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Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for February 10, 2022

Call to Action: SHB 1652

House Bill 1652 was amended in committee with the addition of some disclosure requirements for elected and appointed supervisors. The resulting legislation is Substitute House Bill 1652, abbreviated as SHB 1652.

As you recall, there was competing legislation with HB 1910, a bill requiring all conservation district elections to be conducted in November general elections. That legislation did not advance. The prime sponsor of that bill, Representative Gregerson, has filed an amendment for SHB 1652 which would strike everything currently in SHB 1652 and turn it into her legislation in HB 1910. This "striking amendment" would turn SHB 1652 on its head by requiring that all CD elections be conducted under Title 29A election laws.

Such an amendment discounts the important advances achieved by the Joint Committee on Elections and our entire community on the subject of conservation district elections. It takes a core principle that drives our conservation delivery system — locally-led conservation and the ability of communities to choose — and replaces it with a top-down, one-size-fits-all system that will irreparably harm conservation districts.

Today, we issue a call to action, **asking every member to contact their legislators in support of SHB 1652 without the Gregerson striker**. We need legislators to understand that forcing elections to be held on the November ballot will bankrupt conservation districts, reduce service, and result in the loss of many experienced board supervisors.

Amending SHB 1652 to be more like HB 1910 is a conservation district killer. We need your help now to stop this from happening. **Please contact your legislators immediately in support of SHB 1652 without [Representative Gregerson's striker](#).**

Dear weblinx,

As the impending spring season stirs thoughts of getting more work done outside, the Legislature has reached the halfway point in this short session.

The policy cutoff date for bills was last week and the fiscal cutoff was the beginning of this week. Bills that did not make it past those hurdles are effectively out of play for this session. As noted last week, there is an exception: if a bill is necessary to implement the state budget, then it can still be pushed through at a later date.

While WACD staff continue to monitor the progress of several bills, much more of our attention is now focusing on the supplemental budget.

1. Legislation: what is still alive after cutoff?

During the Legislative session, proposals must reach specific checkmarks at certain times in order to continue along the process to becoming a law. We have now hurdled two benchmarks. Bills with policy or fiscal implications are out of committee and will be considered by the full House or Senate. Read [Legislation Still Active after Cutoff](#) for the list of watched bills that are still in play.

2. We want your comments on the CD elections bill

WACD is seeking input from its member districts on the committee amendments made to SHB 1652. This is WACD's priority legislation for this session, with the goal of the Legislature adopting the recommendations from the Joint Committee on Elections. We've heard from a few districts that they still support the bill with the committee's amendments, but want to make sure we're reflecting the will of our entire community. Read [WACD Seeks Comments on CD Elections Bill](#) for more information.

3. Call for Harmful Algae Bloom Task Force Volunteers

WACD is responding to a resolution adopted at the 2021 Annual Business Meeting to form a temporary group dedicated to assessing the emerging issue of harmful algae blooms. President Mumford has called for interested CDs and partners willing to participate in this workgroup by March 4th. Visit our [WACD Hub post on the harmful algal bloom group](#) to learn more about the group, its mandate, the timeline, and who to contact if you're interested,

4. Plant Materials Center

Sales are unprecedented! Some of the drivers for this year's demand probably include making up for planting projects postponed last year due to COVID, an increase in the number and scale of conservation projects, fire recovery, increased reforestation, more landowners increasing the quantity and diversity of native plants on their property among other things. Read more and see the latest photos in the [PMC Update for February 10, 2022](#).

5. WACD Board meeting February 21

The WACD Board of Directors will hold a regular business meeting on Monday, February 21 at 6:00 pm. This meeting will be virtual and the Zoom link will be posted on the Board Meetings page at <https://wadistricts.org/board-of-directors>.

Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Newaukum Handcrew Superintendent, Wildland Fire Operations Technician 3 - DNR](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: February 10, 2021](#)
- [Technical Systems Manager - Snohomish CD](#)
- [Finance and Operations Assistant - Snohomish CD](#)
- [Education and Outreach Program Manager - Snohomish CD](#)
- [Assistant Fire Management Officer, Wildland Fire Operations Technician 3 - DNR](#)

- [Farm Pads Prove Worth in Protecting Livestock in First Big Test Since 2007 Flood | The Daily Chronicle](#)
- [WACD Seeks Comments on CD Elections Bill](#)
- [Legislation Still Active after Cutoff](#)
- [Week 4 General Legislative Review](#)

See the full list of Recent Posts at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/posts/>. Also see the articles WACD staff are reading at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/resources/wacd-reading-list/>.

From your Executive Director

Planting seeds and killing weeds

We all know that to grow many desirable crops, we have to plant seeds. We prep the field, maybe check the soil to see what amendments are needed, then carefully time the planting. As plants grow, we also know we need to reduce competition for light, water, and nutrients by suppressing weeds.

Those same concepts also work when it comes to legislation. People in our community did good work planting seeds through their work on the Joint Committee on Elections. Subsequent work with legislators resulted in House Bill 1652 that supports the Committee's recommendations.

We now hear that some weed seeds are going to be planted into the elections bill. I'm talking about a striker filed by Representative Gregerson that, more or less, converts SHB 1652 into HB 1910, a bill she sponsored that didn't make it out of committee.

Gregerson's amendment removes choice by conservation districts. It would mandate that all conservation district supervisors be elected under Title 29A general election processes. And it leaves conservation districts footing the bill. In a bid to create more inclusion and equity, the amendment would be incredibly inequitable to the majority of our conservation districts. They would not be able to pay for their elections without harming their ability to serve their community. This amendment effectively guts the good work of our community, flips the entire intent of HB 1652, and harms conservation districts.

This is one of those rare "all call" moments when we need every person in our community to contact their legislators to help stomp down some weeds. We believe in the locally-led process. You believe it, too. Now is the time to take action on the basis of that belief by contacting your legislators today and expressing your strong support for HB 1652 because it respects choice in each community served by conservation districts. WACD supports HB 1652 without Representative Gregerson's striker.

Weekly quotation

In the context of this week's themes, perhaps one of these quotes will find a home with you.

"Cooperation is the thorough conviction that nobody can get there unless everybody gets there." – Virginia Burden

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." – Henry Ford

Yours in conservation,

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Partners are important!

Find our list of partners at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/wacd/partners-sponsors/partners/>.

- [Friends of NACD](#) – Your contributions provide funding for technical assistance grants to conservation districts.
- [Washington Conservation Society](#) – WCS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization so your contributions are tax-deductible. If you make purchases through Amazon Smile, a portion of your purchases goes to WCS in support of their programs and initiatives.

We appreciate our great sponsors

Many thanks to our generous sponsors for helping us support Washington State's conservation districts. We will be updating our sponsor list in December! Until then, find sponsors on the Conference page: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2021meetings/conference/#sponsors>



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