



Mary U. Farquharson

Quick Facts

Birth: April 5, 1901
Tacoma, Washington

Death: September 1, 1982
Seattle, Washington

Occupation: Teacher

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Years served: 1935-1943

Office: Senator

District: 46 (King County)

Personal:

- Originally a member of the Socialist Party
- Her and her husband Burt Farquarson helped found the Washington Commonwealth Federation (WCF)
- Taught at the University of Washington
- She was devoted to issues such as: unemployment and economic dislocation, address wrongs suffered by minorities and correction of injustices, and to work for peace.

Education:

- University of Washington, English Degree, 1925

Community Service:

- During World War II she was committed to working to aid Japanese Americans who had been incarcerated. She advanced the case of Gordon Hirabayashi, a Japanese American who refused internment, to the U.S. Supreme Court
- Helped restore back pay to a black civilian carpenter who was dismissed by the army because of alleged Communist beliefs.
- Helped with commutation of the life sentence of Ray Becker, a Centralia Massacre victim, after he had served 20 years.

Affiliations:

- Fellowship of Reconciliation, Northwest Regional Secretary, before and during World War II
- Seattle Urban League
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, delegate to the Luxembourg Conference, 1946
- Women's Legislative Council

Legislative & State Service:

- Upton Sinclair's slogan, "Production for use not for profit," was a major theme in her first Senate race.

Committees: Educational Institutions, chairman; Appropriations; Parks and Playgrounds; Public Welfare and Unemployment Relief; Revenue and Taxation; State Charitable Institutions; State Library; Compensation and Fees for State and County Officers; Constitutional Revision; Education; Enrolled Bills; Insurance; Judiciary; Public Buildings and Grounds; Military; Municipal Corporations Other Than First Class; State Granted School and Tide Lands; Cities of the First Class; Rules and Joint Rules; Social Security

Senate Bills Sponsored:

(1935 session)

- 42-An act relating to a retirement pension for all persons over fifty years of age
Reported out of committee and died
- 44-An act relating to and providing for the nomination and election of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
Read first and second time and referred
- 49-An act relating to the selection of jurors in the superior courts
Read first and second time and referred
- 50-An act relating to elections
Read first and second time and referred
- 74-An act relating to levying taxes upon classified properties
Read first and second time and referred
- 83-An act providing for instruction in public service in the University of Washington and in the Washington State College
Went to third reading
- 96-An act relating to holding and possession of community property
Read first and second time and referred
- 108-An act relating to parole
Read first and second time and referred
- 109-An act defining the power of courts in suspending sentences
Read first and second time and referred
- 117-An act relating to the Washington State Development Commission
Went to third reading
- 119-An act defining crime of usury by charging in excess of the maximum rate of interest
Read first and second time and referred
- 208-An act relating to household workers
Reported out of committee and died
- 227-An act relating to tax exemptions
Signed into law
- 230-An act relating to the processing, sale and distribution of milk
Read first and second time and referred
- 241-An act relating to motor vehicles
Read first and second time and referred
- 242-An act pensioning blind persons
Signed by Speaker but not by the Governor
- 245-An act empowering the State of Washington to write life insurance policies
Went to first reading

(1937 session)

- 60-Relating to the employment of household or domestic employees
Signed by the Speaker but not by the Governor
- 199-Relating to the Washington State Training School, etc.
Read first and second time and referred
- 207-Providing for the submission of an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Washington
Read first and second time and referred
- 267-Relating to a legislative appropriation for the institutions of higher learning
Reported out of committee and died
- 334-Relating to and promoting the "state-use system" in the penitentiary and reformatories, etc.
Reported out of committee and died

(1939 session)

- 12-Relating to highways
Signed into law

- 17-Relating to shore lands
 - Signed into law
- 26-Relating to University of Washington
 - Reported out of committee and died
- 29-Relating to convict made goods
 - Read first and second time and referred
- 71-Relating to marriage licenses
 - Signed by the Speaker but not by the Governor
- 123-Relating to insurance
 - Read first and second time and referred
- 131-Relating to non-profit hospital service
 - Reported out of committee and died
- 175-Relating to food processing plants
 - Signed by the Speaker but not by the Governor
- 202-Relating to highways
 - Went to third reading
- 292-Relating to coercion of public school teachers
 - Read first and second time and referred
- 332-Relating to county owned real property
 - Reported out of committee and died
- 381-Relating to American eagle
 - Read first and second time and referred
- 471-Relating to taxation
 - Read first and second time and referred

(1941 session)

- 8-Relating to community property
 - Signed by the Speaker but not by the Governor
- 88-Relating to public highways
 - Read first and second time and referred
- 151-Relating to photographic system of recording in the county auditor's offices
 - Went to third reading
- 152-Relating to filing of notice of lien claims upon crops
 - Went to third reading
- 247-Relating to a system of health insurance
 - Read first and second time and referred
- 313-Relating to Indian Hemp
 - Went to third reading
- 320-Relating to terms of trustees of State Colleges of Education
 - Went to third reading
- 379-Lyving tax of ten mills on real and personal property
 - Read first and second time and referred
- 401-Relating to taxation
 - Read first and second time and referred
- 402-Relating to education institutions
 - Read first and second time and referred

Senate Joint Memorials Sponsored:

(1937 session)

- 1-Relating to the Works Progress Administration
 - Signed by the Speaker but not by the Governor

Senate Joint Resolutions Sponsored:

(1937 session)

- 11-Providing for the submission of an amendment of the constitution of the State of Washington for a single legislative body, etc.
 - Reported out of committee and died

(1939 session)

- 3-Relating to constitutional amendment for a single legislative body
 - Read first and second time and referred

(1941 session)

15-Relating to constitutional convention

Voted on final passage

18-Relating to interim committee to investigate state charitable and penal institutions

Singed into law

21-Providing for constitutional amendment relating to taxation of natural resources

Read first and second time and referred

Sources:

- UW Library, "Guide to the Mary Farquarson Papers Relating to the Incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II."
- "Seattle 1921-1940, From Boom to Bust", Berner
- "Women of Washington," Compiled by the American Association of University Women
- "Political Pioneers, The Lawmakers," by Kathryn Hinsch
- "Democratic Women's Activities in Washington," *The Washington State Democrat*, published by the Women's Legislative Council of Washington, November, 1941.
- "Mary U. Farquharson papers, 1875-1982," University of Washington, Special Collections.
- *Ray Moore: An Oral History*, interviewed by Sharon Boswell, Washington State Oral History Program, Office of the Secretary of State, 1999