



# 2012 Session Report

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State Representative

**Marko Liias**

PO Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600


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**Town Hall Notice**


**In Person**  
Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>  
1 p.m.  
Mukilteo City Hall

**Over the Phone**  
Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>  
6 p.m.  
Tele-town hall  
(877) 229-8493  
Pin 18646#

## Marriage Equality for All Families




Early in the legislative session, legislation was passed and signed by the governor to allow all families to have access to marriage. For many lawmakers this was a difficult vote, and I respect both sides. For me, I was incredibly proud to support and lead our state towards marriage equality.



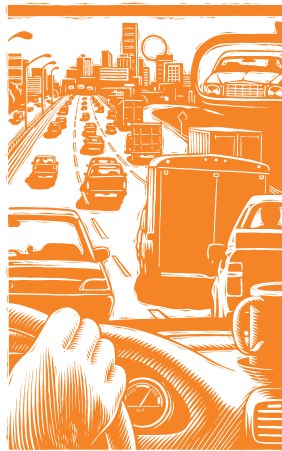
As I spoke to on the House Floor, marriage is about commitment and community. By breaking down the walls around this institution, we will allow more families in, which will strengthen our communities and marriage in our state.



I believe all Washington families deserve access to the security and commitment that marriage can offer.



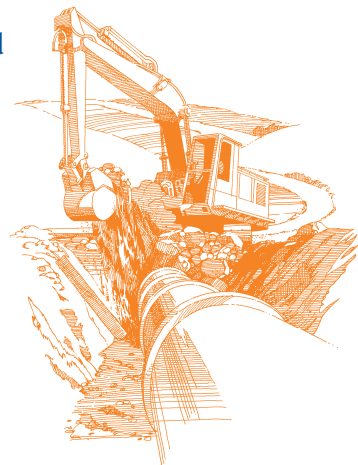
## Jobs – Transportation and Community Investments



Our current transportation budget will create or sustain 43,000 over two years. That is a much needed investment as we come out of this recession, not only providing good-paying jobs, but laying infrastructure for future economic activity.

A Jobs Now package also passed this session, providing around 18,000 jobs in work today when they're badly needed in the

construction sector. By moving projects forward, we not only move the jobs forward, but key work at schools and public areas will advance to take advantage of a good cost-bidding environment.




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### Important contact numbers

- **Emergency – Dial 9-1-1**
- **Snohomish County Emergency Management**  
Phone: 425-388-3411 or 800-562-4367
- **Red Cross – Snohomish County Chapter**  
2530 Lombard Avenue, Everett  
Phone: 425-252-4103
- **Snohomish PUD**  
Report outage: 425-783-1001  
Information: 877-783-1001
- **Puget Sound Energy – Natural Gas**  
Phone: 888-225-5773
- **Flood Warning Information**  
Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Snohomish: 425-388-3653  
Stillaguamish River: 425-388-3702
- **Domestic Violence Services**  
Snohomish County: 425-252-2873  
State Hotline: 800-562-6025
- **Pets – Lost or Found**  
Everett Animal Shelter: 425-257-6000  
PAWS Animal Shelter: 425-787-2500
- **Comcast – Internet/Phone/Cable**  
Phone: 800-934-6489
- **CenturyLink – Phone/Internet**  
Phone: 877-348-9007

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**TTY:** (800) 635-9993

**Web:** [housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/liias](http://housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/liias)

**Committees:**  
Vice Chair – Transportation  
Technology, Energy and Communications  
Education



# Representative Marko Liias Legislative District 21

## 2012 Session Report

Greetings Friends,

First off, it is an honor to serve as your community voice in Olympia. The last few years have been difficult for our state. But through these challenges I've heard from many of you about particular issues, as well as broad issues like balancing the budget. That feedback guided my decisions which I believe will make Washington a stronger state moving forward.

In this update I touch on a few of the bigger issues from the 2012 Legislative Session – how the state budget was balanced, key transportation issues, and marriage equality. A lot more happened, however, so if there's an issue you'd like more information on please just contact our office.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve our communities as one of your state representatives. Never hesitate to reach out to our office to share your thoughts, or if we can be of assistance.

Cheers,

*Marko*  
Marko



Marko speaking on the floor during the marriage equality debate



## Responsibly Balancing the State Budget

Painfully, the state has been cutting its way through this recession in order to balance the budget. A lot of key support in education, senior, disabled and children's services were dropped. However, the state is leaner and more efficient as we've looked to save every dollar possible to put into priorities.

This session we again had a \$1.2 billion imbalance to address. I was proposing looking at revenue, either

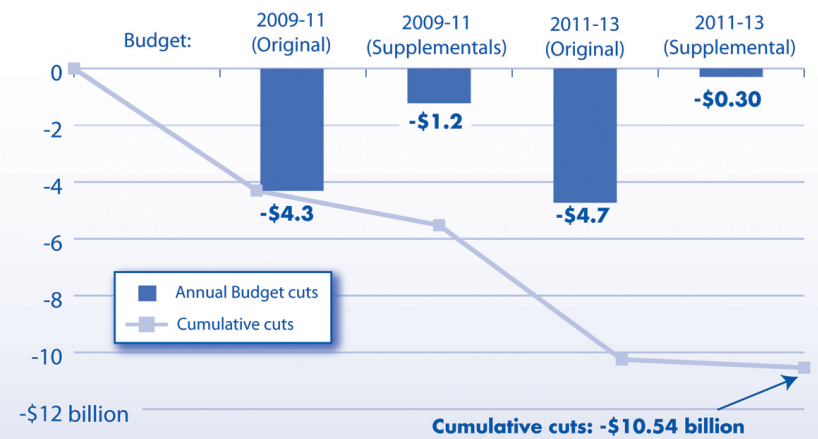
through closing tax loopholes or new revenue sources. Unfortunately the reality was not enough support was there for a large effort, but we were able to close a tax exemption for large banks for \$14.5 million.

Cuts and reductions are the big portion of how we balanced the budget – \$340 million coming from people using state services less, and \$295 million coming from new policy decision cuts, with the vast majority of that coming from social and health services.

While I do not love the budget we passed, there were other alternatives proposed

## Over \$10.5 Billion Cut in Wake of Recession

Cumulative and annual budget cuts since start of the recession



Source: Budget & Policy Center analysis; data from LEAP; Near General Fund-State; Reductions are based on most relevant maintenance level

that cut education and eliminated our safety net. Those were not options I want to consider, and hopefully soon we can look at taking better care of those in our communities.

## Transportation Investments and Projects

A healthy transportation system is key to our economy and quality of life. As vice chair of the House Transportation Committee, my focus is on making smart choices to improve the system for everyone – from truck suppliers headed to Boeing, to the commuter headed to Bellevue each day.

Transportation investment packages approved several years ago are really making their impact today. From helping replace aging bridges to improving highway traffic flow. This session I was also proud to fight for – and secure – \$35 million over the next three years to support transit in our state. Some of this will go to Community Transit service here locally.

Riders in a bus or train reduce pressure on our roads, while providing an often cost-effective way for people to move from home to work. With gas prices squeezing middle-class pocketbooks, I'll continue fighting for transit to make our communities stronger through transportation choices.

### Mukilteo Ferry Terminal

For Mukilteo residents and surrounding communities, the waterfront is a wonderful hub for business and families. The ferry terminal is a key part of that and it is in need of serious repair, mainly because it will likely not be operational after a serious earthquake. A process is underway now to look at how to repair or replace the terminal.

While funding still needs to be identified for a replacement, there are two terminal projects Washington State Ferries has kept on the front burner, so I'm anticipating in a future state funding package we will have support.



How the terminal is repaired, or as I'm hoping – replaced, will affect the Mukilteo waterfront for generations. A replacement that moves the terminal over into the

tank farm pier area will open up our waterfront and provide new opportunities. It's an important decision that I'll be working on behalf of our community.

More information can be found here:  
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/ferries/mukilteoterminal/multimodal/>

### Key Local Improvements

SR 525 and 196<sup>th</sup> intersection with I-5

The state invested almost \$33 million to build ramps onto and away from Interstate 5 at this intersection, to help cut down on traffic weaving. This will help reduce congestion and accidents, in addition to providing key construction work and related economic activity in our area. In total, construction work on this project supported close to 200 people.

### Safe Routes to Schools

Three local projects received funding:

- Lynnwood: \$250,000 to help create walking and cycling paths
- Mountlake Terrace: \$330,000 for sidewalk improvements at 54<sup>th</sup> Ave. West
- Hazelwood Elementary: \$78,000 for walk route improvements

### Supporting Community Transit

In addition to Community Transit receiving nearly \$600,000 this year to help pay for operational costs, I also fought to secure funding to help study the next phase of SWIFT bus rapid transit. The \$100,000 in support will help Community Transit jumpstart the process of designing and building a second SWIFT line to tackle congestion in our community.

