living pay adjustments
until the economy improved -- 2009

Faced with a continuing deep economic recession and a drop in state revenues,

legislators again cut school district budgets resulting in employee layoffs across the state

many teachers were hired back but non-certified service employees were greatly impacted
as hours and jobs were slashed

KENT SCHOOL EMPLOYEES GO ON STRIKE

Negotiations between teachers and the Kent School District began [April 2008]

discussions regarding compensation, workload and work-schedule issues stalled

amid a statewide financial crisis that forced school districts across Washington to cut budgets

Kent School District officials declared they had reached an impasse

this is the first step toward calling for mediated talks

talks with the help of a mediator broke down and a second round of mediation was attempted

Kent's 1,700-member union scheduled a strike vote if no agreement was reached
More than 1,500 (86%) of the district's 1,700 teachers
voted to go on strike beginning August 27, 2009
class size and time with students were the central issues under dispute rather than salary
district officials said there was not enough money to reduce class size
School District officials filed for a court injunction to force the teachers back to the classroom
negotiations between the school district and its staff continued during the strike
King County Superior Court Judge Andrea Darvas ruled the strike illegal -- Tuesday September 1
Judge Darvas urged both sides to bargain over the weekend
and ordered teachers to return to their classrooms September 8
many Kent teachers expressed concerns about defying the court order
they could face fines or even be arrested for disobeying the order
at a general membership meeting, Kent teachers voted to defy the court order
and remain on strike with 74% approval -- September 7, Labor Day
Judge Darvas imposed a \$200 a day fine on teachers who did not report to work -- September 11
Kent Education Association also faced a \$1,500 a day fine if the strike continued
all fines were to be retroactive to [September 8] the day Darvas ordered the schools opened
Teacher negotiators responded with a proposal to the school district
that was \$200,000 less than the district proposal of \$10.500 provided the district lower class size
Kent School District superintendent stated the district respected and valued its teachers
but was constrained financially and could not meet the class size demand
Negotiations continued and a tentative agreement on a two-year contract
was announced on the seventeenth day of the strike -- September 17, 2009
class loads were capped at twenty-nine in grades K-3; thirty-two in grades 4-6
in the expired contracts these caps had been thirty-one and thirty-four respectively
however, grades 7-12 had no class load cap which angered some secondary teachers
in addition, after school meetings were limited to no more than eight a month

SCHOOL EMPLOYEE STRIKES IN WASHINGTON STATE REFLECT STAFF FRUSTRATION

There had been about ninety school employee strikes in Washington since the early [1970s]
but the two most recent strikes, in Bellevue [2008] and Kent, 2009, focused public attention
on teachers' professional concerns such as the negative effect on students of school funding,
educational reform, testing changes in curriculum and class size
these became central in the collective bargaining of new contracts with school districts

part of the frustration faced by professional educators was the realization the local schools districts were virtually powerless to address these concerns without adequate funding from the state

EDUCATION ACTIVISTS SUE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Two Washington families and the Network for Excellence in Washington (NEWS)

(a statewide coalition of 430 community groups, school districts and education associations)

file suit in superior court to establish that Washington was in violation of its constitution [2007]

ARTICLE IX EDUCATION SECTION 1 PREAMBLE. It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders, without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex.

this became known as the McCleary Case -- *McCleary v. State of Washington*

McCleary trial was held in King County Superior Court Judge John Erlick's courtroom associations for thirty-five days -- August 31-October 21, 2009

during the trial, the State cross-examined many of the education witnesses

asking if they would fund education at the expense of other worthy state services

such as health care, nutrition services and transportation needs

Judge Erlick ruled the witnesses, and even the Legislature, could not make that decision that decision had been mandated by the State Constitution

JUDGE JOHN ERLICK DELIVERED HIS VERDICT IN THE McCLEARY CASE

Judge Erlick delivered his final ruling in *McCleary v State of Washington* -- February 4, 2010

virtually every point had been proven by McCleary and the others as the court declared that

Washington State was in violation of its constitutional mandate:

- Funding for basic education is inadequate and undependable:

the Court noted **“ample” funding means “considerably more than just adequate,”**

and funding must be accomplished through **“dependable and regular tax sources”**

- Local governments bear too much responsibility:

Washington's reliance on local property taxes to support basic education,

instead of broader, statewide taxes, **“fails to provide the ‘ample’ funding”**

required by the Constitution

- Recently-enacted reforms show promise

legislators had recently enacted two laws, House Bills 2261 and 2776,

“which if fully funded, will remedy deficiencies in the K-12 funding system.”

King County Superior Court Judge John Erlick ruled the Constitutional mandate is the responsibility

of the State Legislature and directed the State:

- to determine the cost of amply providing for basic education for all children in the state;
- to comply with the Constitutional mandate to provide stable and dependable funding for the cost of that education

Judge Erlick's decision was appealed to the State Supreme Court

WASL TESTING IS ELIMINATED IN WASHINGTON STATE

To address concerns that only mathematics, science, reading and writing were being assessed and were therefore stressed in the curriculum to the detriment of other subjects,

classroom based assessments known as "authentic assessment" were piloted by the state students no longer were required to take the WASL starting in 2010

Fifth Graders became the group to be tested

they are asked to sight sing from sheet music while being videotaped

they are also expected to compose on demand a theme using blank staff paper and perform it on an instrument

they must interpret a piece of visual art by creating and performing an original dance

the student has twenty minutes to create and rehearse their dance,

and must describe two ideas, images, or feelings and explain why he or she chose that movement or movement phrase

dances must perform in bare feet or appropriate dancing shoes

they also are required to assess their social studies achievements

students break into five different groups such as tobacco growers and producers

"Should Representative Smith vote for a bill that does not allow smoking in public places"

could be a question placed before the groups

different groups try to persuade Smith to vote their way

Smith then votes and the group work is completed

finally, the fifth graders are asked write up a four or five paragraph persuasive essay

giving their own opinion of whether or not they liked Representative Smith's choice

other Arts assessments might include theatre and the visual arts

WASHINGTON CLOSES THE McNEIL ISLAND CORRECTIONAL CENTER

Washington Governor Christine Gregoire decided to close the McNeil Island Correctional Center

cutting approximately \$8.6 million per year from the Washington state budget -- December 2010

however, the Department of Social and Health Services continued to operate

the Special Commitment Center, which housed some 300 residents, in the middle of the island²⁷
most inmates and staff members were transferred to other correctional facilities
leaving a handful of personnel and trustees behind for decommissioning

GREEN RIVER KILLER'S VICTIM NUMBER FORTY IS DISCOVERED

Rebecca Marrero, age twenty, disappeared from Pacific Highway South [December 3, 1982]
she was found near Mountain View Cemetery -- December 20, 2010
twenty-eight years after she went missing
Gary Ridgway was charged with her death [February, 2011]

McNEIL ISLAND SPECIAL COMMITMENT CENTER CLOSES

McNeil Island, the oldest prison facility in the Pacific Northwest,
officially closed its doors for the last time -- April 1, 2011
it had been in operation for 136 years
and was the last remaining island-based penitentiary in the nation

STATE LEGISLATORS AGAIN FACE A BUDGET CRISIS

Realities of difficult economic times for the state
and the demands of the McCleary case to fund education presented a crisis to the legislature
budget cuts of \$4 billion were proposed in the House of Representatives and the Senate
in an effort to bridge an anticipated \$5.3 billion shortfall
Two Initiatives to increase school funding had been passed by the state's voters [November 2000]:

- Initiative 728 proposed construction of additional school facilities, a reduction of class size, expansion for learning programs and teacher training to be funded by existing property taxes state budget reserves and lottery proceeds
- Initiative 732 demanded an annual cost-of-living salary adjustment be granted to public school teachers and district employees and community and technical college employees

these two measures had been repeatedly suspended during difficult fiscal times
House Bill 1131 to suspend initiatives I-728 and I-732 was introduced [January 13, 2011]
this Bill was brought to the House Floor
and passed by a vote of 71-25 with two excused [May 9]
State Senators took up the proposal [May 10]

²⁷ Daryl C. McClary, *McNeil Island Corrections Center, 1981-present*, Essay 5239, HistoryLink.org, April 24, 2003.

this Bill was brought to the Senate Floor [May 24]
and passed by a vote of 21-17 with five excused
Governor Chris Gregoire signed the Bill into law -- June 7, 2011

NEW STATE FUNDING FORMULA FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS GOES INTO EFFECT

Legislators had passed forty-nine different bills to reform education since [2008]
but did not fund even their own definition of “Basic Education”
State legislators had slashed more than \$800 million from the budgets
for K-12 school, pre-school and after-school programs since [2009]
teachers increasingly felt compelled to purchase supplies for their students and classrooms
using their own money without reimbursement
students from struggling homes sometimes were given money for lunch and school supplies’
Under the new funding structure for the state’s public schools which was effective September 1, 2011
general apportionment formula would follow the prototypical school model
prototypes illustrated a level of resources to operate a school of a particular size
with particular types and grade levels of students
allocations to school districts were based on actual “full-time equivalent” (FTE) students
enrolled in each grade in the district, adjusted for small schools
and reflecting other factors in the state’s biennial budget
Under Substitute House Bill 2776 the Legislature designed a funding formula
that allocated funding in three primary groups:
schools, district-wide support, and central administration
new prototypical model applies staff ratios and an assumed class size for each school type:
elementary, middle, and high school
each prototype has a theoretical number of students and designated levels of staffing
however, pay for teachers was cut by 1.9% but was left to local school districts to impose

TEACHERS IN TACOMA GO ON STRIKE

Teachers in Tacoma began the school year without a contract September 1, 2011
negotiations continued but as the issues of teacher pay, class size
and district policies regarding transferring of teachers to other schools remained unresolved
salary negotiations were very difficult as the state legislature in its state budget
had imposed a 1.9% pay cut for teachers but to local school districts who to impose the cuts
when no progress toward a new contract was made eighty-seven percent of the teachers

voted to strike the 28,000-student district -- September 12, 2011

Tacoma School District attorneys said public employees cannot strike in Washington they immediately sought a court injunction to force the 1,900 teachers back into their classrooms by filing a lawsuit that had been drawn up in advance

Superior Court Judge Bryan Chushcoff issued a temporary restraining order demanded teachers return to work and ordered both sides back to the negotiation table "as soon as practical" -- September 14

a hearing on a permanent injunction to the strike was scheduled for [September 27]

Tacoma teachers returned to the picket line in defiance of the court order -- September 15 negotiations with the assistance of a state mediator were begun but ended in to progress

Talks were begun again when Governor Chris Gregoire summoned both sides to her office for a last-ditch round of bargaining by school district and teacher association negotiators an agreement was reached: -- September 21

- it was agreed a joint panel of teacher and school officials would meet to set new teacher evaluation standards to be used in transferring teachers to other schools seniority (teaching experience) would be a factor to determine teaching reassignments;
- teachers dropped their demand for lower student-to-teacher ratio;
- district administrators dropped demands for a salary cut but teachers lost one day's pay;
- an amnesty clause guaranteed that union members' participation in the strike would not be a factor in staff performance evaluations

Fifty-seven schools in Tacoma resumed classes -- September 22, 2011

WASHINGTON STATE SUPREME COURT RULES ON SCHOOL FUNDING

Case of *McCleary v. State* had been decided in Superior Court Judge John Erlick's courtroom when the verdict was delivered the court had found state funding of the public schools was inadequate to meet the legislative definition of basic education [February 2010] that decision was appealed by the state directly to the State Supreme Court

After hearing the appeal the Supreme Court delivered a unanimous decision -- January 5, 2012 the decision of the court upheld the claims of the defendants who sued the state:

•Article IX, section 1 of the Washington State Constitution makes it the paramount duty of the State to amply provide for the education of all children within its borders;

•The legislature must develop a basic education program geared toward delivering the constitutionally required education, and it must fully fund that program through regular and dependable tax sources;

•The State has failed to meet its duty under article IX, section 1 by consistently providing school districts with a level of resources that falls short of the actual costs of the basic education program;

•the judiciary will retain jurisdiction over the case to help ensure progress in the State’s plan to fully implement education reforms by 2018;

•This court intends to remain vigilant in fulfilling the State’s constitutional responsibility under article IX, section 1

Washington State Supreme Court justices then noted **“What we have learned from experience is that this court cannot stand on the sidelines and hope the State meets its constitutional mandate to amply fund education. Article IX, section 1 is a mandate, not to a single branch of government, but to the entire state....”**

Legislators responded to the ruling by threatening to cut education spending even beyond the \$2.6 billion already cut in recent years
(but the budget they passed did not cut education for the first time in three years)

LEGISLATORS RESPOND THE RULING OF THE STATE SUPREME COURT

Legislators responded to the ruling by threatening to cut education spending even beyond the \$2.6 billion already cut in recent years -- 2012
but the budget they passed did not cut education for the first time in three years

LEGISLATORS ESTABLISHED THE WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL

Legislators created a cabinet-level state agency -- July 1, 2012
this agency was to provide strategic planning, oversight, and advocacy
to support increased student success and higher levels of educational attainment in Washington
Washington Student Achievement Council states as its goal:

“We advance educational opportunities and attainment in Washington. In pursuit of our mission, the Washington Student Achievement Council:

- Leads statewide strategic planning to improve educational coordination and transitions;
- Supports Washingtonians through the administration of financial aid, a college savings plan, and support services;
- Advocates for the economic, social, and civic benefits of postsecondary education”

STATE LEGISLATORS INCREASE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

Washington’s legislature increased funding for the public schools -- 2013-[2015]

enough to cover approximately 66.4% of the actual costs
leaving 33.6% of local school district budgets to be met from other sources
however, the State Supreme Court justices said legislators
were not moving toward full funding fast enough
the court ordered a complete funding plan be submitted to them by the end of April 1014
showing how they would meet the 2018 full funding deadline established by the court
legislators failed to meet the demand saying they could not come to an agreement on a plan

STATE SUPREME COURT FINDS THE LEGISLATURE IN CONTEMPT

Washington Supreme Court retained jurisdiction in the *McCleary v. Washington* School funding case brought to be court by families of students and a coalition that includes school districts, unions and other support groups

Washington Supreme Court justices required annual progress reports from the legislature that indicated what steps were implemented to meet the full funding requirements imposed by the Supreme Court

Legislators failed to provide the court

“a complete plan for fully implementing its program of basic education”

by the 2017-2018 school year

Washington State Supreme Court unanimously found the state legislature in contempt of court in the *McCleary v. State* school funding case

because the state was not meeting its **“paramount duty”** under the state constitution to amply fund public education -- September 11, 2014

“[C]ontempt is the means by which a court enforces compliance with its lawful orders when they are not followed’ read the five-page order signed by Chief Justice Barbara Madsen. ‘If the contempt is not purged by adjournment of the 2015 legislature, the court will reconvene and impose sanctions or other remedial measures’.”²⁸

however, the justices will wait to impose sanctions until after the 2015 legislative session to give the legislature time to **“purge the contempt”**

but it was noted in the order signed by Chief Justice Barbara Madsen: **“On the date following adjournment of the 2015 session, if the State has not complied with the court’s order, the State shall file in the court a memorandum explaining why sanctions or other remedial measures should not be imposed...”**

²⁸ Austin Jenkins, KPLU, *News for Seattle and the Northwest*, National Public Radio digital network.

this court ruling asserted that justices can punish the Legislature in the future
and would not hesitate to do so

Governor Jay Inslee called the Supreme Court's order an **“unprecedented action...in a critical moment in our history. No one should be surprised, yet no one should minimize the court's order. I urged lawmakers to act this year and agreed with the court that we must do more to adequately fund education, which I believe is both a constitutional and moral obligation. If we are to succeed now we will need the help of everyone in Washington state, not just 147 lawmakers, as we rise to the challenge to avoid the court's pending sanctions.”**²⁹

²⁹ *Seattle Times Politics Northwest, Supreme Court finds Legislature in contempt on education funding*, September 11, 2014.