

WA EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP COMMISSION

Members Bios



Senator Mike Padden

Senator Mike Padden, a resident of the Spokane Valley since 1978, represents the 4th Legislative District in the state Senate. Sen. Padden is the Republican leader of the Senate Law and Justice Committee. He also serves on the Senate Transportation Committee and the Senate Health and Long-Term Care Committee.

Sen. Padden was elected to the state House in 1980 and served as a citizen legislator for more than 14 years. He returned to the Legislature after his election to the Senate in 2011. During his legislative career, his many leadership roles have included House Majority Floor Leader and Chair of the Law and Justice Committee.

In March 1995 he was appointed Spokane County District Court judge and won three additional terms through countywide elections. His willingness to listen and work with both sides served him well; his fellow judges twice elected him to be the court's presiding judge, managing a budget of approximately \$7.8 million and a staff of 150 employees. He retired from that position in January 2007.

In 2008, he was appointed to serve on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) as the Judicial Outreach Liaison overseeing therapeutic traffic safety issues in five states — Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Alaska.

Sen. Padden was the prime sponsor of Senate Bill 5096, a bipartisan bill that was unanimously approved by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Inslee in 2023. SB 5096 aids businesses looking to adopt an employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) corporate structure. Much of SB 5096 went into effect in 2023, while Section 4 and Section 5 go into effect on July 1, 2024.

Sen. Padden is a graduate of Spokane's Gonzaga University and earned his law degree from the Gonzaga University School of Law in 1974. He is active in his church, having served the past six years on the parish council, and is a long-time member of the Knights of Columbus. Sen. Padden has also served as a state commissioner for American Legion Baseball and is past president of the Spokane chapter. He is also an active volunteer for the Spokane Valley Meals on Wheels program.



Senator Bob Hasegawa

Senator Bob Hasegawa is a lifelong resident of the 11th Legislative District. He grew up on Beacon Hill in Seattle and graduated from Cleveland High School. He has also lived in the Riverton Heights area of Tukwila and the Maplewood Heights area of Renton.

He is a longtime labor and social justice activist. He led many workers' struggles, winning top wages and benefits for working families and retirees, and has collaborated in many social justice struggles to protect and advance civil rights, democracy, the environment, and our constitutional rights.

For 32 years, Bob was a member of the Teamsters Union, where he rose through the ranks to become the elected leader of the largest Teamster trucking industry and general workers local union in the Pacific Northwest (Teamsters Local 174) for three terms (nine years) and was also a leader in Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU), a national Teamsters pro-union democracy reform movement. He continues to maintain his union membership in the IUOE as a journey-level operating engineer.

As a union/community organizer, Bob has long sought to build solidarity and bridges between social justice organizations, particularly those serving the labor, environmental, religious, and communities of color. He was a founding member and served on the local and national executive boards of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance-AFL-CIO (APALA), the ML King County Labor Council, Washington State Labor Council, and boards of other community-based organizations.

Bob is the Chair of the Senate Majority Caucus (Democratic). His Senate standing committee assignments are Rules; Ways & Means; State Government and Elections; and Business, Financial Services & Trade (vice chair).

Bob is also a member of several joint legislative committees: Legislative Committee on Economic Development and International Relations (LCEDIR); Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC); Joint Administrative Rules Review Committee (JARRC); Capital Projects Advisory Review Board (CPARB); the Washington-Hyogo Friendship Council; Senate Democratic Caucus' Delegate to the Pacific NW Economic Region (PNWER); Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight & Accountability Committee; Joint Legislative-Executive Overtime Oversight Task Force.

Bob believes in lifelong learning. After graduating high school, he went on to the University of Washington where he studied physics. He holds an AA degree in labor studies from Shoreline Community College, studied information technology at Seattle Central Community College, and is a seasoned professional commercial truck driver, certified transit operator, and journey-level operating engineer (heavy construction equipment operator). He later graduated from Antioch University Seattle with dual areas of concentration in labor relations and organizational and social change. Bob also holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the Dan Evans School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Washington.

Since he began representing the 11th Legislative District in 2005, first in the House of Representatives through 2012 and now in the Senate, Bob's priorities have always centered on serving as a voice for working families, small businesses, and disenfranchised communities, and fighting for economic and social justice.



Representative Suzanne Schmidt

Representative Suzanne Schmidt is serving her first term in the Legislature representing the 4th District which includes Spokane Valley, Liberty Lake, Millwood, and the communities of Colbert, Chattaroy, Green Bluff, and Newman Lake.

She grew up in Libby, Montana where her dad owned and operated a small business, and her mom was a school bus driver.

Suzanne put herself through college as a single mom to two boys. She worked as a park ranger at Libby Dam during college and after graduating accepted a permanent job with the Corps of Engineers at Libby Dam. After meeting her husband Dean, who was the Chief of Technical Engineering for the Seattle District Corps of Engineers, she moved to Spokane with her two sons, and in 1998, Dean and Suzanne welcomed their third son. They've lived in the same house in Spokane Valley for 25 years. Their children, and now grandchildren, have attended schools in the Central Valley School District.

Since 1999, Suzanne has represented Washington employers by providing workers' compensation claims management, Labor and Industries account management, safety consulting services, and compliance recommendations.

In 2016, Suzanne was appointed President/CEO of Associated Builders and Contractors Inland Pacific Chapter. In the last six years, she has worked closely with legislators, as well as city and county elected officials, to slow down or stop tax increases and regulations that impair economic growth.



Representative Beth Doglio

Representative Beth Doglio is currently serving her third term representing the 22nd Legislative District in Washington State and her first term as Chair of the House Environment & Energy Committee. She has worked at Climate Solutions for 16 years, a Northwest-based clean energy nonprofit. In addition, she served as the first Executive Director of Washington Conservation Voters and worked for Pro-Choice Washington, Audubon Washington, and Seattle Public Utilities. Currently, she manages a consulting business focused on climate, housing, and local projects. In the community, her volunteer work includes serving as the President of the Board of Directors for Quixote Community (a regional housing organization), and on the board of South Sound YMCA and PARC (Parks, Arts, Recreation, and Culture) Foundation. She has a degree from Indiana University in Political Science and Telecommunications. She lives in Olympia with her husband, Dr. Eddy Cates, and loves being in the wilderness, especially with her boys now 19 and 24.



Mike Seo

Mike Seo is currently living in Seattle. He currently works for Shared Capital Cooperative as a portfolio manager. Shared Capital is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that only invests in cooperatives in the U.S., of any kind, including worker-owned co-ops and Employee Ownership Trust. Before Shared Capital, Mike worked for Local Initiative Support Corporation, another CDFI, as a senior financial analyst. Also, he worked for SEIU775, a labor union for caregivers, in its collective bargaining team. In his free time, he is organizing a casual meet-up group for Seattle-based co-op practitioners.



Joel Williamson

Joel Williamson co-founded LINC Foods, a worker and farmer-owned cooperative food distributor and craft malthouse, followed by co-founding The Grain Shed, a worker and farmer-owned cooperative bakery and brewery. Born and raised in Spokane Washington, Joel grew up inside his family's rose-growing greenhouse business. After earning a BA in Theatre and an initial career as a lighting designer and stage electrician in Los Angeles, Joel moved back to Spokane to figure out the most effective way to democratize wealth and power in his community. Joel worked as a legislative aid to the Spokane City Council, a community organizer with the Spokane Alliance, and the first Executive Director of Project Hope Spokane, a non-profit organization providing job training and entrepreneurial experience to teenagers in Washington State's poorest census tract. In 2014, Joel earned his Master's in Business Administration from Pinchot University with an emphasis on Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Business Finance. Most recently Joel co-founded Spokane Workers Cooperative, a worker-owned holding company and cooperative development catalyst organization



Dr. Tamsin Foucrier

Dr. Tamsin Foucrier (she/her) is the director of The Evergreen State College's Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership and Transformational Change (CELTC). She holds a PhD in Sustainability from Arizona State University's School of Sustainability, where her dissertation explored innovative teaching and learning spaces in higher education for sustainability entrepreneurship. Her work focuses on alternative business models such as cooperatives and social purpose corporations, and the essential support structures needed to build resilient and sustainable local and regional economies. Dr. Foucrier has taught in university, community college, and college settings and is honored to be a part of The Evergreen State College community. She is deeply passionate about transforming the way we do business in our world today in ways that empower communities and improve the ecological systems upon which we depend. Dr. Foucrier believes that the next generation of sustainability entrepreneurs can transform the world and address the most pressing sustainability issues we face today through radical, innovative business models and processes, and systemic economic change.



John A. McNamara

John A., McNamara, serves as Co-Executive Director of the Northwest Cooperative Development Center. He began working with NWCDC in 2014 as a Co-op Development Specialist and was appointed to the Co-Executive role at the beginning of 2023. John heads up the Education and General Cooperative Development programs along with the communications and networking teams for NWCDC.

John has 26 years of practical experience in the worker cooperative world with Union Cab of Madison. John holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration and a Masters in Management: Cooperative and Credit Unions from Saint Mary's University (Halifax) and now teaches in the Master's program as part-time faculty. John participated in the development of the Co-op Index Tool and has taught at The Evergreen State College and Presidio Graduate School. He co-edited a collection of essays titled *Co-operatives for Sustainable Communities* (2015) with a chapter on Social Auditing and wrote a chapter on *Humanistic Governance in Democratic Organizations* (2022). John served on the Board of Directors for *CooperationWorks!*, is Chair of the *Union-Coops Council* of the US Federation of Worker Cooperatives, as well as on the boards of directors for Orca Books Cooperative and Blue Heron Community Cooperative (both worker-managed, multi-stakeholder cooperatives in Olympia).



Linda L. Womack,

Linda L Womack joined the newly formed Small Business Finance and Community Support department at Commerce in June of 2022. The department will run the SSBCI program and other grant programs to support the small business community. Prior to Commerce, she served as the Director of the (MBDA) Minority Business Development Agency – Washington Business Center operated by the City of Tacoma's Community and Economic Development Department, under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Commerce. As the MBDA director from 2016 - 2022, she has been responsible for targeting minority-owned enterprises with technical and strategic business consulting to increase their capacity to create and retain jobs. Under Womack's leadership, minority-owned businesses in the region secured over \$290 million in contracting and financing opportunities. The Washington Business Center was recognized by U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo as operating one of the best-performing business center in the country serving under-resourced business communities. Prior to her role as the business center director, Linda operated a boutique Korean interpretation/translation firm specializing in cultural brokering, business contracts, and medical interpretations. Prior to opening her firm in 2015, Womack spent 12 years in Asia working as a go-to-market and global marketing strategist with Samsung, AIG International, and the Korean Tourism Organization's international convention team to increase their presence and to attract foreign direct investments globally. Womack received her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Washington and holds an MBA from the Helsinki School of Economics (Aalto University School of Business).



Joey Nestegard

Joey Nestegard is the chief business officer and chief financial officer at Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. (SEL). He provides oversight, support, and strategic direction to various divisions, including the following teams: aviation, corporate communications, finance, government affairs, human resources, health and wellbeing, information services, manufacturing, legal and compliance, property management, security, supplier development, quality, and vertical integration.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in business administration with an accounting emphasis from Washington State University, followed by a Master of Business Administration with a financial management emphasis from the City University of Seattle. Joey worked as a senior financial analyst for Attachmate Corporation until 2002 when he joined SEL in a similar role. He has since held positions, including general ledger supervisor, finance manager, director of finance, and vice president of finance. In 2009, Joey was instrumental in the company's transition to a 100-percent employee-owned business model.

Joey is a member of numerous organizations, including The ESOP Association, the National Center for Employee Ownership (NCEO), and the Private Directors Association (PDA).

He serves as a member of the SEL board of directors, as an executive committee member for the board of the Employee-Owned S Corporations of America (ESCA), and on the Washington Employee Ownership Commission. In 2010, Joey completed the Utility Executive Course at the University of Idaho.



Philip J. Carstens

Philip J Carstens has more than 40 years of experience advising clients on a wide array of complex business matters including mergers, reorganizations, acquisitions, and other financial transactions.

Philip is recognized as one of the nation's most experienced attorneys in the design and implementation of employee stock ownership plans ("ESOPs") and other plans governed by ERISA. Philip was selected as a "Best Lawyer" in the Tax category in the 2010 *U.S. News & World Report* and has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Tax Law since 1997.

Education

LL.M., Taxation, New York University School of Law, 1974 J.D., University of San Francisco School of Law, 1973 B.A., Seattle University, 1970

Honors & Recognition

The Best Lawyers in America® Tax Law, 1997-present Best Lawyer – Tax, *U.S. News and World Reports*, 2010 Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Rating

Admissions

Washington, 1973

Idaho, 2003

Oregon, 2003