



SENATOR  
**Sam Hunt**



REPRESENTATIVE  
**Laurie Dolan**



REPRESENTATIVE  
**Beth Doglio**

# 22<sup>nd</sup> District Legislative Report



Spring 2018

Dear neighbors,

We're pleased to bring you this legislative update on the 2017-2018 biennium. The 2018 session was one of the most productive in years; we passed major legislation and finished in the allotted time with no special session. In addition to the policies inside this update, we helped pass new laws that include:

- Over **\$8.6 billion in new state investments for K-12 education**, keeping our promise to 1.2 million schoolchildren by fully funding our public schools, and putting the McCleary lawsuit behind us for good;
- Expanding **early childhood education slots** for low-income families across the state;
- Increased funding for the **State Need Grant** — putting us on track to eliminate the higher education grant waitlist in the next four years;
- Investments in the state behavioral health system to **help those in crisis** get the care they need, including more tools and funds to **fight the opioid crisis**;
- Restoring funding for the **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families** to pre-recession levels; and
- Funding negotiated **salary increases for state workers** and avoiding large increases in their health insurance.

This year, we also passed historic legislation, including the first update to our **equal pay laws** in 75 years, dramatic improvements and **expansion of voting rights and voter registration**, and **common sense firearm safety laws, like banning bump stocks** and restricting gun ownership for domestic violence offenders.

As you read this legislative update, know that this is but a snapshot of the work we've done on your behalf. If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to our offices, and we'll get back to you as quickly as possible.

Sen. Sam Hunt

Rep. Laurie Dolan

Rep. Beth Doglio

*Sam Hunt Laurie Dolan Beth Doglio*



## Senator Sam Hunt

This was a historically productive and progressive session. The Legislature passed a total of 308 bills and 98 percent of them passed with bipartisan support. That is because these bills are impactful and will benefit Washingtonians across the state. I prime sponsored several measures that were signed into law this year.

**House Bill 2595/Senate Bill 6353** establishes automatic voter registration, effective July 1, 2019, when citizens obtain enhanced driver's licenses or identification cards through the Department of Licensing. Other state agencies that require citizenship will be able to provide automatic voter registration following an assessment of their capability and approval by the governor. This is just one new law in our Access to Democracy package that will make voting easier and fairer in our state. A strong government is built on access to democracy, and the right to vote is the key. This bill will make registering to vote as easy as saying 'Yes.'



**Senate Bill 5288** enables Intercity Transit, with a vote of the people, to increase the sales tax by .03 percent to provide for expanded service in Thurston County. At a very small cost to consumers, we can increase the public transit benefit to those who need it, and hopefully, keep more cars off the road.

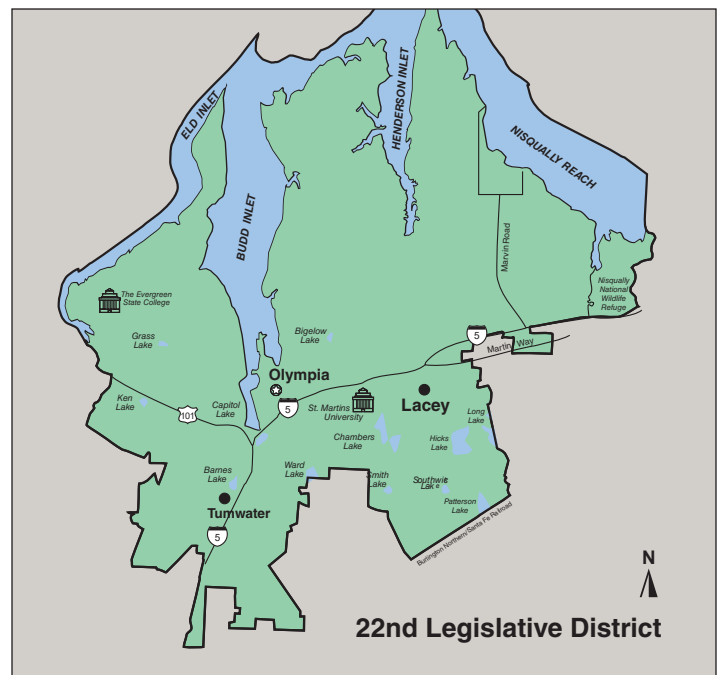
**Senate Bill 6058** enables county auditors to not count write-in ballots for candidates that are not running for office. Previously, they had to count votes for Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Batman and other names written in on ballots. This also ensures that real people who do not wish to serve, but whose name may have been written in by others, are not advanced to the general election or elected. It also establishes a simple filing process for candidates who actually want to conduct a write-in campaign.

This year I sponsored bills to provide a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and health care subsidy increase for teachers and public employees in Plan 1 retirement programs. The Legislature provided a one-time COLA and additional health insurance funds for Plan I retirees.



**House Concurrent Resolution 4400/Senate Concurrent Resolution 8403** names the new state office building at the corner of Capitol Way and 11th, the Helen Sommers Building in honor of the late state representative from Seattle. She represented her district for 36 years and served as chair of the Appropriations Committee and several others. This is the first building on the capitol campus to be named after a woman.

This year the Legislature finally fulfilled its constitutional duty to fully fund public schools, investing an additional \$1 billion in K-12. The new education money will mostly go to fund teacher and staff salaries, as ordered by the state Supreme Court. The state will also increase spending for special education by roughly \$100 million over the next four years. Many of the provisions in the final compromise were similar to those found in a bill I sponsored, Senate Bill 6397.





## Representative Laurie Dolan

### Ensuring Proper School Funding

Democrats fought hard for a K-12 education funding solution that made sure we met our constitutional obligations. When we ended last session, we knew that



there would be several years of “getting it right” in terms of working out the details.

I was privileged to play a key role in finalizing SB 6362, this year’s “fix-it” bill. Talking to educators, parents and school board members, I knew we needed to concentrate our

efforts on adding an experience factor, special ed, and refinements to the regionalization formulas. Our final bill ensured new teachers get the pay they deserve. While this helps end the legal issues regarding school funding, other policy areas require our focus in the coming years. I am committed to working to addressing those with the same dedication.

### Civics in our high schools

Our students should be informed about how government and voting works so that they can be informed voting adults. I have had the opportunity to work closely with the League of Women Voters, the Council on Legal Public Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to write a bill requiring a stand-alone course in civics for all high school students. Starting in 2020, all high school students are required to take a civics course that includes:

- Federal, state, tribal, and local government organization and procedures,
- Rights and responsibilities of citizens in the U.S. and Washington constitutions;
- Current issues addressed at each level of government; and,
- Electoral issues, including elections, ballot measures, initiatives, and referenda;

Thank you to the many advocates who helped me pass this law.

### Equity for IB and AP Students

Another education priority of mine is encouraging colleges and universities to award general college credit to International Baccalaureate (IB) students with certain

scores on their IB exams. This policy already exists for students who score a three on Advanced Placement (AP) examinations and treating AP and IB similarly is an equity issue. AP test scores range from 1-5 while IB scores range from 1-7. In my proposal, the IB score required for college credit is a four or better on either standard or higher level IB exams. My policy shaped the final legislation (SB 5917). Thank you to all the teachers, students, parents, and administrators for advocating for this change. And a special thanks to Chris Reykdal, our Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the PTA for their tireless advocacy.

### Same Day Registration becomes law

Democrats have fought to expand your access to voting for the last few years and we knew that this year we could do something big. Among other major victories, I am proud to have sponsored the House bill of a new law to allow voter registration on Election Day.

Same Day Registration allows someone to register to vote up until 8 p.m. on Election Day. This new law ends a needless barrier to voting, giving everyone the chance to participate in our democracy. This policy exists in many other states and increases voter turnout tremendously, particularly among younger voters.

### Taxpayer Protection Act

Too often, state government is downsized in the name of



efficiency and work is contracted to a private business that ends up costing the state more money. My bill, the Taxpayer Protection Act, requires greater attention and assessment of how and when work is contracted to a private business. This bill did pass the House this year,

but did not make it through the Senate. I’ll be introducing it again next year and plan to pass it in the 2019 session.

### COLA for PERS 1/TRS 1 retirees

Our state workers and teachers that retired in the PERS 1 or TRS 1 benefit programs haven’t received a cost of living increase since 2011. That is far too long, so Democrats included a 1.5 percent cost of living increase for those retirees (on the first \$25,000 of their pensions) and an additional Medicare subsidy for PEBB and K-12 retirees. This is a small start but necessary as we continue the work to improve the COLA increases for future years. Senator Hunt and I plan to introduce the “next steps” next year.

## Rep. Beth Doglio

**Women's Commission HB 2759** - For years, many legislators have been working to establish a Women's Commission that would coordinate women related policy initiatives and work to increase representation of women in government. I'm proud to report that, after two decades of work, we finally passed a bill to establish the Washington State Women's Commission. A huge thank



you is in order to all the women who worked so hard to make this happen, both this year and in years past — you know who you are.

**Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Survivor Protection HB 2661** - Did you know that survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking lacked full protection from employment discrimination? I was stunned when I learned this. That's why I decided to sponsor a bill to fix this issue. It makes it unlawful for an employer to discriminate against an applicant or employee just because the individual is currently experiencing or has experienced such abuse. It also requires that reasonable safety accommodations be made by the employer at the request of a victim.



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**Buy Clean Washington HB 2412** - I was excited to introduce **HB 2412**, the Buy Clean Washington Act, which would have created a system to preference the use of structural materials like steel, concrete and wood in our public buildings that use less carbon in production. After conversations with stakeholders, we landed on a study to help us craft a policy that encourages the use of locally made products. Department of Enterprise Services and University of Washington College of Built Environments, in collaboration with Central and WSU, will team up to perform a pilot on five state funded projects to analyze existing embodied carbon policies and propose methods to categorize structural materials and report structural material quantities and origins. This was a great synergistic effort with environmental, labor, manufacturers and architects. Buy Clean will be one of my number one priorities in the coming years.

**Intercity Transit SB 5288** - I had the House companion to this bill and worked hard to get it across the finish line this year. The

new law authorizes Intercity Transit to put a slight increase in the sales tax to the voters in their service territory. As a frequent user myself, I understand just how important well-supported public transit systems are to building strong communities.

**Labor Bills HB 2669 and HB 1716** - Working with labor, **HB 2669** and **HB 1716** also made it across the finish line. **HB 2669** allows for part-time employees to unionize and **HB 1716** provides training for those companies wishing to bid on public contracts, educating them on prevailing wage laws.

**Climate Action HB 2995** - Finally, I worked to get a major climate bill across the finish line this year, focusing on **HB 2995**. Washington state can be a leader in a world-wide movement to get us to 100 percent fossil free by 2050. We were unsuccessful this year, but did move the bill and the concept forward in both the House and the Senate. We'll be back!