

## PROPOSED RESOLUTION 1

### DEFEND WASHINGTON CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, I-2109, I-2117, and I-2124 are three initiatives being pushed by hedge fund millionaire Brian Heywood and MAGA Republican Party Chair Jim Walsh, are backed by WA Bankers Association, BIAW, WA Retail Association, billionaire Ken Fischer, mega-developer Kemper Freeman, and other multi-millionaire wealth fund managers, and are specifically attacking labor unions; and,

WHEREAS, it is a core labor value to defend Washington from regressive attacks on critical public programs that address urgent issue areas, such as climate change, early childhood and public education funding, accessible long term care benefits for all people, and funding for a permanent and ongoing cost of living adjustment for PERS/TRS 1 Plan retirees; and,

WHEREAS, defeating all three ballot initiatives on the November ballot will deliver a strong message that our democracy and core public services cannot be taken away by one individual hedge fund multi-millionaire who has spent \$6M to slash these critical policies; and,

WHEREAS, the damage to the state budget as a result of passage of these ballot initiatives will negatively impact the quality of life for all citizens of our state.

1 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the RPEC Executive Board support moving this  
2 resolution to the RPEC Convention of 2024; and,

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that RPEC Convention delegates endorse the Defend  
5 Washington campaign to support No on I-2109, No on I-2124, and No on I-2117  
6 campaigns.

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9 Submitted by Chapter 10 on May 28, 2024

10 Robert Devlin, President

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12 Committee Assignment: **Legislative Committee**

13 Committee Recommendation:

14 Convention Action:  
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## PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2

### IMPLEMENTATION OF A RECURRING PLAN 1 COLA

WHEREAS, the Legislature granted a Plan 1 COLA which provided an annual, automatic increase from 1995 through 2010; and,

WHEREAS, the Legislature created a specific fund (UAAL\*) to boost the Plan 1 pension fund due to payouts exceeding funding sources. The 2007-2009 recession resulted in a significant reduction in employer contributions which, in turn, created an ever-increasing UAAL imbalance issue over the ensuing years. Thus, legislators are reluctant to approve a recurring Plan 1 COLA until the UAAL is at or near zero imbalance; and,

WHEREAS, the Legislature, citing UAAL funding concerns, terminated the UCOLA in 2011. From 2011 through 2017, there were no one-time COLAs. During this same period, inflation increased over 15% negatively impacting Plan 1 annuitants; and,

WHEREAS, five one-time Plan 1 COLAs were approved between 2018 and 2024 amounting to 13½%. However, inflation during that same time period exceeded 25%. This difference further decreased Plan 1 annuitants purchasing power necessary to meet daily financial needs; and,

1 WHEREAS, with the average age pf PERS 1 annuitants of 79, and TRS 1 of 80, and  
2 with a projected annual 3.5%-4% decline in annuitants receiving pension  
3 benefits, annuitants and beneficiaries will undergo the same, or worse, financial  
4 challenges if there are only continued unpredictable, periodic one-time COLAs;  
5 and,

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7 WHEREAS, RPEC, along with affiliated organizations, recognizing this financial  
8 impact on Plan 1 annuitants, communicated through written and verbal means  
9 to the SCPP\* the negative financial impact with but five one-time Plan 1 COLAs  
10 since 2010. While helpful, and appreciated, continued periodic one-time COLAs  
11 are insufficient for annuitants to meet increasing daily costs. Such effort resulted  
12 in the 2023 passage of HB 5350 and ESSB 5294, creating a pathway for the SCPP  
13 to specifically develop implantation and funding options for a Plan 1 recurring  
14 COLA during the biennium.

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16 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that RPEC, and affiliated organizations, continue  
17 outreach to the SCPP which results in an acceptable approach in 2024 to  
18 implement and fund a Plan 1 recurring COLA no later that July 1, 2025 (FY 2026),  
19 consistent with PERS 2/3 and incorporates banking with no cap.

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21  
22 Submitted by Chapter 46 on June 24, 2024

23 Warren Warfield, President  
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Committee Assignment: **Legislative Committee**

Committee Recommendation:

Convention Action:

\*UAAL: Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability. The difference between the value of the assets (funds) in various pension funds compared to distribution of those funds to pay benefits to annuitants. The goal is to have the UAAL near or at zero imbalance providing adequate assets to pay for a recurring COLA.

\*SCPP: Select Committee on Pension Policy. A joint legislative committee whose mission is to study and provide recommendations to the Legislature on state's pension plans.

**CONCERNING THE FUNDING OF THE PURCHASE OF COMPUTERS AND  
AUDIO/VISUAL EQUIPMENT**

WHEREAS, the Council's recently adopted Strategic Plan urges chapters to enhance chapter meeting attendance, whether in person or remotely.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that both RPEC Olympia and individual chapters develop plans to purchase and then to provide each chapter with computer equipment and audio/visual equipment in order to create and improve the communications of chapters with each other, the Olympia office, and to provide members of each chapter with remote attendance ability and training in computer facility and with the training to use their own equipment to provide a high level of information and understanding of issues pertaining to their well-being.

Submitted by Chapter 8 on July 24, 2024

John Smith, President

Committee Assignment: **Resolutions Committee**

Committee Recommendation:

Convention Action:

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WHEREAS, the retention of large surpluses of funds by unions has, in many instances, created problems for those unions.

Submitted by Chapter 8 on July 24, 2024

John Smith, President

Committee Recommendation:

Convention Action:



1 **PROPOSED RESOLUTION 5**

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3 **CONCERNING RPEC STAFFING**

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5 WHEREAS, the main focus of RPEC concerns legislation by the Washington State  
6 Legislature; and,

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8 WHEREAS, the senators' and representatives' concerns and understandings  
9 about retirees and unions is critical to the disposition of legislation and whether  
10 such legislation is favorable or detrimental to RPEC's and other retirees' interests  
11 and the well-being of unions; and,

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13 WHEREAS, in recent years, RPEC's legislative successes have revolved around  
14 and benefitted from close contact with legislators and their understanding of  
15 the needs of RPEC members.

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17 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that RPEC fill the vacated position of Governmental  
18 Affairs Coordinator as soon as possible with a full-time staff member.

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21 Submitted by Chapter 8 on July 24, 2024

22 John Smith, President

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Committee Assignment: **Resolutions Committee**

Committee Recommendation:

Convention Action:

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WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 2 of the RPEC Constitution states "...the executive board shall implement policies and programs determined by convention"; and,

WHEREAS, this process exists to insure RPEC stays a member-driven organization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the presentation will explain the procedure and format for amendments and resolutions. The committee may devise forms to be used as guidelines for chapter resolutions. District convention meetings may be in person or Zoom.

John Smith, President

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Committee Assignment: **Resolutions Committee**

Committee Recommendation:

Convention Action:

## PROPOSED RESOLUTION 7

### RPEC MEETINGS AND MEMBER PARTICIPATION

WHEREAS, the lifeblood of organizations such as RPEC is member activism; and,

WHEREAS, regular conventions, meetings, events, conferences, and/or trainings help maintain that member activism; and,

WHEREAS, these member group activities have historically been conducted on an in-person basis until the advent of Zoom and the COVID pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, the participation of membership through the application of Zoom is restricted to the capabilities of the program and which version its hosts are willing to purchase; and,

WHEREAS, the recent RPEC/WEA Legislative Training and Lobby Day help via Zoom fell short of the membership's expectations for training, discussion priorities, communication paths, and interaction with other members; and,

WHEREAS, these membership expectations were built on in-person events.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that RPEC's first priority for group gatherings of its membership be for in-person attendance.

Submitted by Chapter 13 on August 8, 2024

Sharon Etheridge, Secretary

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***Note: This resolution was previously submitted to the Executive Board for consideration at the February 26, 2024 meeting. The Executive Board voted to Not Concur with this resolution.***

Committee Assignment: **Resolutions Committee**

Committee Recommendation:

Convention Action:

## PROPOSED RESOLUTION 8

### **DIRECTING THE WASHINGTON STATE INVESTMENT BOARD TO PROTECT OUR PENSIONS FROM CLIMATE RISKS**

WHEREAS, climate change poses an urgent and direct physical threat to the ecosystems and economy of Washington State; and,

WHEREAS, investments managed by the Washington State Investment Board (WSIB) on behalf of public retirement plan beneficiaries and public trust stakeholders enrich some corporations whose actions increase the global trajectory of greenhouse gas emissions; and,

WHEREAS, the WSIB has large investments in fossil fuel corporations in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, by actively exercising its influence on those corporations through proxy votes on shareholder resolutions and director appointments, the WSIB can protect its stakeholders from climate-related financial risks; and,

WHEREAS, the need for the WSIB to take further and consistent action to reduce climate-related future risks has been recognized by the WSIB itself, as well as organizations including 350 Washington, WFSE Local 1495, the Union of Concerned Scientists, Third Act Puget Sound, Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action, and Public Citizen.

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2 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that RPEC call for the WSIB to strengthen its proxy  
3 voting guidelines for shareholder resolutions and corporate directors and its  
4 private equity investment strategies to align with the 1.5 degrees Celsius global  
5 warming pathway of the Paris Climate Agreement; and,

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that RPEC call for WSIB to encourage major proxy  
8 advisors and its own contracted asset managers to align their recommendations  
9 with WSIB's strengthened proxy voting climate guidelines; and,

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that RPEC call for the WSIB to minimize its exposure to  
12 climate related financial liability by divesting its portfolio entirely from fossil fuels  
13 or, at a minimum, joining other institutional investors such as CalPERS in  
14 committing to reducing the emissions footprint of their portfolio by at least 40%  
15 by 2030.

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18 Submitted by Chapter 3 on August 9, 2024

19 Matt Groshong, President  
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21 Committee Assignment: **Resolutions Committee**

22 Committee Recommendation:

23 Convention Action:  
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