

Zack Hudgins

House of Representatives
State of Washington



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Education funding: What do you think?

In 2012, the state Supreme Court ruled in the **McCleary** decision that the state wasn't meeting its constitutional obligation to fully fund education. Last year, we made historic investments in education, spending \$3.4 billion more to fund maintenance, supplies, operations, all-day kindergarten, and K-3 class-size reductions. This year, the legislature passed important bills to close the educational opportunity gap and attract and retain teachers, but our biggest hurdle in fixing our education system must be addressed next year: the state's obligation to compensate teachers through the state budget, instead of a reliance on local levies.

There are many ideas on how to find the extra billions of dollars. One proposal was to pay teacher salaries through a capital gains tax. Capital gains are profits from the sale of stocks, bonds, and other investments. Retirement accounts and sales of primary homes would be exempt; the richest 32,000 people in Washington who profit from Wall Street and other investments would be the only ones paying this tax.

Republicans proposed raising property taxes for over 1 million homeowners all across the state. They argued that a capital gains tax would tax families' investments and retirement accounts. They also claimed that wealthy people would leave Washington to avoid the 5% rate proposed.

What do you think? Should we stick with property taxes? Should we try a capital gains tax? Do you have another idea that makes sure we have enough money to meet our Supreme Court-mandated obligation? Please let me know. It's going to require a lot of work to get the job done next year and we can't do it without finding a way to pay for education.

As your elected representative, I am available to you. Please contact me by email, phone, or mail. It is an honor to serve you. Thank you.

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Committees:

- General Government & Information Technology (*Chair*)
- Appropriations
- Technology & Economic Development

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2016 Legislative Wrap-Up

Zack Hudgins
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State of Washington

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2016 Legislative Wrap-Up



Neighbors,

We finished the legislative session, though it took a few extra weeks to get a budget that was fair and didn't compromise our values. We need to keep fighting for good schools, good jobs for middle class families, and good roads and transit systems. We addressed some of the emergent needs of our state, including:

- Improving teacher recruitment and retention through investments in mentoring programs for new educators and increased training for paraeducators.
- Increasing investments in mental health services including additional state hospital staff at Western State Hospital, mobile crisis teams, and crisis triage beds.
- Addressing the growing homeless crisis in Washington state by investing in more emergency residential services and beds throughout the state, and providing resources to help homeless people transition into permanent housing.

This year wasn't everything I wanted. Inside you'll see some of the successes we had, but also some of the ideas that didn't get to the governor's desk. Next year will be tough as we try to tackle the problem of fully funding education. If we reject the political grandstanding and infighting that has plagued the national stage, I believe we can find a balance that works for all Washingtonians without compromising our values.

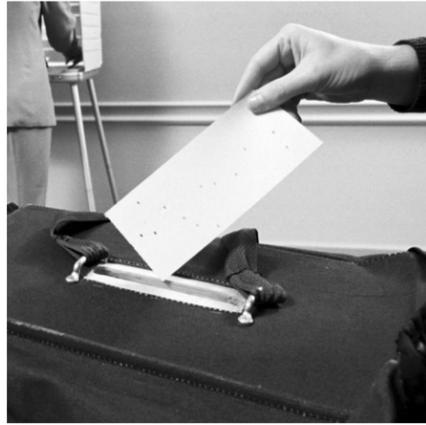
Thanks,

Zack Hudgins



Elections are important

I truly believe every vote really does matter and that fair elections require constant attention. After close elections in our state, many reforms have been implemented. Until now we haven't had a consistent look at the variability within each county's elections. We need a statewide standard for data and reporting and we have to understand the practices and rejection rates for ballots in each county. It's about accountability, transparency, and fairness to voters. My bill, passed this year and signed by the governor, sets those standards and makes sure we're doing everything we can to have the best elections possible. **(HB 2852)**



We also need to stop discriminatory practices that disenfranchise voters. The City of Yakima was sued due to polarized voting that denied candidates equal opportunity for election. House Democrats proposed, and passed, the Voting Rights Act to address these issues by ensuring fair and equitable elections. Senate Republicans refused to pass this bill into law again. **(HB 1745)**



Improving voter participation is a priority for House Democrats because we believe government is more accountable when more people vote. We identified a simple hurdle for young people voting. 80% of people register to vote when they get their driver's license, so 18 year olds who got their license at 16 or 17

often don't get registered to vote until they turned 21. House Democrats have pushed a bill that would allow preregistration when teens go to get their license to drive. Senate Republicans rejected this idea as well. **(HB 1294)**

Lucha Libre: Finding the right balance with regulations

Usually when you want to end regulations that are hurting a small business, getting Republican support is pretty easy. That's not the case with a bill that I have been proposing the last few years to end unnecessary regulations on "Lucha Libre" wrestling events. These theatrical wrestling events are put on by small businesses, mostly in the Latino community, and are not combat sporting events. They are designed to be fun entertainment. But they're regulated by the Department of Licensing in a way that ends up costing the companies more than it's worth. It's literally regulating people out of business. For three years I've tried to find a solution that would help these businesses survive but year after year some Senate Republicans have rejected my efforts to right-size this regulation. This bill idea came from a South Park resident who experienced the problem! **(HB 2388)**

Enhancing state cyber security to keep your information safe

It seems like every week there's a new report about hackers stealing data. As chair of the General Government and Information Technology committee, I hear stories from people affected by data breaches. I take that threat seriously and offered multiple solutions to some of our vulnerabilities – removing sensitive and payment data from state data networks, and updating our public meetings act. Both these bills passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support but the Senate Republicans refused to debate these issues and they didn't even get a floor vote. **(HB 1469, HB 1561)**



Breakfast for hungry kids – Not a "no brainer"

Youth hunger is a problem I've been trying to address for years. Hungry kids don't learn as well as students who start their day with a healthy breakfast. I have fought for Break-



fast After the Bell, a program that provides breakfast for kids at the very beginning of the day. It works: other states have implemented it, schools in Tukwila are doing it, the Federal Government pays for most of it, and students who have a healthy meal have better academic outcomes. Despite strong, bipartisan support in the House, and attempts at compromise, Senate Republicans continue to turn the bill down and reject this commonsense reform. Every kid in the state should start the day ready to learn, not just kids in districts like Highline and Tukwila. **(HB 1295, 3009)**

Cesar Chavez Day

Governments often recognize the efforts of individuals in our society. We recognize veterans, business leaders, and political figures. Latino leaders are often overlooked. One such leader was Cesar Chavez- raised in a small business family, he was a veteran, labor leader and farm worker who became a civil rights activist and was recognized by the President for his contributions to educating and serving his community. I want Washington state to recognize Cesar Chavez Day, to honor the work he did to make America a better place to live. This is another example of a bill that made it out of the House but Senate Republicans repeatedly refused to pass this simple recognition. This bill idea was brought to me by a high school student. **(HB 1560)**