

About the WCADP

The Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (WCADP) is composed of individuals and organizations throughout the state. Founded in 1984, WCADP is dedicated to public education and activism as the means to abolishing the death penalty. WCADP provides information on the death penalty, publishes a newsletter, maintains contact with death row inmates, provides speakers, works with the legislature and the media, and organizes events with the goal of abolition always in sight.

To learn more, please visit our web site at www.abolishdeathpenalty.org

Want to Volunteer?

We need your help!

Contact the WCADP office at either (206) 622-8952 or info@abolishdeathpenalty.org.

Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
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It's easy to support the death penalty when you don't have all the facts.



Washington is one of 38 states in the U.S. that has the death penalty. Twelve states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico forbid it, as do all of Western Europe, Canada, Mexico, and almost all of Latin America. More than half the countries in the world have abolished the death penalty in law or in practice.

There have been 77 executions in the state since 1904, the most recent being that of James Elledge on August 28, 2001. All but one man executed in Washington's modern era (since 1981) gave up their appeals and requested death.



The Death Penalty

It is not a deterrent.

For years, studies have failed to show that capital punishment deters crime. It is not the solution to decreasing violent crime, even though it is often an easy answer for politicians who want to seem tough on crime. Life imprisonment without the possibility of parole, a sentence we have in Washington, effectively removes murderers from society.

It is cruel and unusual.

Capital punishment is cruel because a sentence of life without the possibility of parole accomplishes the same objective of community safety non-violently. It is unusual for our government to continue executing its citizens while all other democracies worldwide have abolished the death penalty.

It costs more than life in prison.

In 2000, (the now former) WA State Supreme Court Chief Justice Guy added to many other studies showing that the process of executing a prisoner is several times more expensive than sending and keeping him in jail for life. This is true around the country, i.e., Florida spends an average of \$3.2 million to execute an inmate, six times more than it spends to keep a person in prison for life.

Okanogan County, WA, laid off half its public-health nurses and couldn't afford to replace aging police equipment because of just the pre-trial expenses for one death-penalty case.

The innocent are executed.

From 1973 through May 28, 2004, 114 people have been released from death row with evidence of their innocence. During this time, it is likely that innocent prisoners have been executed.

It is racist and punishes the poor.

"In 82% of the studies [reviewed], race of the victim was found to influence the likelihood of being charged with capital murder or receiving the death penalty, i.e., those who murdered whites were found more likely to be sentenced to death than those who murdered blacks." – U.S. General Accounting Office, Death Penalty Sentencing, Feb. 1990.

"While African Americans make up less than 13% of the U.S. population (U.S. Census Bureau), they make up at least 43% of [those on]death row." (DPIC)

It prolongs the suffering.

Many people argue that we owe it to the victims' families to execute murderers. But not all victims' families support the death penalty. Many believe that executing the murderer does nothing to relieve the pain and does not bring back the victim, but only continues the cycle of violence. Imposing the death penalty often prolongs their suffering for years. As the public attention is focused on revenge during each appeal and each devastating execution date, the victim's family's need to heal and move beyond the tragedy is ignored.

YES! I want to help the WCADP abolish the death penalty in Washington State and across the country!
Clip and Mail to: WCADP • Post Office Box 3045 • Seattle, WA 98119-3045

- Individual: \$25.00 Family/Household: \$40.00 Sustaining Membership: \$50.00 Other Amount: \$ _____
- Organization/Faith Community: \$100.00 I am interested in volunteering. Please send more information.

Name (Please Print) _____

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Telephone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Check enclosed payable to: WCADP

Please charge my contribution to my:

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Account Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

The Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, contributions to which are tax-deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt of your gift by mail. More information about our programs and services is available at www.abolishdeathpenalty.org.