



King County
Metropolitan King County Council
Committee of the Whole

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No.:	4	Date:	9 July 2012
Proposed Motion No.:	2012-0223	Prepared by:	Nick Wagner

SUMMARY

Proposed Motion 2012-0223 (pp. 3-4 of these materials) would make an appointment to fill the vacancy in the position of state senator for the 5th Legislative District.

BACKGROUND

The 5th Legislative District spans both sides of I-90, extending east from Issaquah into the Cascade Mountains and including the communities of Fall City, North Bend, and Snoqualmie, among others. The current boundaries of the district are shown in the map on page 5; the new boundaries, effective after the November election, are shown in the map on page 6.

The appointment of Senator Cheryl Pflug, the state senator representing the 5th Legislative District, to the State Growth Management Hearings Board, effective July 1, has created a vacancy in the district's senate seat.

The Washington State Constitution provides in part, in article II, section 15:

VACANCIES IN LEGISLATURE AND IN PARTISAN COUNTY ELECTIVE OFFICE. Such vacancies as may occur in either house of the legislature or in any partisan county elective office shall be filled by appointment by the county legislative authority of the county in which the vacancy occurs: *Provided*, That the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district, county, or county commissioner or council district and the same political party as the legislator or partisan county elective officer whose office has been vacated, and shall be one of three persons who shall be nominated by the county central committee of that party

As King County's legislative authority, the Council is responsible for making an appointment to fill the vacancy in the senate seat for the 5th Legislative District.

In accordance with the state constitution, the King County Republican Central Committee (“KCRCC”) has nominated the following candidates to fill the current vacancy:

1. Dino Rossi
2. Robert Brunjes
3. Kathryn Kaluzny

The nominees are listed “in order of their selection by the Candidate Selection Committee,” as described in a letter dated July 2 from Lori Sotelo, KCRCC chair (included in these materials at p. 7). Biographical information on the nominees, provided by the King County Republican Party, is included in these materials at pp. 9-13.

Mr. Rossi preceded Sen. Pflug as the 5th Legislative District’s senator. Additional information about Mr. Rossi, as the recommended nominee, is included at pp. 15-20.

None of the nominees has filed to run for election to the 5th District senate seat this November. The only Republican who has filed is Brad Toft. A June 14 article in the Tacoma News Tribune (p. 21 of these materials) quotes Mr. Rossi as saying that he does not intend to run as a write-in candidate and could not even if he wanted to, because after the election, redistricting will move him into the 45th Legislative District from the 5th.

AMENDMENT

In its current form, the proposed motion has a blank for the name of the person to be appointed. It is anticipated that there will be an oral amendment to fill in the blank.

INVITEES

1. Dino Rossi
2. Robert Brunjes
3. Kathryn Kaluzny

ATTACHMENTS

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KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

July 5, 2012

Motion

Proposed No. 2012-0223.1

Sponsors Lambert

1 A MOTION making an appointment to fill the vacancy in
2 the 5th legislative district of the Washington state Senate.

3 WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the position of state senator for the 5th legislative
4 district due to the resignation of Senator Cheryl Pflug following her appointment by
5 Governor Gregoire to serve on the Washington state Growth Management Hearings
6 Board; and

7 WHEREAS, the 5th legislative district Republican precinct committee officers
8 have met to consider candidates for the position; and

9 WHEREAS, the King County Republican Central Committee has submitted the
10 names of three nominees to fill the vacancy;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

Motion

12 _____ is hereby appointed to the position of state
13 senator for the 5th legislative district.

14

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:

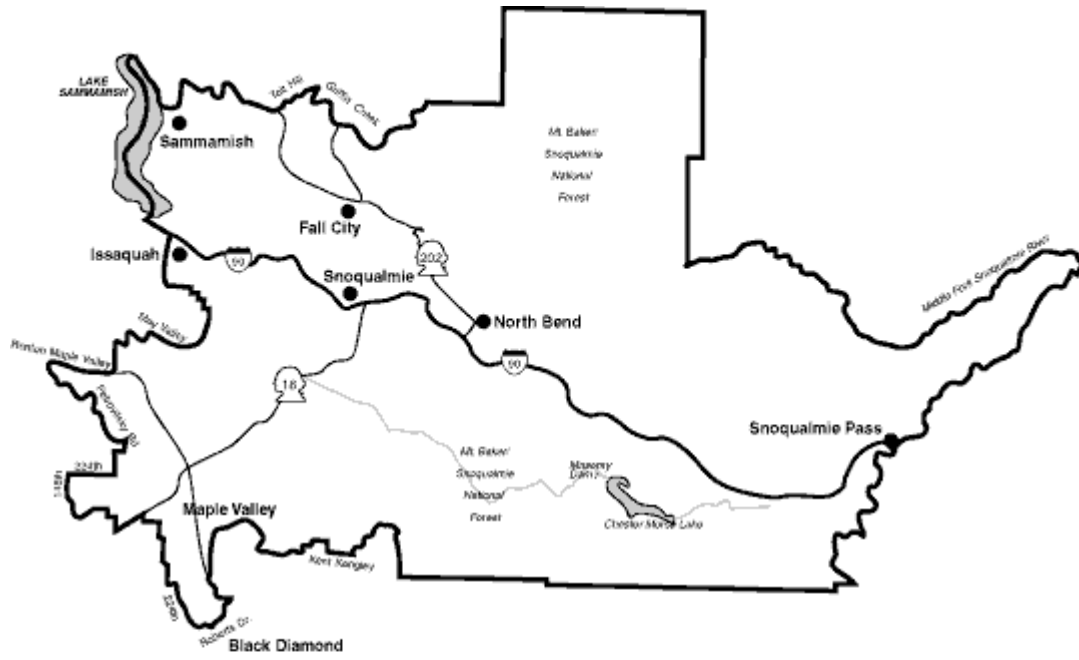
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, _____.

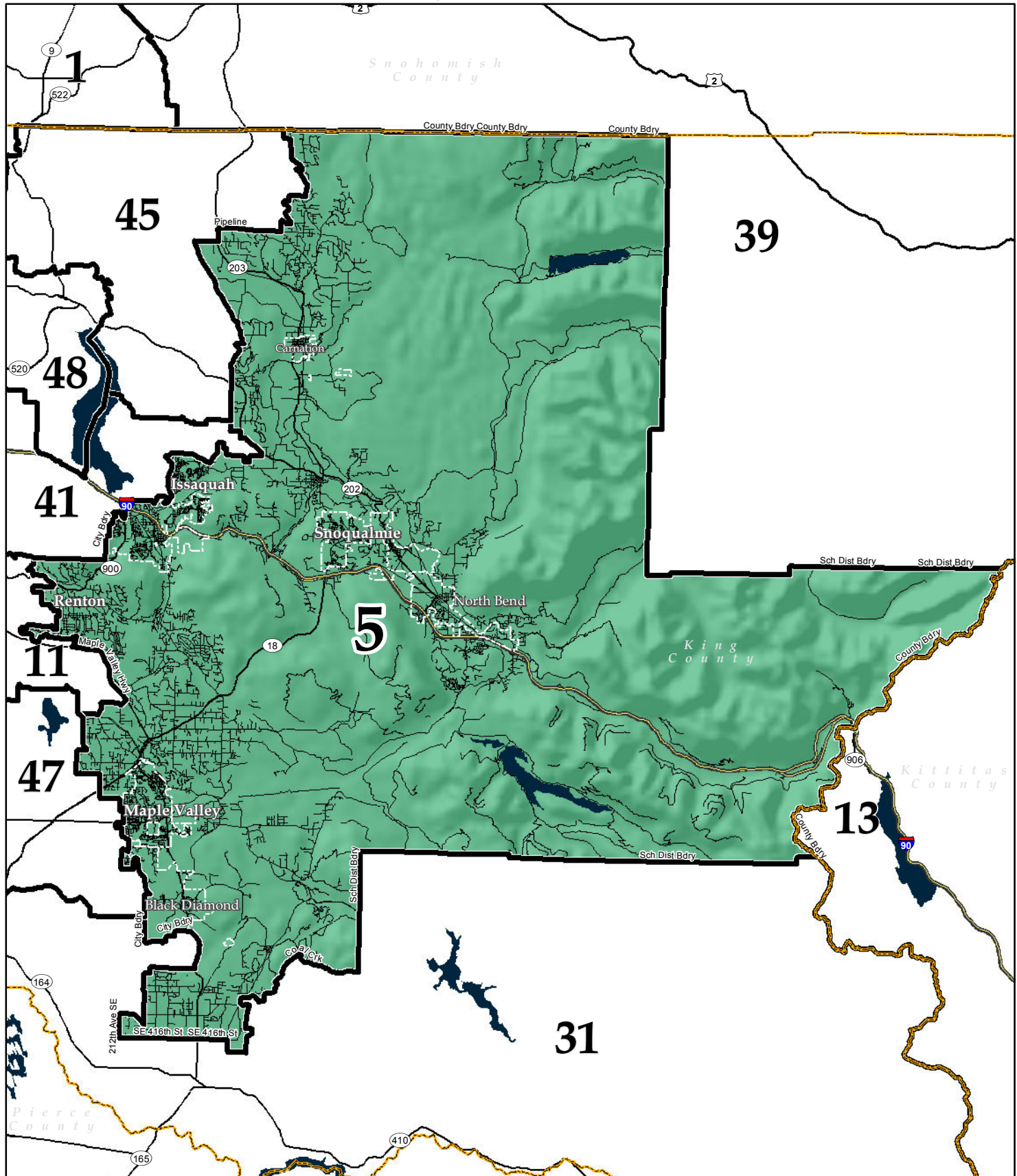
Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None

[Current 5th Legislative District boundaries]



5th Legislative District



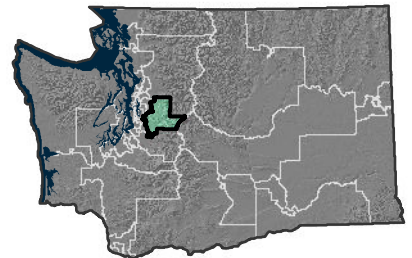
Legislative District 5



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Washington South FIPS 4602 Feet

Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic

Datum: North American 1983 Units: Foot US





July 2, 2012

The Honorable Larry Gossett
Council Chair, Metropolitan King County Council
King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Councilmember Gossett:

The Candidate Selection Committee of the King County Republican Central Committee (KCRCC), pursuant to the laws of the State of Washington and the KCRCC bylaws, met on Friday, June 8, 2012 and selected three candidates for the Washington State Senate Seat in the 5th Legislative District, vacated by Cheryl Pflug.

Those three candidates are (in order of their selection by the Candidate Selection Committee):

1. Dino Rossi
2. Robert Brunjes
3. Kathryn Kaluzny

Please direct any further questions to me at 425.990.0404 or by email at:
chairman@kcgop.org.

Sincerely,

Lori Sotelo
Chairman

Dino Rossi

Dino is a third-generation Washingtonian. His grandfather was an immigrant who worked in the Black Diamond coal mines. He and his six siblings were raised in Snohomish County by their father, who was a Seattle public schoolteacher, and their mother, a beautician. Dino paid his way through college by working as a janitor and graduated with a business degree from Seattle University in 1982. After graduation, he made a successful career in the commercial real estate business.

Dino served in the Washington State Senate from 1997 through 2003. By his 3rd year he was deputy leader of the Senate and lead budget writer on the Senate Ways and Means committee. He represented the 5th Legislative District in east King County. In 2003, he served as chairman of the Senate Ways & Means Committee where he was charged with producing the state's budget. That year, he won acclaim for writing a bipartisan balanced budget that dealt with a massive budget deficit without raising taxes, while still protecting Washington's most vulnerable citizens.

Everyone remembers what happened after Dino left the state senate. He ran 3 statewide races in 6 years. What people may have forgotten is that Dino won the first two counts for Governor in 2004 before Christine Gregoire was declared the winner by 129 votes. Also worth remembering is that in 2008 and 2010, Dino received 47% of the vote for Governor and then against Patty Murray for US Senate. No other Republican candidate in Washington state would have received that kind of support from Independents and a united Republican party. In the landslide Democratic year of 2008, Dino ran 11 points ahead of Republican presidential nominee John McCain, but it was not enough to overcome the Democratic wave that swept the nation that fall. In the 2010 Senate race, Dino did so well among Independents that only two winning GOP Senate candidates in the country did better.

Dino has returned to his business roots when he joined the commercial real estate firm Coast Equity Partners in Everett, Washington, where he helped find investors for income properties in the Pacific Northwest. He currently serves on the Board of the Special Olympics for the State of Washington and is a member of the Dean's Advisory Board for the School of Business at Seattle University. He and his wife, Terry, have four children and live in Sammamish.

Resume of ROBERT A BRUNJES, Sr

35315 SE Aspen Ln 1003

Snoqualmie Wa.980675

Phone: 206-619-7521

Email: BobBrunjes@wes-tek.com

Bob has been active in the party since the days of Ronald Reagan.

1. PCO for the last 11 years in the 5th Legislative District
2. Region Chair for the Snoqualmie Valley
3. It has been my great honor to lead the 5th District as Chairman the last 5 years
4. King County GOP executive board 2008 to present
5. Served on Mitt Romney's 8th Congressional Campaign 2008
6. Co-chair of Mitt Romney's 8th Congressional Campaign 2012

After college Bob was drafted into the US Army as 11B10 light weapons infantry private and left the army 8 years later as a Captain. That experience has made me the person I am.

1. Has served on the advisory board of the US Army recruiting command here in Washington.
2. For 9 years has worked with OSOT Operation Support Our Troops providing Christmas packages to units serving in Iraq and Afghanistan from Ft Lewis and supporting their families back home.
3. Proud member of American Legion Post 79 supporting our veterans in the Snoqualmie Valley.

Since moving to Washington after military service Bob helped grow a successful high tech Engineering and Marketing firm Wes-tek in Bellevue WA with major clients of Microsoft, Boeing, and other high tech leaders in the NW.

1. President 2000 to 2012
2. Partner in the firm since 1980

Bob has been recognized for his leadership and energy in the Republican Party.

DINO ROSSI: "Bob is one of the hardest working Chairman in the State."

KIRBY WILBER: "He is a rock star in King County GOP."

JAY RODNE: "His leadership has made us stronger every election cycle."

Dave Reichert: "He is a strong leader."

It would be an honor to serve.

Resume of Kathryn J. Kaluzny

441 N.E. Alder St.

Issaquah, WA 98027

Phone/fax (425) 427-0863

E-mail: kjkaluzny@juno.com

Recent Community Activities

Served as Board Member/Secretary and/or Treasurer of Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council, Lake Kathleen Community Association and two eastside political groups. Volunteer political work. Elected to serve as Precinct Committee Officer for six terms.

Employment

- 2002-2007: Occasional observer and/or employee King County Department of Elections.
- 2004-2005: Fire Commissioner, District 10.
- 1993-1994: Researched, wrote, and published *The Court Report: A Year of King County Family Law Decisions*, a compilation of about 500 court decisions.
- 1984-1992: Affiliated with Law Office of Halverson & Strong in Seattle and Law Offices of Lowell K. Halverson on Mercer Island. Practice consisted of family law, general practice matters, litigation, and employment discrimination.
- 1973-1984: U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Chicago for nine years, Seattle for one. Trial attorney, supervisor of attorneys and staff, including paralegals, investigators.
- 1969-1972: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, civil rights enforcement work, in Fort Worth, Texas as urban intern for one year and two years in Chicago part time while attending law school.

Education

J. D., 1973, Northwestern University School of Law; Chicago, Illinois.

Research Assistant on casebook; Fellow, Northwestern University Center for Urban Affairs.

A.B. 1969, Saint Louis University; St. Louis, Missouri. Major: history.

Personal

Born 1947, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Moved to Puget Sound 1983. Married to the retired Bugler for VFW Posts 2995 and 5052.

Dino Rossi

- *by* Wikipedia Contributors
- July 5, 2012

Dino Rossi (born October 15, 1959) is an American [commercial real estate executive](#),^[1] former [Washington](#) State Senator, two-time [Republican](#) candidate for [Governor of Washington](#), and former Republican candidate for [United States Senate](#). His first run for the Governor's mansion in the [2004 election](#) became the closest gubernatorial race in U.S. history; Rossi was certified as Governor-elect before losing a hand recount to Democrat [Christine Gregoire](#).^[2] He ran for Governor of Washington again in 2008, losing to Gregoire 47% to 53%.

Rossi began his career in the [commercial real estate](#) industry and has continued to invest in and manage income properties. After the 2008 election, Rossi returned his full attention to real estate.^[3] During the spring of 2010 there was speculation that Rossi might enter the [2010 Senate race](#) to challenge incumbent [Patty Murray](#). Rossi entered the race on May 26, 2010.^[4] On August 17, 2010 Rossi defeated his Republican primary challengers, but lost to incumbent Senator [Patty Murray](#) (a [Democrat](#)) in the November 2 general election 47% to 52%.^[5]

Early life, education and career

Rossi was the youngest of seven children brought up by his mother Eve, a beautician, and his father John Rossi, an Italian-American [Seattle Public Schools](#) teacher at Viewlands Elementary in North Seattle.^[6] Rossi was raised in [Mountlake Terrace](#) and graduated from Woodway High School in [Edmonds](#). He earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from [Seattle University](#) in 1982.

After college, Rossi began in the commercial real estate business.^[11] He became a commercial real estate salesman, managing and owning real estate.^[7] Rossi was formerly an owner of the Everett Aquasox minor league baseball team.^[8] He is co-founder of the Bellevue, Washington-based Eastside Commercial Bank.^[9]

Rossi is married, with four children, and lives in [Sammamish, Washington](#).^[10]

Political career

State Senate tenure

In 1992, Rossi ran for a [Washington State Senate](#) seat in a district representing suburbs east of [Seattle, Washington](#) in the [Cascade foothills](#). After winning a divisive [Republican Party primary](#), he lost the [general election](#). In 1996, Rossi ran again for the State Senate and was elected.

Rossi served in the Washington State Senate from 1997 until December 2003, when he resigned to spend full time [running for governor](#).^[11] During his time as senator, he gained a reputation for being a political consensus builder with a proven ability to build bipartisan coalitions.^[12] When the Senate Republicans gained the majority in 2002, Rossi became chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee that writes the state's two year operating budget. It was in this position that Rossi was widely credited for closing a \$2.7 billion budget deficit without raising taxes.^[13] He passed this budget with bipartisan support,^[14] gaining praise from members of both parties, including the ranking Democrat on the budget committee. The budget chief for Democratic Governor [Gary Locke](#) said of Rossi in 2003, "The really good legislators move from one side to the other really effortlessly, and I think Dino did that."^[12]

Rossi sponsored a number of bills as a state senator prior to his role as chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, including the Two Strikes bill that puts child molesters away for life after a second conviction.^[15] In 1998, he sponsored the Mary Johnsen Act,^[16] named for a [Sammamish](#) resident who was killed by a drunk driver. The bill required [ignition interlock devices](#) for certain convicted drunk drivers in the state of Washington. Rossi received the national finalist award from [Mothers Against Drunk Driving](#) for his work. He also sponsored the Dane Rempfer bill^[17] which boosted penalties for those who left the scene of a fatal accident, named after a 15-year-old boy from his district who was killed in a hit-and-run. It was his work on the 2003 budget that spurred others to recruit Rossi to run for governor.^[18]

2004 gubernatorial campaign

Main article: [Washington gubernatorial election, 2004](#)

Rossi decided to run in November 2003,^[19] but was already facing an uphill battle in terms of money raised, low name identification with voters and trends established by the two prior GOP candidates for governor. The sitting Washington State Attorney General and Rossi's eventual opponent in the general election, Christine Gregoire, had already raised \$1.15 million by December, only weeks after Rossi officially kicked off his campaign.^[20] Furthermore, the previous two GOP candidates for governor had lost their campaign bids by 16% and 18.7% in 1996 and 2000.^[21]

In the November 2 election, over 2.8 million votes were cast for Governor. After the initial vote count, Rossi led Democrat [Christine Gregoire](#) by 261 votes.^[22] Washington State law required a recount because of the small margin. After the second count, Rossi again led, but by a smaller margin of 42 votes. After a third count, done by hand, Gregoire took a 129 vote lead (expanded to a 133 vote lead after Justice Bridges' decision threw out 4 votes for Rossi).^[23]

King County's election department was sued by the Rossi campaign for its handling of ballots, including untracked use of a "ballot-on-demand" printing machine.^[24] Even before the election date, the U.S. Department of Justice threatened to sue Washington State for failing to mail military ballots overseas, generally assumed to be Republican votes.^[25]

Republican leaders in Washington claimed there were enough disputed votes to change the outcome of the election and sued. On May 25, 2005 the judge hearing the lawsuit ruled that the

Party did not provide enough evidence that the disputed votes were ineligible, or for whom they were cast, to enable the court to overturn the election.^[26]

Rossi did not [appeal](#) to the [state Supreme Court](#);^[27] Gregoire was declared governor, by a margin of 133 votes.^[23]

Between 2004 and 2008

After the election and the ensuing court battle, Rossi returned to his work in real estate and wrote a book, *Dino Rossi: Lessons in Leadership, Business, Politics and Life*.^{[28][29]} Along with former Seattle Mariner baseball star [Jay Buhner](#), he also purchased a minority share in the Seattle Mariners' single A minor league baseball team, the Everett Aquasox.^[30] Rossi also established Forward Washington Foundation, a [501\(c\)\(4\)](#) non-profit lobbying entity dedicated to promoting changes to Washington's small business climate.^[31] In 2007, the state Democratic Party filed a complaint with the Washington Public Disclosure Committee (PDC) asserting that the Forward Washington Foundation was too similar to a campaign to be exempt from [campaign finance](#) laws.^[32] Prior to her party's formal complaint, Gregoire stated to donors that he was "campaigning aggressively".^[33] The PDC dismissed in totality the allegations made by the Washington State Democrats, deeming each accusatory claim as "insufficient" and stating that the organization was indeed acting consistent with its mission statement, making it "a social welfare organization ... and not a political committee".^[34]

2008 gubernatorial campaign

Main article: [Washington gubernatorial election, 2008](#)

On October 25, 2007, Dino Rossi announced his intention to seek the office of Governor of Washington in 2008. Rossi's campaign was centered on many of the same issues he ran under in the 2004 election, namely controlling the spending of the state's legislature, tax cuts, and improving the business environment within the state.^[35]

In 2004, Rossi was listed on the ballot as a Republican. In 2008, his affiliation was listed as "Prefers G.O.P. Party" as he had filed with the [Washington Secretary of State](#).^{[36][37][38][39][40]} Washington law allows candidates to identify their party affiliation or preference in any way they please, provided that it is not profane.^{[41][42]}

Rossi has said pharmacists should not be required to dispense a drug that is against their conscience or religious beliefs when asked about the [Plan B](#) oral contraceptive.^[43] Following a ruling by the State Supreme Court that an initiative that limited property tax increases to 1% a year was unconstitutional, Rossi urged Governor Gregoire to call a [special session](#) of the State's legislature to re-instate the restriction.^[44] As of September 2008, the Rossi campaign was reported to have raised \$9 million while the Gregoire campaign took in \$10 million overall.^[45] A poll in early October showed Rossi tied with Governor Gregoire in the race for Governor.^[46] A later poll by the Elway Group showed Rossi trailing Gov. Gregoire by 12 percent.^{[47][48][49]}

On October 7, a lawsuit was filed against the [Building Industry Association of Washington](#), for allegedly coordinating fundraising activities with Rossi in violation of Washington's public finance laws. Rossi's campaign spokeswoman dismissed the suit as a desperate attempt by Gregoire's supporters to win an election through frivolous legal maneuvering, a claim that was denied by the lawyer that filed the suit.^[50] Rossi was endorsed on October 18, 2008 by [The Seattle Times](#).^[51]

Dino Rossi was defeated by Governor Christine Gregoire in the 2008 election and formally conceded at noon on November 5, 2008.^[52] Her margin of victory was 53.2% to 46.8%.^[53]

Between 2008 and 2010

Following his defeat in the 2008 gubernatorial election, Rossi "unplugged from almost everything political" and became a principal at a [commercial real estate](#) firm called Coast Equity Partners in [Everett, Washington](#). Rossi's role at the firm is to find investors for income producing properties in Washington and four other [Western U.S.](#) states.^[54]

2010 U.S. Senate campaign

Main article: [United States Senate election in Washington, 2010](#)

On May 26, 2010, he officially announced his candidacy run.^[4] He conceded defeat on November 4, after two days' worth of ballot counting indicated that he would not have enough votes to defeat Sen. Murray.

Political positions

Spending earmarks

Rossi has said he will not use earmarks if elected as a United States senator from Washington.^[55]

Electoral history

September 1992 State Senator District #5 Primary			
Party	Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Democratic	Kathleen Drew	8,598	36.21%
Republican	Dino J. Rossi	6,563	24.64%
Republican	Dick Welsh	3,215	13.54%
Republican	Bob Brady	2,788	11.74%
Republican	Gwenn Escher	2,581	10.87%

November 1992 State Senator District #5 General election

Party	Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Democratic	Kathleen Drew	26,042	52.10%
Republican	Dino J. Rossi	23,942	47.90%

September 1996 State Senator District #5 Primary

Party	Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Democratic	Kathleen Drew	10,331	40.16%
Republican	Dino J. Rossi	8,291	32.33%
Republican	Dave Irons	7,100	27.60%

November 1996 State Senator District #5 General election

Party	Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Republican	Dino Rossi	28,286	53.20%
Democratic	Kathleen Drew	24,882	46.80%

September 2000 State Senator District #5 Primary

Party	Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Republican	Dino Rossi	20,318	77.93%
Democratic	Azziem Hassan Underwood	5,754	22.07%

November 2000 State Senator District #5 General

Party	Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Republican	Dino Rossi	40,460	69.58%
Democratic	Azziem Hassan Underwood	17,686	30.42%

2004 Washington state gubernatorial election

Party	Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Democratic	Christine Gregoire	1,373,361	48.8730%
Republican	Dino Rossi	1,373,232	48.8717%

2008 Washington state gubernatorial election

Party	Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Democratic	Christine Gregoire	1,598,738	53.24%
Republican	Dino Rossi	1,404,124	46.76%

2010 Washington U.S. Senate blanket primary ^[56]			
Party	Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Democratic	Patty Murray (Incumbent)	433,211	46.04%
Republican	Dino Rossi	319,708	33.98%
Republican	Clint Didier	112,774	11.99%
Republican	Paul Akers	23,889	2.54%
N/A	Others	49,292	5.46%
<u>United States Senate</u> election in Washington, 2010			
Party	Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Democratic	Patty Murray	1,314,930	52.36%
Republican	Dino Rossi	1,196,164	47.64%
Totals		2,511,094	100.00%
Voter turnout		71.24%	

Washington State Senate

Preceded by
Kathleen Drew

Washington Senate, 5th District
1997-2003

Succeeded by
Cheryl Pflug

Party political offices

Preceded by
[John Carlson](#)

Republican nominee for
Governor of Washington
2004 • 2008

Preceded by
[George Nethercutt](#)

Republican nominee for United States Senator from Washington (Class III)
2010

Most recent

Persondata

Name Rossi, Dino

Short description Italian-American businessman and political candidate

Date of birth 1959-10-15

Place of birth [Seattle, Washington](#), U.S.

[Wikipedia references deleted.]

Dino Rossi a possible fill-in for Pflug

by JORDAN SCHRADER • JUNE 14, 2012



Dino Rossi may go back to public office, and he won't need to get elected to do it.

Republicans are considering recommending the three-time unsuccessful statewide candidate for a temporary appointment to his old state Senate seat, which GOP Sen. **Cheryl Pflug** vacates June 30.

"I told them, if you need me to do it, I'll do it," Rossi told me. "It's not something I'm seeking."

He would serve just 18 weeks in the Legislature, and wouldn't even take part in a session — unless state revenue forecasts go south, in which case the budget-writing skills Rossi has been touting for eight years might be put to the test. "If they did need budget help," he quipped, "I imagine I could help."

Gov. **Chris Gregoire** appointed Pflug to a \$92,500 per year job on a growth-management board, which outraged her fellow Republicans who had not been notified they would need to find another candidate. The move left just two candidates in the race — **Brad Toft**, a Republican and political unknown, and **Mark Mullet**, who now seems to have a better shot than any other Democrat has lately in the 5th district.

State GOP Chairman **Kirby Wilbur** said Republicans are considering Rossi for the temporary job but have decided to rally around Toft in the election, and have dissuaded others from running write-in campaigns. Rossi doesn't want to run as a write-in and couldn't anyway, he says, because after the election, redistricting will move him into the 45th district from the 5th.

The King County Council will name a temporary successor, picking from three names submitted by Republican activists.

Original URL:

<http://blog.thenewstribune.com/politics/2012/06/14/dino-rossi-a-possible-fill-in-for-pflug/>