

Dino Rossi

Dino Rossi served as a Washington State Senator three times – from 1997 to 2003, in 2012, and again from 2016 to 2017. He represented the 5th Legislative District his first two times in office, and represented the 45th the third.

A native of Seattle, Rossi is most known for his 2004 gubernatorial run, where he beat three-term Attorney General Christine Gregoire by 261 votes. In the mandatory recount, Rossi won again with a margin of 42 votes. After Democrats paid for a third count (and got ballots from King county added which should have not have been counted), Gregoire won with only 129 votes (133 after a court trial in Wenatchee). This was the closest gubernatorial election in the history of the United States.

During his time in the Senate, Rossi earned the reputation as a consensus builder. When Republicans gained the majority in the Senate in 2002, Rossi became the chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. As chair, he played a key role in closing a \$2.7 billion budget deficit without raising taxes.

In 2016, four years after leaving office, Rossi was appointed back to the Senate to replace Sen. Andy Hill in the 45th Legislative District after Hill's death from lung cancer.



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