

Freshman profile: Matt Manweller

The 13th District didn't wait long to fill the big shoes of retiring legislator Bill Hinkle. Matt Manweller was sworn in early and began his job as a legislator on Nov. 29.

Caucus leadership obviously feels Matt is more than capable of stepping in for Hinkle as he is the only freshman lawmaker to be appointed to either a chair or ranking member of a House committee. He has been named the ranking Republican on the House Labor and Workforce Development Committee.

Matt grew up in Southern California and attended Laguna Hills High School. He was a member of the cross country team that won the AAU National Title. He stayed involved in sports while teaching at the high school level and coached both soccer and basketball.

Matt has authored several books, including "The People Versus the Courts," "The Right Opinion: A Heretics Voice from the Ivory Tower" and "Chronology of the US Presidency." He actually served as a book editor to pay his way through graduate school.

His passion for politics is obvious. Not only is he a political science professor at Central Washington University, but he hosted and produced two TV shows including "Point to Point," a political debate program, and he also hosted a political radio show for 10 years called "The Right Opinion."

He also makes time to serve on the Board of HopeSource. It is a community organization that provides emergency housing, food and job training to people in a financial crisis.

Matt lives in Ellensburg with his wife Shelley and two sons Lincoln and Grayson.