

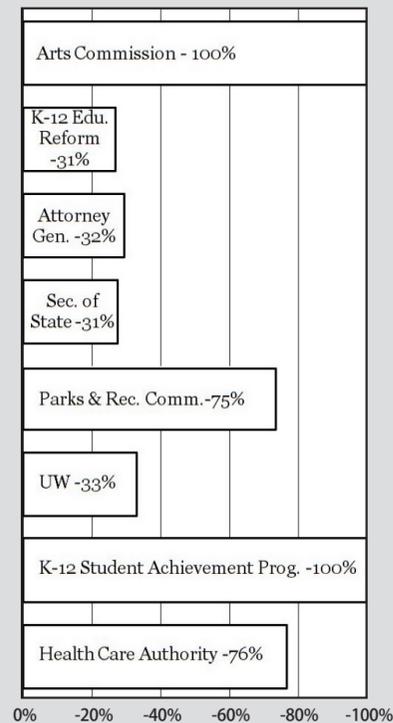
# 2011 Session Report to the 1st Legislative District

## Operating Budget

The session was dominated by the 2011-2013 Operating Budget and the current economic climate that has resulted from the worst recession in 75 years. This biennial budget includes about \$4.5 billion in deep cuts that will touch real lives. No area of the budget was left untouched. Reductions greater than \$50 million each include:

- \$1.2 billion for I-728 and I-732.
- \$535 million in cuts to higher education.
- \$344 million from changes to future Plan 1 retirees' pension benefits.
- \$215 million from elimination of the K-4 class size enhancement.
- \$179 million from a K-12 employee salary reduction.
- \$177 million from a 3 percent reduction in state employee salaries.
- \$150 million from hospital rates and related changes.
- \$129 million from changes to the Basic Health Plan.
- \$116 million in reduced Disability Lifeline cash.
- \$97 million for reduced personal care hours for long term care and developmentally disabled clients.
- \$61 million from changes to the K-12 National Board Bonus program.
- \$57 million in student assessment system changes.

### A snapshot of the deepest cuts in the 2011-2013 Operating Budget



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## Transportation Budget

Washington state has more than 7,000 miles of highway, 40,000 miles of county roads, and 14,000 miles of city streets. Twenty ferries carry more than 10.9 million vehicles and 24.4 million passengers a year. Twenty-eight transit systems provide more than 164 million bus trips, and the state operates 16 airports.

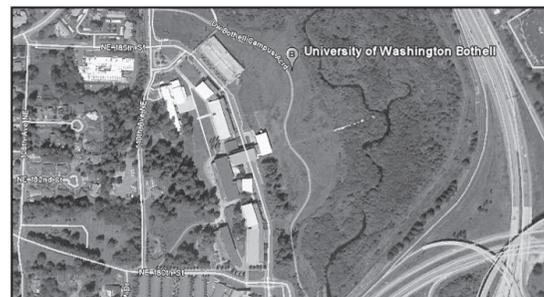
Despite the reality that Washington is projected to collect less revenue for transportation purposes than it has in previous years, a strong bipartisan approach developed a budget that creates approximately 30,000 jobs, will continue to support our state's infrastructure and will bring additional revenue to Washington.

Some transportation highlights for the 1st District include:

- I-5/196th St. (SR 524) Interchange – Build ramps
- I-5/Mountlake Terrace Freeway Station
- SR 9/212th St. SE to 176th St. SE – Add lanes
- SR 9/176th St. SE Vicinity to SR 96 – Add signal and turn lanes

- SR 9/SR 96 to Marsh Rd. – Add lanes and improve intersections
- I-405/Kirkland Vicinity Stage 2 – Widening (Nickel/TPA)
- SR 522/Hall Rd. Vicinity to Kaysner Way – Paving
- SR 522/University of Washington Bothell – Build Interchange

For more detailed information on the operating, capital and transportation budgets visit [www.leap.wa.gov](http://www.leap.wa.gov)



UW Bothell – Source: Google Earth

# 2011 Session Report to the 1st Legislative District



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Dear Neighbors,

Thank you for taking time away from your schedule today to review our newsletter. We certainly appreciate your interest in our legislative endeavors. It is such a great honor to represent you and other citizens in our Snohomish and King county neighborhoods.

The media, of course, devoted the lion's share of their ink, air time, and web space to the new state biennial Operating Budget. Our report carries highlights from this important new Washington policy, as well as other big-ticket financial directions laid out in the new two-year Capital and Transportation budgets.

The Legislature, however, is about a lot more than writing budgets; we need to look at the big picture and not undermine the fact that there were also victories this session. So, we're using most of this newsletter space to review some key missions we've undertaken in our personal legislative agendas.

Please keep in touch; the best way to ensure that we're serving you efficiently is by sharing your concerns and ideas with us. You can see all of our contact information here on the first page. Be assured, your comments always help keep things real, as a matter of fact, in that sometimes-surreal state-capital world.

Thanks again. Have a safe and peaceful summer.

Rep. Luis Moscoso

Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe

Rep. Derek Stanford

## Capital Budget

The Capital Budget maps a long-term investment strategy for the state and funds important tangible assets and infrastructure such as schools, housing, university buildings, parks, sewers and vital community building projects. This year the Capital Budget plays a major role in an effort to help jump start the economy.



Bothell Crossroads and Multiway Boulevard projects  
Source: City of Bothell

Agency	Project Description	Total
Commerce	Bothell Crossroads (SR 522 Realignment)	\$8,000,000
Commerce	North Creek Forest	\$200,000
University of Washington	Minor Capital Repair-Infrastructure, Health, Safety, Bdg Repairs	\$2,186,000
Community/Technical College System	Cascadia Community College	\$147,000
Community/Technical College System	Cascadia Community College	\$93,000
	<b>Total 1st Legislative District:</b>	<b>\$10,626,000</b>

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Rep. Luis Moscoso / Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe / Rep. Derek Stanford

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Rep. Moscoso talks with constituents on the steps of the Capitol Rotunda.

### Strategic plan for secondary education

According to a recent article in the Wall Street Journal, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce released a report in May that said higher education had failed to “tap the potential of digital technology” in ways that would “transform learning, dramatically lower costs or improve overall institutional productivity.”

Under my bill (HB 1710), the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction will develop a statewide strategic plan for secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) within existing resources.

The legislation works to establish standardized curricula at community colleges with the goal of preparing students to qualify for certification in high demand jobs, which, according to a report by the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB), is exactly what we need.

The HECB’s study found that job openings for folks with degrees in high-demand fields are increasing, despite the recession. In fact, there are more job openings than qualified workers to fill them. By the year 2018, 67 percent of all jobs in our state will require some postsecondary education. About 20 percent will require some college but no degree, and about 47 percent will require an associate degree or higher.

### Complying with the feds to keep the cash

It’s a straightforward concept: if you want federal dollars it’s a good idea to follow the rules. Next year all 50 states must comply with revised federal requirements, including new rules for driver’s certifications. My bill (HB 1229) makes sure our commercial drivers are in compliance so we don’t lose these much-needed funds.

If we hadn’t passed this legislation we’d be looking at dire consequences:

- Our commercial drivers would be ineligible to operate in interstate commerce.

- Our state could lose up to \$17 million of federal highway funds for the first year of noncompliance, and up to \$34 million for subsequent years.
- Our State Patrol would not be able to apply for an \$8 million grant for its commercial-vehicle division because it has to certify that Washington is in compliance.

HB 1384 was also passed to comply with new federal rules. My bill eliminates an old contracting practice so that small or disadvantaged businesses that work with the Department of Transportation can get paid more quickly. In our current economy, this is great news for Washington’s small contractors that need relief because they don’t have as much of a buffer as larger companies.

### Good news for Bothell

#### 2.5 miles of SR 527 for Multiway Boulevard Project

This measure turns over a 2.51-mile section of State Route 527 from the state to the City of Bothell, which is undergoing an extraordinary urban renewal. My bill (HB 1520) will enhance the ongoing vitality and potential to redevelop this corridor. Transferring this portion of 527 to Bothell will result in a more desirable balance between regional and local mobility needs. It will also help to better connect the newer part of the city in Snohomish County with the older part in King County.

#### Funding for Crossroads Project

The Capital Budget (HB 1497), which funds infrastructure projects, restores an \$8 million low-interest loan for realigning a stretch of Highway 522 between Hall Road and 102nd Ave. NE. The Crossroads Project will address traffic congestion and will create desperately needed jobs in our area.

### Good to know:

Washington, like most states, was hit hard by this Great Recession. But unlike other states, Washington is leading the way to recovery. The Employment Security Department reported that since April 2010, Washington has gained 41,500 jobs. Take a look at these impressive rankings:

- Forbes Magazine ranked Washington as the 5th best state for business in 2010.
- We’re number 2 on the 2010 State New Economy Index.
- The Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council’s 2010 Business Tax Index has Washington as the 5th state with the lowest taxes.
- In April 2011, money-rates.com ranked Washington as the 2nd best state for making a living.
- The Pew Center says Washington is one of 13 states leading the way in advancing cost-effective transportation policies.
- And we’re number 6 in the 2011 U.S. Clean Energy Leadership Index.

The road to recovery may be long, but we’re making steady strides in the right direction.

### Technology part of education definition

Technology has been and will continue to be a critical part of every student’s life and career success.

I was proud to sponsor a bill (SB 5392) that now adds technology as a core concept and principle to the definition of basic education.

By incorporating technology into the state’s education goals, we have the opportunity to inspire, engage and prepare all students for high-demand technology jobs.

### Creating Innovation Schools

Many of the fastest growing careers require expertise in science, technology, engineering and math (or STEM) fields.

A law just passed will provide more administrative flexibility in creating innovative schools. It establishes a process for school districts to be designated an Innovation School or to group together and become an Innovative Zone.

I made sure the bill (HB 1546) specified these schools must provide exciting and different arts, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (A-STEM) models of education. In return, they will receive waivers from specified state laws and administrative rules to make implementation of curriculum easier.

### Lake Washington Institute of Technology

Chances are you’ve heard of our local Lake Washington Technical College, just off of I-405. While the institution continues to be a great educational asset to our region, it was time for an updated name that represents their growth and evolving mission. This higher educational institution has broadened its technical education as a polytechnic college with programs through the baccalaureate level.

Students feel the name ‘Institute of Technology’ more accurately reflects the education they have received. To address this need, I sponsored a bill (SB 5664) that updates the name of ‘Lake Washington Technical College’ to the ‘Lake Washington Institute of Technology’.

### Update of teacher and principal evaluations

Our current 30-year-old teacher and principal evaluation system is antiquated and needs updating.

Collaborative reform has been put in motion through legislation I sponsored last year (SB 6696) with teachers, administrators and school boards developing new performance criteria and an evaluation system that is more tightly focused on student growth and achievement.

The new system will move beyond the pass/fail approach to include more detailed, data-based evaluation, supporting the most effective teachers, identify those that need support and those that should be subject to termination.

Every school district must have at least a four-tier evaluation system starting in 2013.

Working together on the efforts underway will ensure every child has a high quality teacher in the classroom.



Sen. McAuliffe presenting award to online school students.

### Improving college access for working adults

Washingtonians will now be able to earn college degrees through the Western Governor’s University, an accredited, on-line state university that follows curricula from the top schools across the nation.

This will add capacity at a time when our schools have no choice but to turn away working men and women who desperately need to be educated for new jobs in new fields. (HB 1822)

### Reforming program for needy families

The Legislature’s effort to reform Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) has paid off thanks to SB 5921, a far-reaching reform measure.

We must do a better job of accountability with tax payer dollars and for children, who through no fault of their own, rely on public assistance. SB 5921 ensures that every investment in parents is a step toward self-sufficiency.

#### Main components of the new law will include:

- Reform will be monitored by a legislative and executive committee to ensure the functions asked of recipients, service providers and the program as a whole are effective.
- Accountability will be strengthened by outcome measurements and feedback so adjustments to TANF can be made as needed.
- It will be illegal for TANF recipients to use EBT cards for certain nonessential expenses.
- Families receiving Working Connections, a subsidized childcare program for low income working families, will be required to participate in child support enforcement.

### Bothell Downtown Revitalization Plan

I was happy to advocate in the Senate for a bill (HB 1520), which transfers the section of Highway 527 that runs through downtown Bothell (between SR 522 and I-405) from state control to local control. This will allow the City of Bothell to have full control of things like design elements, speed limit, medians etc. with regard to the Downtown Revitalization Plan that is currently underway.

### A night in jail:

#### One citizen’s unjust plight leads me to change our state law

Imagine spending a night behind bars because of a debt you didn’t even know you owed. That’s right – maybe you heard about the Washington mom who was incarcerated because of an overdue bill that she thought had been paid.

Here’s how her nightmare unfolded: She called the police for help one evening, but instead of assisting her, they arrested her in front of her daughter and booked her into the local jail for the night. A few weeks after her ordeal, the woman finally found out, in a court hearing, that she had been arrested because of a medical bill for her son which she thought had been covered by insurance.

When I heard about this, I wanted to rewrite state law to prevent this injustice from knocking on anyone else’s door. As I researched the issue, I found that these sorts of incidents are a growing problem in our state and nationwide. A few bad apples in the debt-collection industry are abusing our court system in ways that waste taxpayer money and make difficult situations even worse. I worked with industry experts to craft legislation (HB 1864) that puts the brakes on these abusive practices.



Rep. Stanford joined in legislative debate on the floor of the House of Representatives.

### Stability in the financial sector:

#### Updating and streamlining insurance rules is very much in order

We’ve all seen what happens when big financial firms gamble with our money and lose – our economy falters and taxpayers find themselves on the hook for bailouts. We need a financial system that is stable and reliable, and that’s why I sponsored two bills to modernize our state’s insurance regulations.

My legislation (HB 1257) will safeguard your money and help to stabilize our state’s financial system. This bill will prevent insurance companies from putting your premiums into risky investments like exotic derivatives, speculation, and insolvent companies; at the same time, it allows flexibility for responsible innovation within the industry.

I also sponsored HB 1694 to put Washington’s insurance rules in line with the federal Dodd-Frank Act. By updating and streamlining these rules, we are projected to save \$1.5 million per year.

### A homeowner lifeline:

#### Renewed emphasis on saving folks from the calamity of foreclosures

I was proud to co-sponsor the Foreclosure Fairness Act of 2011 (HB 1362), aimed at protecting homeowners facing foreclosures. The new law reinforces the “meet and confer” requirement for homeowners, which requires that banks try to use mediation before foreclosing on a homeowner. Our revised Washington standard:

- Allows homeowners facing foreclosure to enter mediation with their bank and an independent mediator.
- Expands the time period in which the borrower can meet with the bank.
- Gives homeowners access to housing counselors to help navigate their options.
- Strengthens the Consumer Protection Act.

It’s an American dream to own a home. But more than 75,000 Washington families have been swept from their homes by foreclosures during this recession. We’re the 10th-worst state in the number of homes lost this way. And another 30,000 families might lose their homes this year.

Go to [www.commerce.wa.gov/site/1367/default.aspx](http://www.commerce.wa.gov/site/1367/default.aspx) for more information on the Foreclosure Mediation Program.

### Biomass to jet fuel:

#### Vital new policy for the environment and for aerospace

Here’s a cutting-edge new idea that makes good, plain-old common sense – whether looked at in terms of economic development or green-energy expansion. I’m talking about making jet fuel from wood waste.

My legislation (HB 1422) will promote biomass-to-fuel projects and spur investment in new technology for renewable energy in our state. This is what we need to generate new green jobs and reduce our dependence on imported oil. It’s critical work for energy security and the aerospace industry – a great win-win for Washington with no cost to our state budget.

### Public access:

#### North Creek Forest funding secured in the state’s new capital budget

The new capital budget advances the important work of preserving Bothell’s North Creek Forest, which is a mile from downtown Bothell and features more than 60 acres of emergent coniferous woodland.

Privately owned, the forest includes wetlands, streams, and native flora and fauna. North Creek Forest holds immense recreational, ecological and educational potential for generations to come. This capital-budget provision funds an initial phase of the project, matching a King County Futures grant to buy a key forest parcel and preserve it undeveloped.