

# 2026 NEA RA Delegate Elections

## CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

CANDIDATE NAME	CANDIDATE STATEMENT
Alaina McCallum	<p>As a delegate at the WEA and NEA Representative Assembly, I will use the opportunity to connect with fellow educators across the state and country and learn from their experiences and organizing and bring it back to Seattle.</p> <p>Last year, I had the privilege of representing SEA at the NEA Representative Assembly (RA). I learned a lot and took detailed notes. I look forward to being able to continue that learning and being able to share it back with my fellow SEA members.</p>
Alison Underdahl	<p>I would like to like to represent you at the WEA and NEA. If elected I will vote to strengthen our schools, protect vulnerable communities and fight the continued attacks on public education. I have served as representative in the past and look forward to participating in the power of our union.</p>
Ashley Myers	<p>I'm Ashley Myers, a Career and Technical Educator, teaching in Seattle Public Schools since 2012. I am currently serving as SEA Treasurer. I have previously served as an Association Representative at each of my worksites, as well as on the Board of Directors as a High School representative. I attended our state and national RAs for the last two years where I have learned how our union work beyond our local impacts our working and learning conditions. I am seeking your vote to continue to serve as a delegate at the WEA and NEA representative assemblies in 2026.</p>
Char Dhoot	<p>I am SAEOP AR at JSCEE and WEA board member. I would love the opportunity once again to bring our collective voice to WEA and NEA Rep Assembly where decision are made to shape our schools and students future.</p>

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Connor Lee	With our union, communities, and education system under attack, we must continue to stand up and fight back. Within SEA I do this on our Board of Directors, Grievance Review Commission, and Bylaws Committee. In preparation for the annual WEA/NEA RAs, throughout the year I caucus with other WEA/NEA delegates from across the state and nation to advocate for democratic unionism, civil rights, fully funding education, and freedom to teach truth. Please allow me to continue this work defending our collective rights and upholding shared values underpinning public education with your vote to be your WEA & NEA Delegate.
Davina Diaz	Greetings & Hafa Adai valued members of SEA, I am your current Vice President and would be honored to be a part of our WEA & NEA Delegation. I have 15+ years experience in SPED classrooms around the district, as a proud SPED Instructional Assistant & ESP. As a delegate of Seattle EA, I deeply understand my role will be to represent ALL 5,500+ SEA member educators at the STATE & NATIONAL level.
DaZanne Porter	My name is DaZanne Porter and I would be honored to be your voice at the State and National Rep Assemblies. I speak up and speak out on issues affecting educators especially now as our jobs are becoming harder as we are expected to do more for less. As educators, we create tomorrow's leaders and we deserve much respect! We wear many hats, educators, mothers, fathers, counselors, social workers and advocates just to name a few and our voices must be in the forefront of educational decisions as we are the experts. Let me be your voice.
Elizabeth Ward-Robertson	SEA members I would appreciate your vote for me to return to the WEA & NEA Representative assembly. I believe in our Seattle educators, understand the challenges we have in our local and will vote for issues we value at our state meetings.

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Grace Kavanah	I am a Special Education teacher at Roosevelt High School, a lifelong activist, and a queer and inclusion advocate committed to empowering students and colleagues. I hold a Master of Education in Critical Educational Change and Leadership from the University of Washington, with a strong focus on centering BIPOC voices. I have worked in unionizing efforts across sectors, including higher education. As a WEA and NEA RA delegate, I will advocate for special education workload protections, racial and disability justice, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and democratic unionism that strengthens educators, students, and communities.
Heather Barker	I would be honored to serve as your delegate to the WEA and NEA Representative Assemblies. I have proudly served our union as a building rep, board member, past WEA and NEA delegate, as a member of the bargaining team. I believe deeply in our power to build a union that improves the lives of our members, our students and our communities. Together, we can strengthen our influence with Seattle Public Schools, advance progressive revenue in Washington State, and fight to protect our most vulnerable from dangerous Trump policies.
Ibijoke (Ibi) Idowu	I am passionate about education and union work . They truly go hand in hand. The more we know, the stronger we STAND. I would love to continue to represent SEA as a delegate and as your union sister . This is a big year for us, and we need people at the table who will stand up and speak both locally and nationally . You ALL are important to me , and representation matters .
Laura Grow, K-8 Physical Education Teacher	The NEA is where you can feel the pulse of education. It is a place to build coalitions; to learn and stand up for education, equity, dignity and democracy. It has been many years since I have attended but I am inspired to show up, speak up, and bring back energy and knowledge to our union and community.

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Lisa Roberson	Hello I'm Lisa Roberson I am running to become a WEA and NEA delegate. I want to be a voice for strong leadership and equity work. Your vote can help me do that. Thank you!
Malakia Vester	I would like to be involved in having a voice with the future of education and what is currently going in the US for our scholars.
Marla Rasmussen	Uplifting the needs of all educators has been my passion and work throughout my 30 years as an educator. If elected, I will continue to bring forward the needs of our members at the state and national level. Silence is agreement and I won't be silent.
Mary Vester	Please Vote for me. I would like for my voice to be a catalyst for the future of education. My name is Mary Vester, Please vote for me. Please accept my humble Thanks.
Mashala Hall	I am a Seattle native. I am a product of the community I work in and I have a sincere passion to give back. I am a proud Paraprofessional SEA Board member and Para Board member. I attend the women's ethnic minority leadership conferences, and the NEA conferences at every opportunity. I believe in the fight for our members rights and the success of our youth. I look forward to continuing this work and grow in my knowledge.
Matthew Legacki	I am a special education teacher who has been a strong union advocate for years. I'd be honored to keep doing so with your support.
Melissa Bedford	No candidate statement
Nigel Farr	No candidate statement
Omaretta Sharpley	I am a black woman who wants to make a positive impact for children in the future.
Otis Golden	No candidate statement

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Peter Henry	<p>I have worked within the SEA, the WEA and the NEA for several years to help raise the profile of substitute educators. I would like to continue this effort. We substitutes are fortunate in Seattle for our strong contract language, high pay and access to benefits, compared to other districts and other states. Through organizing, we can help substitutes in other areas build strength within the WEA and NEA. Please vote for me as a delegate to the WEA and NEA Representative Assemblies!</p>
Price Jimerson	<p>Hello! My name is Price Jimerson, I am a fifth-year teacher! I am not new to our union. I am a second-generation Union member. I am a current Association Rep at WSHS, a former member of our SEA/WEA Board of Directors, and throughout my time in college, I served as the President and VP of SWEA, our student equivalent of WEA. I am running to keep that going and support and serve our students the best way that I can! So please vote for me, Price Jimerson, to represent SEA on the State and National level!</p>
Shannon Ratner	<p>I am asking for your vote to be a WEA and NEA Delegate.</p> <p>I am a proud SEA member and have held several leadership positions within SEA. I am currently a SEA Board of Director and represent our middle schools. I am also on the SAEOP Board. I have also been on the bargaining teams.</p> <p>This will be my fourth time as a delegate and I am so proud to represent SEA on the state and national level. I take the responsibility of being a delegate seriously. Thank you for considering me.</p>
Shelby Jones	<p>My name is Shelby Jones. I look forward to learning how to empower more educators of color to use their voices. I want to listen and bring marginalized voices to the forefront of hard conversations. Thank you for your nomination, and an opportunity to bring your voice to the table</p>

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Sherrill Vaughan	As Black woman working in the union, I want to lift up marginalized voices of staff and students.
Stan Strasner	<p>Seattle students deserve better. But they are not alone. Public schools are under attack across the country. We must push back against hateful censorship and privatization.</p> <p>Trump and his racist, billionaire agenda is wreaking havoc around the world. We need to build a mass movement to fight back against war and deportations. We must be bold and loud. Let's fight for high quality public schools funded by taxing the rich. A better world is possible.</p>
Susan Talley	I would be honored to get your vote so that I can attend these conferences. I am excited to learn from other people who are in the same position as I am and who can support the efforts we are using in Seattle.
Vallerie Fisher	<p>Greetings, my fellow Union sisters, and brother's.</p> <p>I'm asking for your vote to be your voice, and representative at our annual state WEA, and national NEA RA..</p> <p>I'm aware of educators issues, and concerns, and not afraid to speak-up and ask the hard questions. It would be my honor to be your voice again.</p> <p>I ask for your VOTE!</p>

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Zander Huston	<p>The problems educators and students face in our schools are caused by an undemocratic political and economic system that prioritizes the profits of the rich over the needs of the working class. I support changing our unions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Become democratic institutions directly controlled by membership, including bargaining, contracts, and political endorsements.</li><li>- Coordinate across the entire working class, including in the fight for a political general strike on May Day 2028.</li></ul> <p>I am a high school paraprofessional and organize with the Seattle Caucus of Rank and File Educators and Democratic Socialists of America.</p>
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