

= Ann Rivers =

Ann Rivers (born 1968) is an American politician , who has served as a Republican member of the Washington State Senate since she was appointed to represent the 18th district in 2011 , upon the resignation of Joe Zarelli . Prior to this she was a member of the Washington House of Representatives . In her first full term , a Majority Coalition Caucus was formed , taking control away from the Democrats in the state senate . Rivers was appointed to be majority whip for the session , a rare appointment for a freshman senator . She won re @-@ election for another four @-@ year term in 2012 , with 67 % of the vote against 32 % for her opponent , Ralph Schmidt .

Prior to her holding elected office , Rivers led AMR Consulting , a political consulting firm which aided candidates in their elections for offices , as well as providing political consultation to corporate clients . In 2007 , she was on the short list for candidates to be chosen to replace Richard Curtis in the state house , but Jaime Herrera Beutler was chosen instead . Later , Rivers succeeded Herrera Beutler in the house after the latter 's election to the United States Congress .

= = Early life and career = =

Rivers was born in 1968 in Michigan . She earned a bachelor 's degree in political science from Central Michigan University . After graduating in 1990 , Rivers worked as a 6th grade teacher . In 2002 , she returned to school and graduated from Lewis and Clark College with a secondary teaching certificate .

Though she didn 't run for office herself until much later , she helped Bill Williams in his election to the Alaska legislature in 1992 , and became his chief of staff . During that election , she founded AMR Consulting , a public relations and government affairs consulting firm , which helped in many political campaigns and provided political consultation for corporations . When Representative Richard Curtis resigned from state house in 2007 , Rivers was considered by the Clark County and Lewis County commissions to be a replacement but Jaime Herrera Beutler was chosen instead .

= = State House of Representatives = =

Rivers was elected to the Washington House of Representatives in 2010 succeeding Herrera Beutler after Beutler 's election to the United States Congress . As a state representative , Rivers was the assistant whip for the House Republican Caucus . She also served on the House 's Business and Financial Services Committee , Judiciary Committee , Transportation Committee and Rules Committee . Her website listed communication as being vital as a state representative .

In January 2011 , Rivers was selected to deliver the Republican response to governor Christine Gregoire 's State of the State address . In the address , she listed economic recovery and employment as well as compromise with Gregoire as being the top priorities of her party .

In February , Rivers submitted a bill to provide more funding for food banks and other charitable causes . The bill authorized public utilities to solicit and collect donations from customers to be put towards food programs for the poor . It also made the donations received by utilities separate from gross income , allowing for it to be tax @-@ free . The bill passed in the State House in Feb. 2011 but failed to make it to the Senate floor .

= = State senate = =

= = Appointment and elections = =

In June 2012 , about 18 months into her term as a representative , county commissioners appointed Rivers to the state senate to replace Joseph Zarelli , who resigned after 17 years in the senate . Rivers won re @-@ election in the 2012 election to a four @-@ year term , with 67 % of the vote , to 32 % for her opponent , Ralph Schmidt . She outraised by 30 @-@ 1 , with \$ 150 @, @ 000

, to just \$ 5 @, @ 000 for Schmidt . Rivers ' ideas for improving the economy include making the climate friendlier for business . Her plan includes reducing the burden of worker 's compensation costs for businesses , reducing regulations , and reducing permitting fees .

= = = Tenure = = =

Rivers has spoken strongly about the Columbia River Crossing I @-@ 5 bridge replacement , saying that she disagreed with most everything about the current plan , and that it does not do enough to solve the problem . Willamette Week of Portland labeled Rivers " The CRC killer " for her leadership role in the opposition to the proposed megaproject . Due to their opposition to the project , in July 2013 , Governor Jay Inslee labeled both Rivers and Senator Don Benton from the neighboring 17th district " a brick wall to economic progress and CRC . " Speaking to a group of CRC supports , " The road to this bridge runs through two senators from this region . Those two senators have stymied any progress on this bridge project . ? Until that changes , there ? s not a lot I or you can do about that . "

In early 2012 , Rivers was selected for the Council of State Governments for the Western Legislative Academy . Out of 93 applicants , 39 , including Rivers , were chosen . The academy is a training institute for lawmakers in their first four years of service .

In November 2012 , shortly after entering office , Rivers was appointed to the Republican leadership as the minority whip . When the Majority Coalition Caucus was formed , taking control of the Senate away from the Democrats , Rivers was promoted to majority whip . It is rare for a freshman senator to be appointed to party leadership .

Rivers introduced a bill in February 2013 to exempt nonprofit shooting clubs from paying sales and use taxes when they buy clay pigeons . The bill is cosponsored by Senators Don Benton and Pam Roach . Earlier in February , Rivers also introduced legislation attempting to lower restrictions on initiatives in Washington State , commenting , " If the people take the time to sign their name and say this is something we need to have a look at , we ought to respect that . " Along with cosponsors Roach and Benton , Tim Eyman also is cosponsoring the legislation . In March 2013 , Rivers reprimanded senate Democrats for taking advantage of Janéa Holmquist Newbry 's departure from the senate floor to feed her newborn son , leaving the Democrats in temporary control of the senate floor . Immediately after she left , Democrat David Frockt attempted to pass a bill through the floor . Senator Rivers commented , " I was ashamed that in this day and age they thought they could do that , driving a wedge between a mother and her baby like that . " Commenting on Democrats ' claim to be the party of women and minorities , Rivers said , " Their actions speak so loud that I can 't hear what they are saying . " As part of her duties , Rivers has also hosted high @-@ school aged pages for the Washington State Senate Page Program .

Rivers introduced legislation to increase taxes on medical marijuana . Washington is one of only a few states that has legalized marijuana for both medical and recreational use . Recreational marijuana has a 25 % tax for consumers . However , medical marijuana does not have any taxes . Rivers ' legislation would also force medical marijuana clinics to obtain more permits and waivers .

In June 2013 , fellow state senator Don Benton filed a complaint against Rivers , claiming she had broken a senate floor rule by swearing at him during a floor discussion . Benton also claimed that Rivers had screamed at him on one other occasion , during a Republican caucus . He claimed that he had felt physically threatened , saying , " It was a very uncomfortable feeling . I have been on the receiving end of many heated comments over the years , but I have never before felt the threat of physical violence . " Rivers responded with an apology ; he took issue with some of the wording in the apology and he filed the complaint . Many have come out in support of Rivers , who claims that Benton was harassing her , adding she will , " stand my ground against anyone who attempts to bully , intimidate or threaten me . " Some have labeled Benton a hypocrite , as he recently lifted sanctions against Pam Roach , who had been seen screaming on the floor and had mistreated staff . In a January 2014 decision , officials in the Washington State Legislature have decided both Senators were at fault for the spat . They determined that Benton had harassed Rivers , which provoked her . On the decision , Rivers stated , " I have to conclude that he was trying to bait me

into this reaction , which unfortunately he did . ?

At the end of June 2014 , Rivers joined lawmakers including Lieutenant Governor Brad Owen on a state trade mission to Taiwan . Rivers ' district sells more fishing licenses than any other in the state and she would like ? to promote our area as a destination for sport fishing . ?

= = = Clark County Politics = = =

= = = = Freeholder = = = =

In 2013 , Rivers ran for a freeholder position in Clark County 's 1st district . The freeholders are responsible for drafting a new county charter that will , with voter 's approval , turn Clark County into a Charter County . 123 people filed for the 15 freeholder seats . The primary election , held August 5 , was noted for its low turnout (under 20 %) , although Rivers garnered enough votes to move on to the general election . In the November 6 election , she was elected with 46 % of the vote in a 5 candidate field and took office on November 26 .

The Board of Freeholders submitted a home rule charter on May 27 which put it on the ballot in the November election . In the November election , the charter was approved with 53 % of the vote .

= = = = Candidacy for Clark County Chair = = = =

In late 2014 and early 2015 , Rivers briefly considered running to be the chair of Clark County , a new position created with the home rule charter that Rivers worked to pass . There is no official rule against serving both as the chair and a state senator , but there were concerns about Rivers ' ability to balance the two offices . In December of 2014 , Rivers officially announced she would run for the office . On March 2 , 2015 , The Columbian reported Rivers would likely be withdrawing from the race later that week . That was confirmed when Rivers released a statement later that day that said Rivers would not be a candidate . Rivers cited the time commitment and desire to stay in the State Senate as reasons for her withdrawal . She was considered the front runner for the office .

= = Personal life = =

Rivers currently resides in La Center , Washington , with her husband , Fred Rivers , a senior account manager for NALCO , and their two children .