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Guardians of Small Business | 2025-26

Lawmakers were again scored on 10 votes in each chamber. Those legislators voting the NFIB position at least 90 percent of the time received NFIB's Guardian of Small Business award for the 69th Washington State Legislature.

STATE SENATE

Matt Boehnke	100%	Nikki Torres	100%
Leonard Christian	100%	Keith Wagoner	100%
Perry Dozier	100%	Judy Warnick	100%
Keith Goehner	100%	Jeff Wilson	100%
Drew MacEwen	100%	John Braun	90%
Jim McCune	100%	Phil Fortunato	90%
Mark Schoesler	100%	Chris Gildon	90%
Shelly Short	100%	Ron Muzzall	90%

STATE HOUSE

Andrew Barkis	100%	Brian Burnett	90%
April Connors	100%	Rob Chase	90%
Chris Corry	100%	Jeremie Dufault	90%
Travis Couture	100%	Andrew Engell	90%
Mary Dye	100%	Dan Griffey	90%
Mark Klicker	100%	Cyndy Jacobsen	90%
Matt Marshall	100%	Michael Keaton	90%
Stephanie McClintock	100%	John Ley	90%
Gloria Mendoza	100%	Deb Manjarrez	90%
Ed Orcutt	100%	Skyler Rude	90%
Joshua Penner	100%	David Stuebe	90%
Joe Schmick	100%	Michelle (Caldier) Valdez	90%
Drew Stokesbary	100%	Jim Walsh	90%
Hunter Abell	90%	Alex Ybarra	90%
Stephanie Barnard	90%		

Guardian of Small Business statue

In addition, the Washington Leadership Council selected two legislators for special recognition of their outstanding efforts to support NFIB and our state's small businesses during the 69th Legislature.

Sen. John Braun

Senate Minority Leader John Braun serves on the Senate Ways & Means and Labor & Commerce committees, two panels with significant influence on laws directly impacting small business. Braun has been an outspoken advocate for free enterprise and entrepreneurship, bringing his exceptional experience and knowledge as a business owner and employer to crucial policy discussions and legislative debates. His leadership in increasing the small business estate tax deduction and indexing it to inflation, aligning it with the standard deduction for the first time, was cited as just one example of Braun's many efforts to promote and protect Main Street enterprises in Washington state.

Rep. Amy Walen

As chair of the House Consumer Protection & Business Committee and senior member of the House Finance Committee, Walen ensures small businesses and other often overlooked communities are heard and their concerns actually considered as laws are developed and moved through the legislative process. A business owner herself, Walen brings insight and lived experience unique among her colleagues to policy deliberations in the majority caucus. Her Millionaire Tax proposal that would have exempted small businesses from the tax the same as Big Businesses was noted as a prime example of Walen hearing and actively responding to concerns raised by those who would be directly disadvantaged and treated differently under the law than more politically powerful and influential interests.