

Senator Kevin Ranker



Senator Kevin Ranker possesses 15 years experience in community development and public policy in the private and public sectors. He concurrently serves as a Washington State Senator, a Senior Fellow for the Ocean Foundation and as a Senior Advisor to the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative. He has developed and advanced coastal and ocean policy, community development strategies and conservation initiatives extensively on the West Coast of the United States and in Mexico and Indonesia.

For several years, he has specialized in a combination of ocean policy and coastal economic and community development. He has brought his experience and passion to his work in the Washington State Legislature. As Senator, he has advanced key climate change legislation, coastal and ocean policy, and energy and transportation legislation. Legislative highlights include the development of comprehensive marine spatial planning legislation and important acts regarding statewide carbon reductions and oil spills. In the Washington State Senate, Ranker serves as Vice Chair of Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee, Vice Chair of the Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee and a member of the Environment, Water & Energy and Transportation Committees.

In December 2009, state legislators from across the country elected Senator Ranker Chair of the newly formed National Coastal Caucus of State Legislators (CCSL), a bi-partisan group representing legislators from 29 coastal and Great Lakes states. The CCSL will serve as a lead point of contact for the Administration, regional and federal agencies, and Congress for coastal states regarding economic, resource and environmental issues facing coastal states.

In the private sector, Ranker is a Senior Fellow with The Ocean Foundation, an international community foundation and think-tank based out of Washington, D.C. In this role, Ranker advises the foundation and others on national ocean policy. He is further responsible for all aspects of organizational development, policy and fund management for the west coast of the United States for the organization.

Ranker also serves as a Senior Advisor to the Meridian Institute where he is a member of the team that advises and staffs the Joint Ocean Commission. In this role he informs strategy and direction for the initiative and the members of the Pew Oceans Commission and the United States Commission on Ocean Policy.

Prior to his current positions, Ranker served as Chair of the San Juan County Board of County Commissioners. He was appointed by Governor Chris Gregoire to serve on the Washington State Oil Spill Advisory Council. He was later appointed to the Puget Sound Partnership Ecosystem Coordination Board, and as a member the Washington State Shoreline Hearing Board – the judicial body responsible for hearing appeals under the State Shoreline Management Act. He also served as the Chair of the Washington Counties Transportation Committee, Chair of the Washington Coastal Counties Caucus, representing the state's 14 coastal counties, and as Chair of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council.

Previous to his role in public office, Ranker served as a director for non-governmental organizations and as a consultant for numerous philanthropic foundations. Senator Ranker's career has focused on implementing successful community development strategies and developing opportunities for the preservation of coastal and ocean environments and the goods and services they provide.

Ranker has spent his entire life on the coast and in the ocean and is an avid paddler, swimmer, fisherman and surfer. He lives with his wife and daughter on San Juan Island, Washington.