



2012 Final Legislative Report

30th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Spring 2012

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WASHINGTON STATE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dear Friends,

It's been wonderful representing our 30th District for the past 13 years. I feel mixed emotions that this is my final legislative report as your representative. I hope to move on to serve the public in a different capacity, but I will miss serving our great local communities in the Legislature.

Whenever I come home to Federal Way or visit Algona, Auburn, Milton, Pacific, Des Moines or other parts of our district, I'm reminded of how lucky I am to serve our communities. We support our schools and are ready to help neighbors in need, and we put the common good ahead of divisive party politics. If more communities were like ours, the Legislature and our state would be better off. Serving our community has truly been a pleasure as well as an honor.

I'll be your representative until next January, so please don't hesitate to call, write, email or stop by my office if I can help you in any way. My Legislative Assistant, Leanne, cares as much about constituent service as I do. If you have concerns you'd like to share, ideas for new laws, or you need help dealing with a state agency, let me know. I'll do my best to help.

Please take a look inside this newsletter. The Legislature enacted some good laws you should know about. I'm also pleased to report that on the last day of the special session lawmakers embraced my proposal to accelerate government reforms that will help to improve efficiency, performance and customer satisfaction in every state agency.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve such a great community and state.

All the best,

Mark Miloscia

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A good budget

It's rare for a supplemental budget to be praised by Democrats, Republicans and Independents alike. But the budget we enacted on the last day of the special session achieved this distinction.

To see how, you need to think back to January. Just a few months ago, lawmakers faced the very real threat that education, colleges and human services would have to be cut again to balance the budget. Can you imagine cutting education further even after the Supreme Court warned that our schools were already underfunded?

I voted against the first Democratic budget proposals because they were short on reform and pushed too many costs into the next biennium. The budget proposed by Senate Republicans (with three Democrats in support) included reforms, but made deep cuts to schools, colleges and the human services safety net.

Fortunately, the economy is improving, the demand for some state services is lower than expected, and we balanced the budget with new reforms (see below) but without further cuts to education or higher education and without shredding the safety net that disabled senior citizens and so many others depend on.

At the same time, we passed the Jobs Now Act, which makes smart construction investments that will employ more than 18,000 private-sector workers on public projects such as repairing schools and building water systems.

The bottom line was that, in the end, both political parties contributed good ideas and met in the middle. Leadership prevailed over partisanship. I gladly supported the compromise. It's a budget that will serve Washington well in challenging times.

Making government work better



On the last day of the special session, lawmakers embraced my proposal to accelerate government reform by requiring every state agency to apply for a Washington State Quality Award this year. This process automatically triggers an independent assessment or quality audit of each agency's management, accountability, and performance — including whether the agency has strong leadership and “a culture of customer service.”

Having served as a Washington State Quality Award Examiner and a member of the Malcolm Baldrige national Board of Examiners, I know that well-designed quality audits really do work to promote excellent performance, accountability and customer service. This is the kind of reform we need to improve government across-the-board and restore public trust again.

The new Four-year Balanced Budget reform I supported is also good news for taxpayers. It requires a more realistic outlook on costs and revenues that will deter overspending and reduce the risks of severe deficits like those we've suffered through the past three years.

Citizens should also cheer the new campaign finance reform that requires initiative campaigns to reveal their top five contributors in initiative ads. I co-sponsored this reform because clean government begins with clean elections and you deserve the right to know who's financing campaigns before you vote.

Federal Way Triangle Project moves forward



The transportation budgets we passed this biennium were truly bipartisan accomplishments that support 43,000 construction jobs and make good use of very limited resources. Local lawmakers teamed up to secure \$2.5 million for preliminary work on new Federal Way Triangle improvements. This seed money will avoid years of delay.

When completed, the I-5, SR-18 and SR-161 Triangle projects will improve traffic flow and cut collisions by 50 percent in high-accident corridors. Federal Way officials also predict these projects will fuel 6,000 new jobs by improving access to local businesses.

Cracking down on drunk driving



Do you remember when a three-time drunk driver killed two Decatur High School students in 2010? The dad of one of the victims wrote me and other lawmakers to ask for stronger drunk-driving laws. I responded by supporting some of the toughest DUI reforms in state history.

We more than doubled the minimum sentence for vehicular homicide, from 31 to 78 months in prison. We also enacted sweeping reforms I co-sponsored that will:

- Add cameras to alcohol-detecting ignition-interlock devices — at no public cost — to prevent DUI offenders from cheating by having someone else give the breath sample.
- Allow law enforcement to administer alcohol tests for felony DUI arrests without the suspect's consent — and prevent courts from sealing or vacating felony DUI records.
- Expand DUI laws to cover "huffing" — inhaling chemical vapors to get high.
- Make DUI offenders liable for up to \$2,500 of emergency-response costs — up from \$1,000.
- Increase penalties for DUI crimes when a child is in the vehicle. This includes tripling how long offenders must use ignition-interlock devices in their vehicles.

If these reforms sound harsh, remember that drunk drivers kill more people in Washington than all other criminals combined. Try to imagine losing your own son or daughter to a drunk driver. Then you'll see why I'm convinced these reforms are necessary and just.

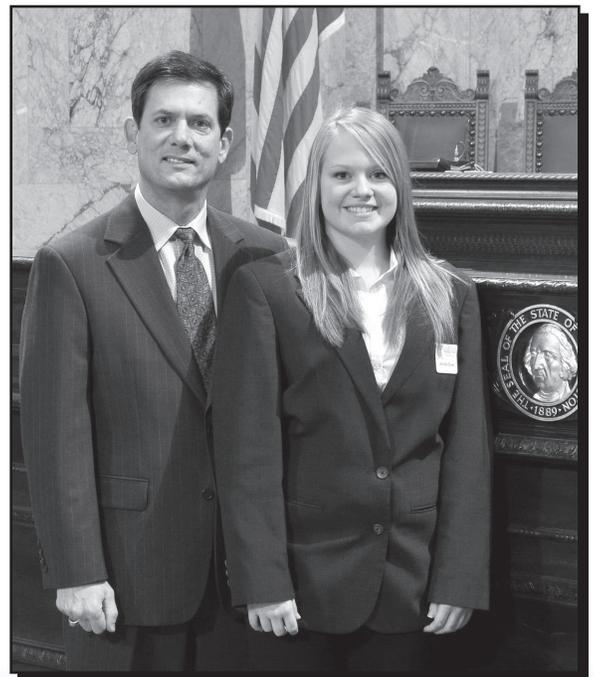
Sound Transit. Broken Promises. Broken Trust.



The biggest problem facing government today is the lack of public trust. Sound Transit is part of the problem. Local voters were promised in 2008 that the Sound Transit bond would bring light rail to Federal Way by the year 2023. But now Sound Transit is reneging on the promise. They say the rail line will only reach as far south as Highline — but they still expect Federal Way citizens to pay \$240 million for

the service we were promised but won't get!

I introduced legislation to require annual performance audits of Sound Transit, because citizens have a right to know why the promise to Federal Way is being broken and exactly where our money and other funding for South Transit is going. I applaud State Auditor Brian Sonntag's decision to audit Sound Transit, but we need ongoing accountability to ensure that taxpayers are being served honestly and efficiently. Annual audits would achieve that. My bill (HB 2716) didn't pass, but it did raise awareness of Federal Way's issues with Sound Transit.



Mark with Legislative Page Jennilee Brown

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Reducing the suffering of human trafficking

We should all be proud that the Federal Way Community Action Team, local Soroptimists, and Women of Vision worked with Washington Engage to make our state a national leader in combating human trafficking and child prostitution. They helped pass new laws that will:

- Make it a felony to knowingly sell or disseminate ads for commercial sex that depict children. Seattle police found more than 20 cases of child prostitution linked to girls advertised as escorts.
 - Make profits and property linked to the commercial sexual abuse of children subject to civil seizure and forfeiture.
 - Allow courts to impose thousands of dollars of additional fees for pimps who promote prostitution — with the proceeds dedicated to preventing sex crimes.
 - Increase fines for patronizing prostitutes and require first-time offenders to attend “John Schools.”
- Protect people with disabilities by making it a serious crime to compel a person with a mental disability to engage in prostitution, even if there was no physical force.

I salute our local leaders and Washington Engage for leading the fight against human trafficking and child prostitution. Thanks to them, suffering will be reduced and criminals will quickly learn that Washington has zero-tolerance for these horrible crimes.

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