

June 23, 1999

## **New Poll Finds Overwhelming Number of WEA Members Support Paycheck Protection**

### **Members Also Favor Full Public Disclosure of Union Funds Spent on Elections**

A new poll of Washington Education Association members, conducted in late May by the professional public opinion research firm, Moore Information, Inc., reveals that two-thirds of public school teachers believe union leaders should be required by law to get permission of individual members before spending dues to affect elections.

Other significant findings of the poll, which has a margin of error of +/- 6 percent, include:

- 77 percent are aware that WEA leaders use collective bargaining dues to affect elections.
- 89 percent believe that WEA leaders should be required to give members a full accounting of all funds spent on political activities.
- 66 percent believe that the public has a right to full accounting of union funds spent on political activities.
- 76 percent have heard something about the WEA's legal troubles over political fund raising practices.
- 57 percent STRONGLY agree that WEA should limit its political involvement to "issues that affect public education, public educational employees and public educational funding". An additional 19 percent merely "agree" bringing the total to 76 percent.
- 54 percent STRONGLY agree that fines should be paid by those who are responsible for violation the law. An additional 21 percent merely "agree" for a total of 75 percent.
- When asked to name the chief benefit of being a member of WEA:
  - 24 percent did not know.
  - 6 percent said there was none.