

# 2013 Update from your 3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District Team



*Senator*  
**Andy Billig**

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
25 West Main, Suite 237  
Spokane, WA 99201  
(509) 209-2427

**OLYMPIA OFFICE:**  
412 Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504-0403  
(360) 786-7604

**E-MAIL:**  
Andy.Billig@leg.wa.gov

**MY WEBSITE:**  
[www.senatedemocrats.wa.gov/senators/billig](http://www.senatedemocrats.wa.gov/senators/billig)



*Representative*  
**Timm Ormsby**

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
25 West Main, Suite 238  
Spokane, WA 99201  
(509) 458-2122

**OLYMPIA OFFICE:**  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600  
(360) 786-7946

**E-MAIL:**  
Timm.Ormsby@leg.wa.gov

**MY WEBSITE:**  
[www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/roster/rep-timm-ormsby](http://www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/roster/rep-timm-ormsby)



*Representative*  
**Marcus Riccelli**

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
25 West Main, Suite 239  
Spokane, WA 99201  
(509) 456-2760

**OLYMPIA OFFICE:**  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600  
(360) 786-7888

**E-MAIL:**  
Marcus.Riccelli@leg.wa.gov

**MY WEBSITE:**  
[www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/roster/rep-Marcus-Riccelli](http://www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/roster/rep-Marcus-Riccelli)

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

We are pleased to offer you this update on recent progress in the Legislature. We've organized the information into four categories that reflect some of our highest priorities as we represent you in Olympia.

- Investing in education
- Preserving the safety net
- Creating economic opportunity
- Expanding health care coverage

We welcome input from constituents so please do not hesitate to contact us if you ever have any questions or comments.

It is an honor to serve you.

Senator Andy Billig

Representative Timm Ormsby

Representative Marcus Riccelli



# INVESTING IN EDUCATION

Every child in our state deserves a quality education. While there are many examples, especially in our city, of outstanding schools, dedicated teachers, and high achieving students, we have room to improve and the state Supreme Court's McCleary ruling in 2012 made it clear that our state has not provided adequate funding for basic education.

As we work toward full funding for K-12 education, the Legislature this session secured a billion new dollars for education – a down payment on the \$4.5 billion required to meet our moral and constitutional requirement that we fully fund basic education.

Important recent investments by the Legislature in our education system include:

- **Class size reduction and all-day kindergarten**

Among the new investments in the K-12 system were additional funds to reduce class size and expand all-day kindergarten. Spokane Public Schools went even further by expanding all-day K to every school in the district.

- **Making sure every student arrives at school ready to learn**

One of the best educational investments we can make as a community is in early learning, and this year we increased both the access to and quality of early childhood education opportunities.

- **College tuition freeze**

For the first time in recent memory, students at Washington's public colleges and universities won't see a hike in tuition.



Rep. Riccelli



“

**Sen. Andy Billig:**

*“It is both a moral and economic obligation to provide a quality education for every child. We have good schools in our city and throughout Washington, but we should strive to do even better. Our children and our community deserve nothing less.”*

”

# PRESERVING THE SAFETY NET

We knew that we couldn't balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable and we succeeded in passing a budget that reflects those values. We preserved critical programs that provide a helping hand up into the middle class and support the most vulnerable in our community.

- **Homelessness prevention** – the Housing and Essential Needs program was threatened with cuts that would have put 35,000 people out on the streets. We reversed those cuts and made sure that funding was maintained.
- **Support for disabled** – the Aging/Blind/Disabled support program was protected from cuts.
- **State food assistance** – funding for food assistance for needy families was increased by almost \$10 million.
- **Working connections child care** – we saved this program that helps single moms and working families lift themselves out of poverty by helping them afford child care for their kids.
- **Support for pre-school kids** – the ECEAP program supplements federal Head Start for low-income children to make sure they begin school ready to learn. Increased funding will support health and nutrition services for 1,700 additional children.
- **Maintained funding for vital services for children** including Sally's House emergency foster care, Crosswalk teen shelter, and the NW Autism Center.



Sen. Billig



“

**Rep. Timm Ormsby:**

*“It's easy to think that the safety net is for 'other people.' But when you look into it, the safety net helps almost everyone in one way or another. Justice Holmes once said, 'Taxes are what we pay for civilized society,' and these basic services that we try to provide one another – food, clothing, shelter and medical care – are among the most important aspects of a civilized society.”*

”

# ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Two of the biggest recent achievements of the Legislature were the passage of the transportation and capital budgets, which fund a wide array of construction and roads projects. Together, these budgets will create or preserve nearly 75,000 jobs across the state over the next two years. These investments will also grow our economy over the long term by providing infrastructure that businesses need to succeed and create jobs.

## Highlights for Spokane:

- \$71 million in additional funding for the **North Spokane Corridor** – Extending this freight corridor is crucial to the economic vitality of the Spokane area.
- \$13.3 million to expand facilities at the **Spokane Skills Center** and the **Spokane Valley Tech Skills Center** – These skills centers prepare students for the job market or advanced educational or technical programs.
- \$2.7 million for the **Fairchild Air Force Base Accident Potential Zone Relocation Project.**



- \$500,000 to fund planning for **Spokane's Central City Line**, a new electric trolley bus line proposed for downtown Spokane.

- Capital budget funding for **Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners**, **Emmanuel Family Life Center** and the **Lower Falls Community Center** – Making improvements to these facilities to allow them to serve additional families.



“

### **Sen. Andy Billig:**

“Our infrastructure investments should focus on quality of life as well as economic vitality. The Safe Routes to School program, which received increased funding this year, is a great example of state funds being used to make our community safer and healthier while providing increased mobility.”

”

### **Rep. Timm Ormsby:**

“The best social program is a job, and overall, actions taken by the Legislature this year created tens of thousands of good new jobs and preserved even more. I wish we could have done more – the Republican rejection of a transportation revenue package will keep plenty of Washingtonians out of work – but we’re moving in the right direction.”

”

“

### **Rep. Marcus Riccelli:**

“From funding for the North Spokane Corridor to capital budget dollars for community projects, transportation and infrastructure investments provide critical freight mobility and economic development in our region and put men and women to work. These investments will improve our economic vitality and create living-wage jobs that families in Spokane sorely need.”

”

# 2013 Update From Your 3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District Team

## HEALTH CARE AND WELLNESS



Rep. Ormsby

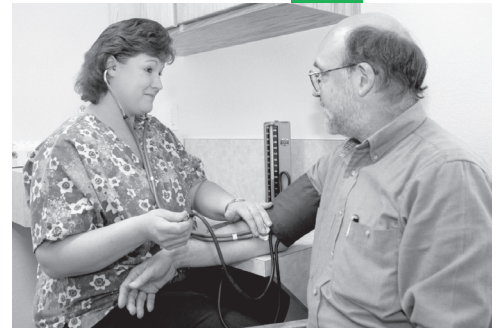
Washington is leading the nation on implementation of the Affordable Care Act, recently taking major steps to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of health care. As a result of President Obama's Affordable Care Act and recent efforts by the State Legislature, more people will receive coverage, costs will be lower, and people will receive more comprehensive benefits.

Importantly, people will be able to go to a doctor instead of an emergency room, will avoid medical bankruptcy, and will not lose their jobs because of a preventable illness.



### Highlights for Spokane:

- **Medicaid expansion** – The Legislature expanded access to Medicaid, ensuring that more than 24,000 residents of Spokane County will have access to health care and adult dental who didn't before.
- **Providing greater health care choices** – For those who still don't qualify for Medicaid after the expansion, the Legislature established a health benefits exchange called Healthplanfinder – an online marketplace that will make it easier to shop for plans, compare prices, and determine the best insurance provider for their needs.
- **Boosting Spokane's health care sector** – Spokane is rapidly growing as a regional health sciences hub, now a \$1 billion industry that employs more than 34,000 people here. Investments in the Riverpoint medical campus and expansion of doctor training here locally will continue to grow this sector. We are committed to ensuring Spokane remains a center for health care services and medical research and has a trained and educated workforce to meet the increasing regional and State demands.



### “ Rep. Marcus Riccelli:

*“The healthcare reforms that were undertaken this session – Medicaid expansion, adult dental coverage, a health benefit exchange – are powerful steps in keeping our community strong and healthy. Implementation of the Affordable Care Act will improve the quality, affordability and accessibility of healthcare and create jobs in Spokane.”*

”

# LOOKING FORWARD

## Sen. Andy Billig:

"I will continue to do all I can to work toward our common community goals of strong schools, a healthy and safe Spokane, and prosperity for all. To effectively represent you and achieve these goals, your input is vital. Please keep in touch."

## Rep. Timm Ormsby:

"My goals are simple: Healthy, well-educated kids. Comfort and dignity for our elders. A good job for everyone who wants one. Safe and secure families. I know Andy and Marcus are with me on this, and I'm looking forward to hearing your ideas on how we can keep moving forward."

## Rep. Marcus Riccelli:

"Your feedback and ideas are critical to ensure our shared community values are strongly represented. I remain focused on job creation, protecting our most vulnerable, supporting our public infrastructure, and investing in our neighborhood schools. Together we will move Spokane forward."

## 3<sup>rd</sup> District Mobile Offices

Please drop by any of our mobile office events to share comments or questions with your legislators.

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

North Central neighborhood  
Chairs Coffee  
113 W. Indiana  
4:00 to 5:30pm


### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

East Central neighborhood  
South Perry Farmer's Market  
924 S. Perry Ave.  
4:00 to 5:30pm

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

Hillyard neighborhood  
Northeast Community Center  
4001 N. Cook St.  
3:30 to 5:00pm



Printed on recycled paper 

PO Box 40600  
Olympia WA 98504-0600

**Sen. Andy Billig**  
**Rep. Timm Ormsby**  
**Rep. Marcus Riccelli**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District - Spokane**  
**2013 Legislative Update**

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
OLYMPIA WA  
PERMIT NO 92