

# Report from the 45<sup>th</sup> District

## NEW LANES ON 405

Wow! That did not go well at all. We have heard from 1000's of commuters and constituents about the troubled implementation of the new toll lanes on I-405. We have experienced the same frustrations and are committed to seeing it gets fixed.

We held three meetings with the WA State Department of Transportation to identify the problems and get assurance they will make adjustments to make the corridor function better. We will also have regular updates from DOT on their progress.

Last week the House Transportation Committee held a two hour work session with the DOT, those opposed to the plan, and a statistical analyst from the University of Washington. Here are some important take-aways from that meeting:

- Traffic patterns are very complicated and do not lend themselves to political solutions. We need dependable data that allow for smart solutions with an eye to the future to get this right.
- DOT must identify traffic speeds in sections of the corridor rather than whole corridor average ("one foot in boiling water, one foot in ice water ...on average you feel fine" ...not a useful average.)
- Entry/exit points for toll lanes must be improved for ease and safety.
- Toll levels and 2 vs 3 person carpools must be reexamined to ensure we are getting the most traffic through the corridor and at optimal speeds.
- DOT totally underestimated the confusion created by rolling out a new configuration just as traffic volumes increase in the fall/winter months and the weather gets really bad.

Your feedback has been useful in helping us identify problem areas, thank you! We will keep you informed of actions taken and the timeline for changes. Let's just get this fixed!

Rep. Larry Springer

Rep. Roger Goodman



**Rep.  
Larry Springer**

**Deputy Majority Leader**

**Committees:** Appropriations; Education; Finance; Rules

**Olympia office:**

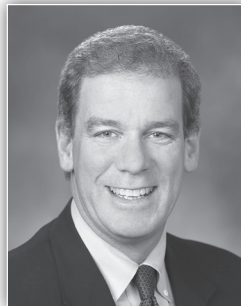
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**Rep.  
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## TOWN HALL MEETING

Please join us as we host a district town hall meeting on Saturday, February 20 at the Lake Washington Technical College. We'll be meeting in the West Building, in the auditorium (Room 404) from 11:00am-1:00pm. We're hoping you'll be able to attend and find out about what we've been working on this year and share your thoughts as we go into the final weeks of the 2016 session.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

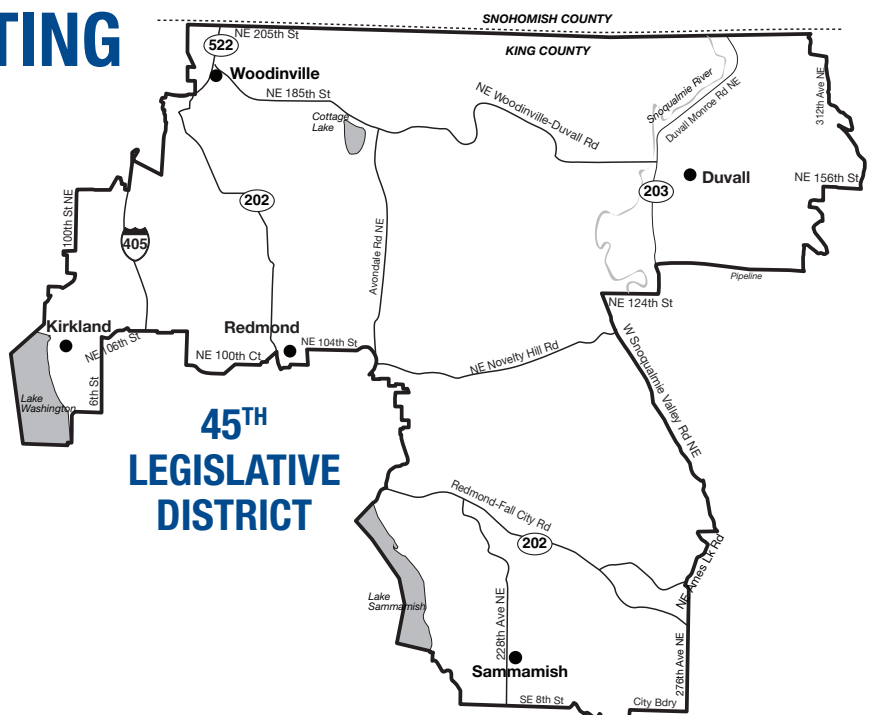
11:00am-1:00pm

**Lake Washington Technical College**

West Building, Room 404

11605 132nd Ave NE

Kirkland, WA 98034



## REP. LARRY SPRINGER

### EDUCATION STILL OUR TOP FOCUS



Education continues to be topic one this session. I am pleased to report that the House of Representatives voted for excellence in our schools and to give 1 million kids in public schools greater opportunities to learn. Bipartisan passage of HB 2366 should bring us into compliance with the state Supreme Court's McCleary decision and set us up for success in 2017. The Senate has taken a different approach so the House and the Senate will need to find a compromise in the coming weeks to convince the Supreme Court we are making adequate progress toward fulfilling our obligation to fully fund our K-12 system.

One of the challenges facing us is the compartmentalization of education funding and charter schools. I believe that we can't ignore the demand for charter schools and we can't deal with them as separate from K-12. Although controversial, the charter school initiative was approved by voters in the 45th district, so clearly there's support for charter schools within the broader education discussion. I'm working with a bipartisan group of legislators on a comprehensive approach and will share more as I can.

Here's a partial list of the education bills recently approved by the House:

- **Local Levies** - I voted in support of HB 2366 - the bipartisan plan for a solution to the state's education funding problem. The Legislature must end reliance on local levies to pay teachers. That's the final goal we must reach in order to keep our obligation to fully fund education.
- **Teacher Shortage** - Washington State has a teacher shortage crisis. It's not a problem. It's not a dilemma. It's a crisis. I voted for a bipartisan bill to adjust our retire/rehire policies to help get more qualified substitute teachers into our classrooms. It's a commonsense approach, one of many being considered this session, to address a growing crisis.
- **High Stakes Testing** - Washington state, like many other states, requires students to pass high-stakes tests before they can graduate. But we've reached the point of over testing. I voted for a bipartisan bill to fix the state's broken student assessment system. Students should be spending more time in the classroom learning and less time taking tests.

These votes are steps in the right direction toward reaching our goals and ensuring our education system is fully funded.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with your thoughts or concerns. Education is a fundamental building block for a healthy state.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES  
**Larry Springer &  
Roger Goodman**

PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504

## Report from the 45<sup>th</sup> District

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## REP. ROGER GOODMAN

### ENDING THE CYCLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Domestic violence is a chronic social problem, and I've been working for years to strengthen laws that protect victims and survivors of domestic violence. This year I'm forwarding legislation to hold accountable those offenders who *repeatedly* commit acts of domestic violence. Repeat offenders are some of the most dangerous people in our communities, committing all sorts of other violent crimes.

To protect victims further, my legislation also makes sure these repeat offenders are appropriately supervised in the community after their release from prison.

### PROTECTING VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Victims of sexual assault may obtain a Sexual Assault Protection Orders (SAPO) from the court to prevent the attacker from contacting or coming near the victim. These orders can only last two years, however, and while they can be renewed, it's not automatic and can be contested by the perpetrator.

It's unfair to place a time limit on a victim's safety, and also forces victims to return to court repeatedly to request a renewal, a process that is often traumatic for the victim. If the order is not renewed the victim is left looking over her shoulder without the additional protection she needs.

I am moving legislation this year to allow permanent extensions of Sexual Assault Protection Orders, which is already allowed in Domestic Violence and Stalking cases. We need to allow courts to protect sexual assault victims to the same degree.

### GETTING KIDS OUT OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

When a child violates the law, it's appropriate that they're punished. But kids sometimes make stupid mistakes – and they can learn from them.

I've been working with the juvenile courts to employ what's called the "Restorative Justice" approach, which helps kids to repair the harm they've caused to victims and to take responsibility for their actions, but without the heavy-handed criminal justice approach we use with adult offenders.

A few years ago I enacted a law that allows for Restorative Justice practices in the juvenile courts for minor offenses such as shoplifting. I have since heard rave reviews from the juvenile courts about the effectiveness of Restorative Justice, an approach that's also being used successfully in the school setting. That's why I've advanced legislation to expand the use of Restorative Justice in the juvenile system for many other crimes, except serious violent offenses or sex offenses. Let's get children out of the justice system and restore them to their families and communities.