



# Sen. Karen Fraser

## 22nd Dist. - Thurston County

### Democratic Caucus Chair

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## Biography

### **State Senator – 22nd District**

Includes Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater, and northern Thurston County

Has served 23 years in the Senate, and is serving her 6th Senate term.

### **Previous elected service**

Washington State House of Representatives, 2 terms, 4 years

Thurston County Commissioner, 2 terms, 8 years

Mayor, City of Lacey, 5 years

City Council Member, City of Lacey, 7 ½ years, including 5 years as Mayor

President, Washington State Association of Counties



### **Senate responsibilities**

Senate Democratic Caucus Chair

Senate Accountability and Reform Committee, Ranking Member

Senate Natural Resources & Parks Committee, Member

Senate Rules Committee, Member

Joint Administrative Rules Review Committee, Member

Senate Facilities and Operations Committee, Member

Legislative Committee on Economic Development & International Relations, Member

Joint Committee on Employment Relations, Member

Legislative Oral History Committee, Member

**Other current leadership roles**

North Capitol Campus Heritage Park Statewide Advisory Board, Member  
 TVW, Member, Board of Directors  
 Humanities Washington, Member, Board of Trustees  
 Lacey Leadership Council, Member  
 National Council of State Legislatures, Law, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, Member  
 Council of State Governments – West, Executive Committee, Member  
 Washington Institute for Public Policy, Board Member and former Chair  
 Washington Women’s History Consortium Advisory Board, Member and Founder  
 Capital Campus Design Advisory Committee, Member  
 Technology Services Board, Member  
 Evans School of Public Policy and Governance Advisory Board, Member  
 William D. Ruckelshaus Center, Advisory Board Member

**Former Senate Committee memberships**

Senate Ways and Means Committee, Vice Chair and Capital Budget Chair  
 Senate Environment, Energy, Water, and Parks, former Chair  
 Senate Labor and Commerce, Financial Institutions and Housing, and Health Care, Member  
 Senate Energy, Natural Resources and Marine Waters Committee, Member  
 Joint Select Committee on Energy Supply & Energy Conservation

**Former governmental leadership roles**

Council of State Governments – West, River Governance Council, Member and former Co-Chair  
 Council of State Governments – West, Co-Chair of Canada Relations Committee  
 Nuclear Waste Roundtable of the National Council of State Legislatures, Member  
 Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Trade Policy, Vice Chair  
 Joint Select Committee on Junior Taxing Districts, Municipal Corporations, and Local Government Finance, Member  
 Council of State Governments-West, Representative on Two Panels at the 6th World Water Forum, France, 2012  
 Washington State Information Services Board, Member, 2005-2011  
 Governor’s Budget Transformation Task Force, Member, 2010  
 Joint Task Force on School Construction Finance, 2009  
 Washington State Convention & Trade Center Expansion Study Work Group, 2009  
 State Treasurer’s Advisory Committee on Alternative Capital Projects Funding, 2005  
 Joint Legislative Committee on Water Supply During Drought, 2005  
 Select Committee on Pension Policy, former Chair  
 Joint Legislative Committee on Energy Supply, former Chair  
 Washington-Hyogo Legislative Friendship Association, Founder  
 Puget Sound Council, Member  
 Washington State Parks Centennial Advisory Committee, Member  
 Council of State Governments – West committees on Natural Resources, Energy, and Water Policies  
 Council of State Governments, National, Environment Committee, Co-Chair  
 Asia and Pacific Parliamentarians’ Conference on Environment and Development, Executive Committee Member  
 Water Rights Disputes Task Force, Member, 2003-2005  
 Washington Combined Fund Drive Board, Member, 2001-2005  
 Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) Task Force, Member, 2003  
 Deaf Education Task Force, Member, 2003  
 Joint Task Force on Judicial and Administrative Alternatives for Resolving Water Disputes, Member, 2002  
 Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program (LEAP) Committee, 2001-2002  
 Water Storage Task Force, Member, 2000

Task Force on Energy Facility Siting Statutes, Member, 2000  
 Legislative Building Preservation and Renovation Commission, Member, 1999  
 North Puget Sound Oil Spill Risk Management Panel, Member, 1999  
 Committee on Natural Resources, Environment and Water, of the Western Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments, Chair, 1994-1996  
 Legislative International Caucus, Founder and former Chair  
 Washington State Association of Counties, President, 1987-88  
 Nisqually River Basin Task Force, Chair, 1986-88  
 Nisqually River Council, First Chair, 1987-88  
 State Capital Historical Association, Board of Trustees, Member  
 Joint Committee on Water Resource Policy, Chair, 1993  
 Constitutional Alternatives Commission, Member  
 Member of, and chair of many, city, county, and local intergovernmental boards and commissions while a city and county elected official

### **Private organizational roles**

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, Board Member, 1998-2005  
 Nisqually Land Trust, Founding Board Member, past  
 Environmental Fellow, Asia Foundation (worked with Thai Parliament), 1994  
 Women's Olympic Marathon Trials Association, Host Committee, Co-Chair, 1984  
 Olympic Trials Legacy Committee, Board Member, current  
 Tumwater Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, Vice President, Treasurer, 1980's  
 The Japan-America Society of the State of Washington, 1985-1988  
 Numerous organizational efforts to advance the status of women  
 Thurston County Democrats, varied roles over many years  
 Board member of several local non-profit organizations

### **Honors and recognition**

City of Tumwater, Public Service & Leadership Award, December 2016  
 City of Olympia Proclamation, Karen Fraser Day, Nov. 22, 2016  
 Black Alliance of Thurston County, Public Servant Award, November 2016  
 League of Women Voters Thurston County's Lifetime Citizenship Award, November 2016  
 City Legislative Champion from the Association of Washington Cities, July 2016  
 Certificate of Appreciation awarded to Senator Karen Fraser in recognition of 28 years in the Washington State Legislature and supporting the children of Washington State and K-12 Education, March 2016  
 India South Sound Association "Chief Guest" at their Diwali 2015 Festival of Lights  
 "Outstanding Woman Leader in Washington State" Award, Seattle Chapter of the Global Federation of Chinese Business Women, 2015  
 Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation, 2014  
 The Inaugural Washington Water Leadership Award, The Center for Environmental Law & Policy, 2014  
 Distinguished Leader Award, Leadership Thurston County and Thurston County Chamber Foundation, 2014  
 "Global Connect" Award, Olympia World Affairs Council, 2014  
 Appreciation Award from Governor of Hyogo Prefecture, Japan, for promoting international friendship and leadership, 2013  
 Luis Fernando Esteban Public Service Award for promoting Hispanic relations in Washington State, 2012  
 Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, Caucus Leader Award, 2011  
 Citation of Merit, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, 2005  
 Hyogo Prefecture, Japan (Washington's Sister State), Award for contribution to international friendships, 2009  
 Legislator of the Year, Washington State Arts Council, 2009  
 Special Appreciation, Washington Parks and Recreation Foundation, 2009

Legislator of the Year, Washington State Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice, in recognition of her work for social, economic and environmental justice in Washington State, 2009

Senator of the Year, Washington Farm Forestry Association, 2007

Legislative Excellence Award, Washington State School Retirees Association, 2007

Hero Award, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance, 2005

Certificate of Appreciation, Washington State Coalition for the Homeless, for Leadership and dedication to increasing the Housing Trust Fund, 2005

Super Star, Washington State Skills Center, 2005

Woman of Distinction, Olympia YWCA, 2004

Seventh Generation Legacy Award, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, 2004

Leadership Award, Washington State Combined Fund Drive Board, 1999 and 2004

“Fearless Leader, Justice Seeker, Faithful to the Democratic Vision” Award, Panorama Democratic Study Group, 2004

Service Award, Washington Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 2004

Co-Legislator of the Year, Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association, 2003

Puget Sound Hero Award, People for Puget Sound, 2001

Leadership Recognition for the Neah Bay Rescue Tug, Governor Gary Locke, 2003

Conservation Champion, Washington Conservation Voters, 2002

VIP Award, Washington State College Women’s Programs Council, 2002

Leadership Award, Washington Association of School Administrators, District 113, 2001

Leadership Counts Award, Washington Public Employees Association, 2000

Legislator of the Year, Washington Council of Police and Sheriffs, 2000

Legislative Citation of Merit, Washington Recreation and Parks Association, 1998

Program Leadership Award, Nisqually River Management Program, 1998

Distinguished Leadership Recognition, Association of Washington Housing Authorities, 1998

Certificate of Appreciation, Washington Federation of State Employees members of the Judicial Staff of the Washington State Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals, 1998

Legislator of the Year, Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association, 1996

Legislator of the Year, Washington Health Care Association, 1996

Legislator of the Year and Puget Sound Hero, People for Puget Sound, 1995

Woman of Distinction, Pacific Peaks Girl Scout Council, 1995

Toll Fellow, Council of State Governments, 1993

Outstanding Leadership Award, Washington State Boating Safety Officers Association, 1993

Silver Beaver Award, for service to youth, Boy Scouts of America

Woman Who Wins Award, a community recognition award sponsored by The Olympian and KGY radio

Finalist, Thurston County Citizen of the Year (twice)

Legislator of the Year, Washington Federation of State Employees, 1993

### **Education**

University of Washington:

Master’s of Public Administration, 1969

BA, Sociology, with Departmental Honors, 1966

Yale University, Summer Language Institute, 1966

High school diploma: Roosevelt High School, Seattle, 1962

### **Employment**

The Evergreen State College, Adjunct Faculty, Master’s of Public Administration Program (intermittent since 1999)

Former 12 year state employee with: Department of Highways, Department of Health, Office of Community

Development/Planning and Community Affairs Agency, Employment Security Department, Washington State House of Representatives

### **Personal**

A lifelong Washington resident, born in Seattle

One daughter, two granddaughters

Enjoys outdoor recreation: summited four of Washington's major peaks; hiked and backpacked

throughout the Olympics and Cascades; won numerous awards for racing her own sailboat in Puget Sound races; completed the Capital City Marathon twice

Enjoys travel

Enjoys living in Thurston County

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### **OLYMPIA OFFICE**

314 Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504-0422  
(360) 786-7642

### **COMMITTEES**

Rules  
Accountability &  
Reform(Ranking Member)  
Natural Resources & Parks

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

City of Lacey  
City of Olympia  
City of Tumwater  
Thurston County  
Thurston Regional Planning  
Council  
Puget Sound Partnership

### **LEGISLATIVE LINKS**

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