

## MAJOR ISSUES

**Marriage equality:** Washington is poised to become the seventh state to legally recognize gay and lesbian couples who wish to get married. I am deeply honored to have co-sponsored this legislation.



**Job creation:** To take advantage of historically low-interest rates and help jump-start the economy, we crafted a bipartisan “Jobs Now” construction budget to invest in our public infrastructure. These projects will not only help build a better Washington, but they’ll also create 18,000 new jobs.

**Public transportation:** Seattle and King County need much greater flexibility with transit funding. I am disappointed the Legislature did not pass HB 2571, which would have given local governments more options for public transit funding. Giving local governments the tools and resources they need to maintain a healthy transit system will continue to be a high priority for me.



## STAY CONNECTED

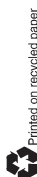
There is even more information available about the work we have done this session online. Find more details on the state budget and all of the bills I sponsored at [www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/roster/rep-reuven-carlyle](http://www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/roster/rep-reuven-carlyle).

My blog at [www.reuven-carlyle36.com](http://www.reuven-carlyle36.com) remains among the most widely read site by a legislator in the nation. Please visit frequently and let me know how you feel about the issues that impact us here in Seattle and throughout the state.



*Reach out and let me know how to make things better in Olympia*

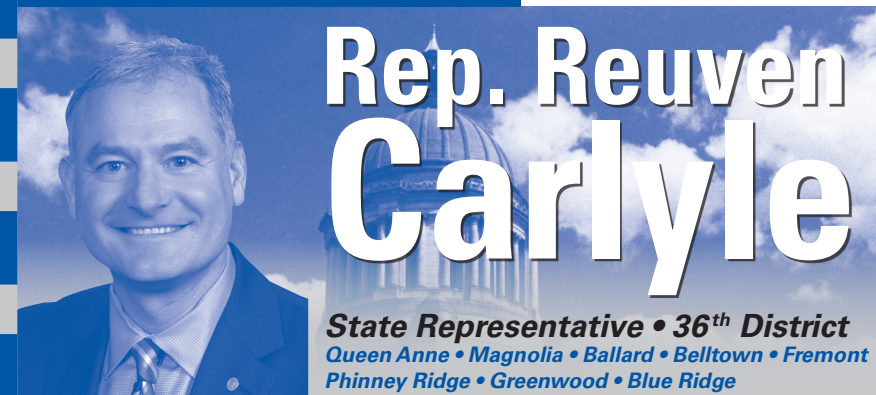
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## 2012 SESSION REPORT

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## 2012 SESSION REPORT



**State Representative • 36<sup>th</sup> District**  
Queen Anne • Magnolia • Ballard • Belltown • Fremont  
Phinney Ridge • Greenwood • Blue Ridge

### Welcome

The 2012 legislative sessions are now complete in Olympia and it's a joy to reconnect with my family and friends in Seattle! While serving as your part-time citizen legislator is a genuine and meaningful honor, it's also a challenge when we fail to reach agreement on the budget in a timely fashion. My top priority this year was to stop the unwise budget cuts to Seattle schools, University of Washington and other priorities while protecting the core safety net for foster youth, health care and other vital human services.

I so appreciate the opportunity to serve as your voice in state government. I have tried to honor your trust by working on serious and important 'system' issues impacting the 140,000 people of NW Seattle, our city and the nearly 7 million people statewide.

On a personal note, it was an honor earlier this year to be named by the prestigious Governing Magazine as one of 12 legislators in the nation to watch.

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### COMMITTEES

- Higher Education (**Vice Chair**)
- Technology, Energy & Communications
- Ways & Means

As always, please reach out to me directly if you want to connect about an issue of importance to you and your family. Thank you and I hope to hear from you soon!

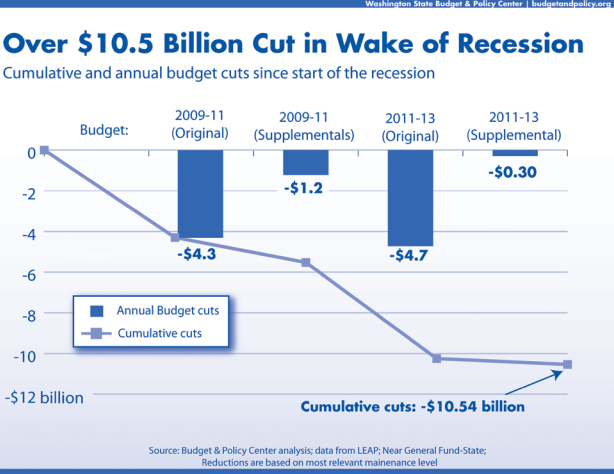
Your partner in service,

Reuven





BUDGET



of the powerful Ways & Means Committee, I have worked hard to prioritize public education and balance the budget responsibly while protecting vital public services such as Basic Health Plan, child care support, public health and job training. In the end we adopted a supplemental budget that avoids additional cuts to education and I supported the measure.

SUPPORTING OUR KIDS IN FOSTER CARE



Improving the lives of foster kids remains a driver of my legislative service. Less than 3% of foster youth ever achieve the dream of a college education while ten times that number will enter our criminal justice system. My dream is to reverse these numbers.

Five years ago, I crafted a bill as a volunteer citizen activist to create the “Passport to College” pilot program to recruit, retain and graduate more foster youth from college. It provides outreach and information to foster youth about higher education opportunities, as well as tuition and living expense scholarships to eligible former foster youth to attend college. Passport to College has been successful and this year I passed HB 2254 to extend and fund the program. The state is partnering with Treehouse and College Success Foundation to provide hands-on, wrap around services.

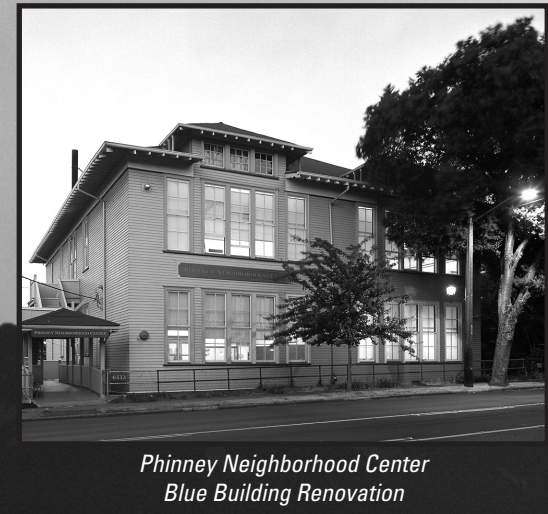
PUBLIC EDUCATION: “PARAMOUNT DUTY,” MCCLEARY LAWSUIT AND TEACHER EVALUATIONS



*Hundreds of school kids visit Olympia each year*

Our state constitution requires the Legislature to fully fund public education as our “paramount duty,” but for decades Olympia has failed miserably to meet this high standard. Recently, in the historic McCleary lawsuit, the state Supreme Court finally called the Legislature on the carpet for this long-time funding failure. Since 2009 major reform bills 2261 and 2776 were signed in to law setting the policy framework for full funding. These bills and the lawsuit ruling have set the stage for a plan to reprioritize and invest more in our schools.

A major policy bill this year creates a higher expectation of teachers and principals to utilize well structured and fair evaluation systems in the classroom.



CAPITAL PROJECTS

Each year the Legislature provides funding to a number of construction projects that preserve and promote arts, culture, commerce and community. This year I am proud to have worked extremely hard with Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles and Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson to secure \$995,000 for the Phinney Neighborhood Association to assist with building renovations. The PNA has helped to connect so many of us through the years, and I look forward to even more great community events in the future.

I also worked to support Pacific Science Center, Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle Aquarium and so many other community treasures.

DIGITAL TEXTBOOKS



Reuven discusses homework issues with visiting school children

Taxpayers spend a ridiculous \$64 million a year on middle and high school textbooks yet the average book age in the classroom is 10 years old! Textbooks in virtually every Seattle school are expensive, stale and academically generic. In the digital age we can save taxpayers millions while improving quality for students.

Two years ago, I designed a program to deliver open source materials for 300,000 community and technical college students. Open source materials are vetted, peer-reviewed materials that are freely available to the public. Digital textbooks are free to download, inexpensive to print on paper, and constantly updated online in real-time. College students are already saving millions from this exciting project. A Seattle Times editorial praised the program and supported expansion to the K-12 system.

This session I sponsored and the Legislature passed HB 2337 which aggressively implements open textbooks in the K-12 statewide based upon Common Core standards. Digital textbooks are gaining popularity with school districts all across the nation. They are simple, efficient, easy to use, and dramatically cheaper than proprietary textbooks. Transitioning to digital textbooks is also structural, systematic reform that is meaningful for Washington taxpayers and students.

TAX EXEMPTIONS, CREDITS AND PREFERENTIAL RATES



Over the years the Legislature has created 640 tax exemptions, credits and preferential rates for companies, nonprofits, local governments and other entities. Some work well and serve an important public purpose and some are ridiculously ineffective. I have led the charge to look critically at whether tax exemptions are achieving a return on investment for taxpayers. At my request the Ways & Means Committee held hearings about whether exemptions are transparent and measurably successful or whether they fail to pass the straight face test of efficacy.

- Due to I-1053, once a tax preference is on the books it is virtually impossible to remove it even if there’s broad consensus that it’s no longer working.
- This session, I sought to spark a courageous conversation about our state’s lack of oversight of the 640 tax preferences. Like any organization, the Legislature needs objectively examine both the spending and revenue sides of the ledger. Among the bills I introduced but did not pass:
- HB 2762 would place an expiration date on over 250 excise tax exemptions that currently lack one, excluding personal items like food and prescription drugs. Currently under I-1053, unless a tax break has a set expiration date, the default is that it effectively remains on the books forever. This legislation would require virtually all exemptions to expire after 10 years unless reauthorized by the Legislature. It would force tax preferences to receive the same level of objective, rigorous financial scrutiny we apply on the spending side of the budget. This policy proposal is an attempt to be philosophically consistent with our state’s fiscal policy.
  - HB 2532 reauthorizes, reforms, and resizes the current B&O high tech research & development tax credit. The bill maintains the credit for small, early stage companies but asks larger companies with revenues over \$25 million a year to contribute their credit dollars toward producing college graduates in high demand science, technology and research fields.