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# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

## WACD Week 6 Legislative Update

**February 09, 2026**

Welcome to the fifth week of the legislative session and the upcoming WACD Legislative Day. We look forward to seeing many people in Olympia on Tuesday. On the WACD Hub you will be [tomorrow's schedule](#) and campus information. As well as potential [Legislative Handouts](#) for use by member-districts.

Amidst the constant changes, we hope we are keeping our membership informed of the latest happenings in Olympia between the [WACD bill tracker](#), these newsletters, and our [Legislative Lunches](#). We hope these emails will be of use and benefit to our members. If there are additional ways WACD can be of service to our membership during session, or want to ask about anything you see in one of these newsletters, all you have to do is pick up the phone or write to [Tom](#), [Heather](#), or [Ryan](#).

### 1. CD Elections Bill

The CD election bill was heard in the House Appropriations Committee on Friday, February 6th. If you didn't watch the bill hearing on HB 2499, we have clipped [the segment](#) out of the 6 hour hearing. Thank you for those who spent hours waiting to give 60 seconds of testimony. And the many more of you who signed in with a legislative position or sent emails to legislators.

On Saturday, the bill was removed from Monday's schedule for a possible executive session. When the Appropriations Committee started its Monday, February 9th meeting, it was **NOT** added back onto the books for a potential vote. While it will not be official until the Committee adjourns at the end of the day, it appears HB 2499 will not be

moving forward this session.

## 2. What is the Rules Committee?

Starting tomorrow, the House and the Senate will each be voting as a full body on bills from different committee. In fact, only one committee will be meeting at all - the Rules Committee. This committee is different than any other committee, there is no opportunity to comment by the public and no testimony is offered in their meetings.

The Rules Committee is primarily a tool of the leadership, allowing them to exercise control over what bills do, and do not, get voted on. Bills have to be "pulled" from the Rules Committee to be considered for a vote by the full legislative body, and each Representative or Senator on the Rules Committee will be assigned a certain number of "pulls" each time the committee meetings. Some bills will be approved by a policy committee, and a fiscal committee, only to die in the Rules Committee.

## 3. Defunct Bill Tracker

The first big cut-off occurred on Wednesday, February 4th when bills were due out of their policy committee. 91 bills on [WACD's bill tracker](#) did not get a vote and were moved to the [defunct bill tracker](#). Today will see another chunk of bills be set aside, as bills must be approved by any fiscal committee before the end of Monday, February 9th. Here are some of the big ticket items that are now left behind for the remainder of session:

- [HB 2154](#) - Concerning land ownership by conservation districts.
- [HB 2620](#) - Restoring collaboration in the forest practices rule-making process for the benefit of long-term protection of natural resources and the forest products industry.
- [SB 6104](#) - Protecting agriculture.

## 4. Fiscal Cut-off

Here's a few bills from the [WACD Bill Tracker](#) who are **not** scheduled for a vote before Monday's fiscal cut-off:

- [HB 1048](#) - Concerning a rangeland fire protection association pilot project.
- [HB 2463](#) - Supporting Washington farmers feeding families.
- [SB 5474](#) - Expanding opportunities for organic, regenerative, climate-smart, and sustainable producers.

- [SB 5491](#) - Establishing a prescribed fire claims fund pilot program.

## 5. Lobbyist Update

One service our lobbyist Brynn Brady provides is coverage of the legislative highlights and trends from the week. From the fourth week of the legislative session Brynn writes in-depth on the bill hearing on the proposed "Millionaire's Tax". Check out her write-up on the [WACD HUB](#).



"Winter Raspberries" courtesy of [WSCC's Flickr account](#), as a treat for those who reached the bottom of the page.

Taken by Alexi Guddal, Whatcom Conservation District



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