

FRESHMAN PROFILE: Rep. Jeff Holy

Jeff Holy has seen differing aspects of our criminal justice system, working as a police detective and as a lawyer. For 16 years, Jeff did both.

Jeff knows manual labor, with experience driving a combine and working at a foundry and lumber treatment plant. He also knows the value of higher education, and served in the U.S. Army so he could afford to go to college at Washington State University and earn his bachelor's degree. He began working for the Spokane police department and continued working as a police officer while he attended law school at Gonzaga University. After being admitted to the bar, he continued working as a detective with the police department and started his law practice as a sole practitioner. He serves on the Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters (LEOFF) Plan 2 board – currently the best funded active state pension system in the country.

Since he was young, Jeff has been very involved in the Catholic Church. He has offered volunteer legal services and coached baseball. He married Cindy and they raised two children, one of whom is a senior in high school and another who is a junior at WSU. Jeff says he's astounded by the burden carried by both families and students while paying for higher education compared to what he paid as a student. "Because of student debt, students are graduating with a mortgage, but no house. Higher education provides a return on investment for our state, and we must invest better to help attract business and industry growth."

Jeff's major focus as a new legislator will be economic development. He sees great potential for growth in his hometown of Spokane. Jeff also emphasized the importance of funding education first, because the state Constitution calls for education to be the "paramount duty" of the state, not just a duty. Jeff is excited to represent the 6th District and bring his unique experiences and talents to the Legislature.