

# Rodney Tom

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**Rodney Tom** is an American politician, currently representing Washington's 48th Legislative District in the state Senate and a member of the Democratic Party. Rodney voted in 2010 to overturn the will of the Washington State voters by siding with the majority party and overturning the peoples initiative I-960.

## Contents

- 1 Biography
- 2 Political career
- 3 External links
- 4 References

## Biography

Tom earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Washington in 1985 and went on to earn his MBA from the University of Southern California in 1988. A year later he began a career as a realtor, and remains one to this day, presently affiliated with Windermere Real Estate. He resides with his wife Deborah in Medina. The couple have two children. <sup>[1]</sup>

## Political career

In 2002, Tom was elected to the state House of Representatives as a Republican by defeating Democrat Connie Espe by a 52 to 42% margin with 5% going to a third-party candidate.

He was reelected in 2004, edging out Democrat challenger Debi Golden with a 51.76% to 48.24% margin (1816 votes).

On March 14, 2006, Tom announced that he was switching to the Democratic Party and challenging Luke Esser <sup>[2]</sup>. This announcement caused no small amount of controversy, as Tom's 2004 Democratic opponent, Debi Golden, had already declared her intention to run for the state Senate in the 48th district, which brought the two together for a rematch of their 2004 race. <sup>[3]</sup> However, two weeks later, Golden ended her candidacy, citing the expense and futility of a primary battle, leaving Tom unopposed for the Democratic nomination. <sup>[4]</sup> He defeated incumbent Republican Luke Esser with 53% of the vote <sup>[5]</sup>.

On July 17, 2007, Tom publicly announced his campaign for the 8th District's congressional seat. <sup>[6]</sup> He soon ended the campaign and has endorsed Darcy Burner (D), who was the challenger to Dave Reichert (R) in 2006 and had a major lead in fundraising.

## External links

- Legislative homepage (<http://www.leg.wa.gov/senate/tom/>)
- Rodney Tom for State Senate (<http://www.rodneytom.org>)

## References

- ↑ Project Vote Smart - Senator Rodney Tom - Biography ([http://www.vote-smart.org/bio.php?can\\_id=MWA46808](http://www.vote-smart.org/bio.php?can_id=MWA46808))
- ↑ The Seattle Times: Politics: Bellevue representative switches parties to run for senate ([http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/politics/2002864809\\_webpartyswitch14.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/politics/2002864809_webpartyswitch14.html))
- ↑ David Postman (2006-03-15). "GOP legislator switches to Dems" (<http://community.seattletimes.nwsourc.com/archive/?date=20060315&slug=tom14m>) . *The Seattle Times*. <http://community.seattletimes.nwsourc.com/archive/?date=20060315&slug=tom14m>. Retrieved 2008-08-22.
- ↑ The Seattle Times: Eastside News: Golden reassesses, quits Senate race ([http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/eastsidenews/2002899174\\_golden30e.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/eastsidenews/2002899174_golden30e.html))
- ↑ 2006 General Election Results (<http://vote.wa.gov/Elections/general/Results.aspx?o=9dce41d7-ac57-49f9-b059-0d52e1670021>)
- ↑ Local News | State Sen. Rodney Tom enters congressional race | Seattle Times Newspaper ([http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2003793099\\_webtom17m.html?syndication=rss](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2003793099_webtom17m.html?syndication=rss))

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