



## Representative Luis Moscoso

1st Legislative District

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Appropriations & Oversight  
(Vice Chair)
- Environment
- Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness
- Transportation

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# 1st District 2012 Legislative Review

May 2012

Dear Neighbors,

This is my second year representing you in Olympia, I am deeply grateful for your trust and your support. Legislative work is very intense and, while things can move very quickly, you still have to look at every issue from all angles. It's not until one gets into the nitty-gritty of the pressing issues we are facing that one can truly have an accurate, informed and objective view of their magnitude and effects.

The most challenging situation our state has been facing for several years now is the fact that the budget has been shrinking. If you look at state spending along with inflation and population in the past two decades, what you find is that the general fund has declined by 24 percent since 2002, and by 16 percent since 1991. In a nutshell, state spending hasn't been as low as it is today in at least 20 years. I realize that may be hard to believe. Fortunately, the folks at the Economic Opportunity Institute did a great job figuring this out back in February and they have all that information on this website: <http://washingtonpolicywatch.org/2012/02/14/honey-i-shrunk-the-budget-an-honest-look-at-washington-states-spending/>. I strongly encourage you to check it out. You'll find a very thorough explanation along with charts to illustrate exactly how the budget has been shrinking.

As you know, we went into overtime and pulled an all-nighter to drop the final curtain on the legislative sessions of 2012! But it was worth it because the final agreement we reached has some very, very good points. **Instead of more cuts to education, which is what the opposition's budget proposal would have done, we are funding K-12 and higher education without further cuts. And instead of wiping out entire programs that our most vulnerable people depend on, as laid out in the opposition's budget, we saved the safety net.** We also passed the Jobs Now package, which will get around 20,000 currently unemployed people back to work, and we eliminated the tax exemption for big out-of-state banks. These are all good things that will help Washington families move forward.

I thank you for taking the time to read this report where you will find information on some of the non-budget-related measures that will also make significant differences in the lives of folks in our district and throughout the state.

Please know that it truly is a privilege to represent you and I always welcome your suggestions, ideas and concerns. So please continue sharing your thoughts and working with me to shape the direction of our state, our district and our communities.

Sincerely,



# Representative Luis Moscoso

## ADDRESSING OUR GROWING STREET GANGS PROBLEM

In 2010 there were at least 300 verified street gangs in Washington with about 15,000 members. It's time to change our approach on how to deal with this growing problem.

During the 2011 interim I met with families, law enforcement officers, representatives from cities and counties throughout the state, educators, behavioral-health professionals, fellow legislators, and even former gang members to discuss criminal street gangs and how to prevent youth from falling into their traps.

As a result of those meetings, I joined efforts with other legislators to introduce bipartisan measures that Washington communities can harness to break the criminal cycle before it breaks our kids.

## ESTABLISHING GANG COURTS

**HB 2535** authorizes gang courts as an alternative to traditional prosecution of youthful gang members. The measure is modeled on a successful program in Yakima County. A juvenile who is found guilty of a crime that is not a major felony or sex offense can participate in gang court, where sentencing is deferred. An individualized plan is developed for the juvenile, which may include mental health or substance abuse treatment. If the youth completes the plan, the charges are dismissed and he or she can carry on with life on a productive path this time.

## PREVENTING KIDS FROM JOINING GANGS

Although my prevention and intervention measure (**HB 2432**) did not pass, I am happy to report that our efforts were not in vain. Included in the operating budget are **\$250,000 to start a program that will focus on prevention and intervention** to reduce gang violence. The Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice will be authorized to award grantstolocal governments or non-profit organizations that demonstrate



*Rep. Luis Moscoso addressing a group of students on the dangers of criminal gangs.*

they have been effective at getting — and keeping — kids out of gangs and off the streets.

This problem will not go away on its own. We need to continue putting effort, money and the collective resources of communities and local law enforcement into strategies that actually work. I can't stress enough how important it is that we focus on preventing our kids from getting into violent gang activity in the first place.

## PROTECTING YOUR IDENTITY, YOUR PRIVACY AND YOUR HOME

Many people across the state have security alarm systems or are enrolled in crime watch programs to keep their neighborhoods safe. For it to work, homeowners provide personally identifiable information to law enforcement agencies so the police can respond appropriately if burglars break into their homes.

What would you say if anyone could get their hands on that information? It's a scary thought, but under the Public Records Act (PRA) anyone can do just that by requesting law enforcement agencies to make public records available for inspection unless those records are exempted. That's not the case with security alarm systems and crime watch programs. But it will be as soon as my legislation goes into effect on June 7. **HB 1234** exempts this information from the PRA, so that's one less thing you have to worry about.

## GETTING TOUGH WITH DRUNK DRIVERS

In 2009, 207 people lost their lives in alcohol-related collisions. There was a slight improvement in 2010, when 170 people died in impaired crashes. Those are still too many lives lost to irresponsible people behind the wheel. This session we passed three measures to reduce the number of fatalities due to DUI in our state:



- **HB 2216** increases penalties for conviction of vehicular homicide involving drunk driving to match those for manslaughter.
- **HB 2443** provides that for convicted drunk drivers, the ignition interlock devices installed on their vehicles will be equipped with cameras, and adds intoxication from "huffing" chemical vapors to the conditions that fall under DUI laws.
- **HB 2302** increases the penalty for driving drunk if there are children under 16 in the vehicle.

# 1st District 2012 Legislative Review

## PROTECTING WOMEN, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Human trafficking is the fastest growing international crime. The U.S. Department of State reports that 14,500 to 17,000 persons are trafficked into our country each year. But not all the victims of human trafficking cross our borders or reach our shores; many of them are born and raised in our state and are forced into the commercial sex industry.

In 2003 Washington became the first state in the nation to criminalize human trafficking. And now, with **Senate Bill 6251**, we are the first in the nation to require verification of age for on-line ads that promote sex-related services. That was one in a big package of anti-human trafficking bipartisan bills signed into law in March.



The anti-trafficking package includes measures that will:

- Give law enforcement more tools to fight the commercial sale of sex including prevention and increased enforcement.
- Expand fines for those convicted of promoting or patronizing a prostitute.
- Divert first-time offenders to “john schools” to learn about the negative costs of prostitution.
- Designate funds for rehabilitative services to help young victims transition out of the commercial sex industry.
- Add “Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor” and “Promoting Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor” to the list of criminal profiteering activities.
- Add “Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor” to the list of criminal street gang-related offenses.
- Criminalize compelling the mentally disabled to engage in prostitution.
- Criminalize coerced sexually explicit acts.

## THE “LEAN” LIFESTYLE

If you’ve ever been on a diet you know it’s not enough to eat less and move more. To succeed, you must make a lifestyle change to make healthy choices and go for the lean two-ounce chicken breast instead of the fatty two-inch thick rib-eye.

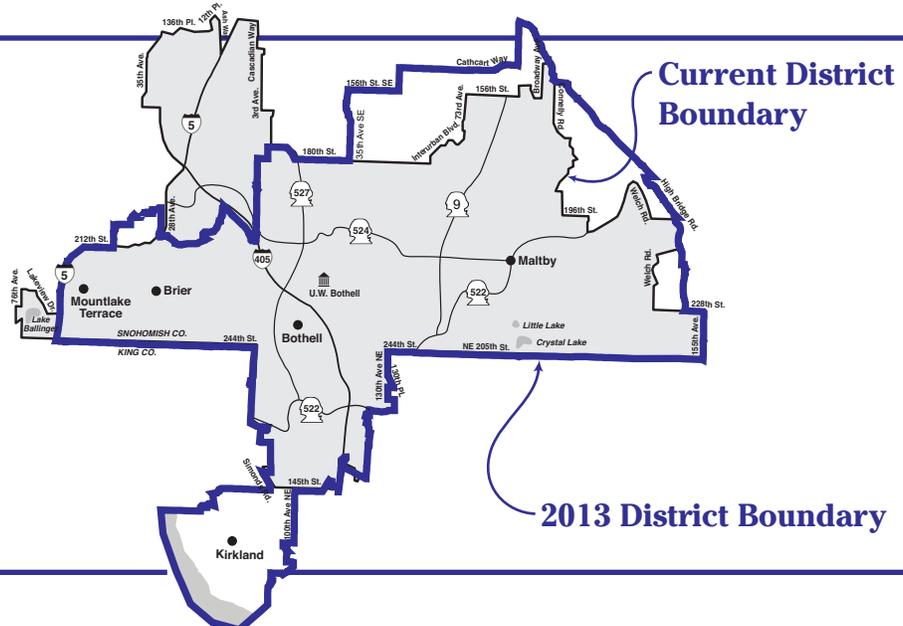
Washington has been tightening its belt due to the Great Recession for the past three years. We’ve consolidated state agencies, eliminated thousands of state employee positions, and have made more than \$10 billion in cuts to the state budget.

A few months ago Gov. Gregoire signed an executive order requiring government agencies to complete a Lean-inspired project this year. “Lean” is a continuous improvement process to reduce costs and make state government more efficient.

I introduced a bill (**HB 2173**) declaring the Legislature’s intention to make more use of Lean. The measure didn’t make it past the deadline, but the governor asked me to work with the Lean experts to help the agencies bring about the culture change Lean requires. I am looking forward to this task.

## REDISTRICTING

Every ten years, with the Census information as a guide, the Redistricting Commission is tasked with adjusting legislative districts so that each one of our 49 districts across the state has the same number of constituents. Here’s a map that shows the new boundaries of our 1st Legislative District:





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## BIG CONSTRUCTION AND TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS THAT CREATE JOBS IN OUR AREA

### \$65 MILLION IN THE CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THESE PROJECTS IN OUR DISTRICT:

Horse Creek Enhancement Project	\$800,000
Construction of phase 3 at UW Bothell: classroom and lab space for science, engineering, math, and health majors.	\$62,850,000
Biomedical Technology Innovation – Bothell	\$500,000
Scriber Creek Pedestrian Bridge	\$800,000

### \$252 MILLION IN THE TRANSPORTATION BUDGET FOR NUMEROUS PROJECTS INCLUDING:

I-405/Kirkland Vicinity Stage 2 - Widening (Nickel/TPA)	\$188,061,000
SR 9/212th St SE to 176th St SE, Stage 3 - Add Lanes	\$42,681,000
I-5/196th St (SR 524) Interchange - Build Ramps	\$12,974,000
I-5/Mountlake Terrace Freeway Station	\$2,447,000
City of Bothell, SR 522 West City Limits to NE 180th Stage 2A (91st Ave)	\$1,900,000
SR 9/SR 96 to Marsh Rd - Add Lanes and Improve Intersections	\$1,365,000

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PROJECTS IN THE CAPITAL AND TRANSPORTATION BUDGETS, PLEASE GO TO:

[HTTP://FISCAL.WA.GOV/MAPS.ASPX](http://fiscal.wa.gov/maps.aspx)

### PLEASE NOTE THAT MY DISTRICT OFFICE HAS MOVED TO COUNTRY VILLAGE:

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