



# 2018 Legislative Review

## 48th District

### Representative Joan McBride

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#### Committees

- Local Government (Vice Chair)
- Environment
- Rules
- Transportation



#### Dear friends and neighbors,

In just 60 days, we passed a long-overdue capital budget, supplemental operating and transportation budgets, and dozens of bills that will provide resources and support for Washington families, businesses, and communities.

This newsletter is my chance to tell you about the state budget and major new laws, including:

- New legislation addressing our affordable housing shortage
- Property tax cuts coming in 2019
- Funding for our public schools
- Action on gun safety
- Reforms to strengthen our democracy
- Equal Pay

I am proud of what we accomplished and that we finished the session on time for the first time since 2014.

I want to thank those who took the time to call, write, email, or made the long drive to Olympia during session. Democracies work best when the people are engaged. Your contribution to this process is invaluable.

Thank you so very much,

## 48th District

Represents part of King County including part of Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, and all of Medina, Clyde Hill, Yarrow Point and Hunts Point.





## Affordable housing for all

One of my top priorities this session was to encourage investment in affordable housing and shelters and to provide more access to services for people experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

I was proud to prime sponsor HB 2538, which exempts emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness or victims of domestic violence from impact fees. It clarifies the intent of current law and encourages the development of more emergency shelters for people who need them. It passed both chambers with strong bipartisan support.

In addition, I worked closely with my colleagues on several other critical housing and homelessness bills, including:

- **HB 1570:** stabilizes funding for homeless housing and assistance
- **HB 2382:** promotes the use of surplus public property for affordable housing
- **HB 2578:** increases rental options for people whose source of income is not employment
- **HB 2667:** expands eligibility for the Essential Needs and Housing Support Program (HEN)
- **SB 6371:** increases the ability of the Housing Finance Commission to invest in affordable housing

Almost all of these bills passed with bipartisan support and I am thrilled that we were able to make progress on housing and homelessness issues.

## Voting rights and registration

Now more than ever, we need to ensure that all of our fellow citizens have equal access to the right to vote. I have heard from many of you how important this issue is to you and our community. This legislative session, we passed several bills that will strengthen and protect this right.

The **Washington Voting Rights Act** gives localities incentives and tools to work collaboratively to build an election system that best meets the needs of the community without costly litigation. As a co-sponsor of the House bill, I am thrilled we finally passed this legislation to ensure that elections are fair, open to all voters, and that voters are able to elect leaders who most accurately reflect the values and vision of their communities.

One of the biggest hurdles to voting is the registration process. **Automatic Voter Registration** will streamline this process by automatically registering eligible voters when they get an enhanced driver's license through the Department of Licensing. The bill includes funds for a study to expand the program to other agencies, as well. By passing this bill, we have removed a barrier to voting that will allow more eligible voters to participate in elections.

## Investing in education with a balanced budget

The new state budget is completely balanced (SB 6032) while investing another one billion dollars for our public schools. This new funding should complete our duty under the state Supreme Court's decision in the McCleary case to fund public education, with the state shouldering more of the burden now compared to local school districts.

There's also increased spending for special education students in the new budget, along with funding for Breakfast After the Bell to provide nutritious meals to school kids so they can start the day ready to learn.

Funding in the new budget makes college more affordable by putting the state on a path toward fully funding the State Need Grant, so that every eligible student will receive grants by the end of the four-year budget outlook.

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## Cutting your property taxes

This session, I voted for Senate Bill 6614, which will give property owners relief from the Senate Republican Property Tax of 2017.

There's more to be done on tax reform and relief. Washington state has one of the most unfair tax systems in the nation, with the middle class and small businesses paying far more than their fair share while the wealthiest families and biggest corporations pay less. It's time to restore some common sense when it comes to taxes.



## Gender pay equity

March 8 was International Women's Day and the Legislature celebrated by passing the Equal Pay Opportunity Act.

I was proud to cosponsor this bill, which will make it easier for women to talk about their wages with co-workers, and will ensure employees who discuss their earnings or who ask for equal pay don't face repercussions. This legislation will help close the wage gap between men and women in our state by offering protections for employees who are paid less on the basis of gender, but also to employees who are offered fewer advancement opportunities based on gender.

After years of hard work from legislators, women's groups, labor advocates, and the business community, the bill passed 70-28 in the House and 36-12 in the Senate.



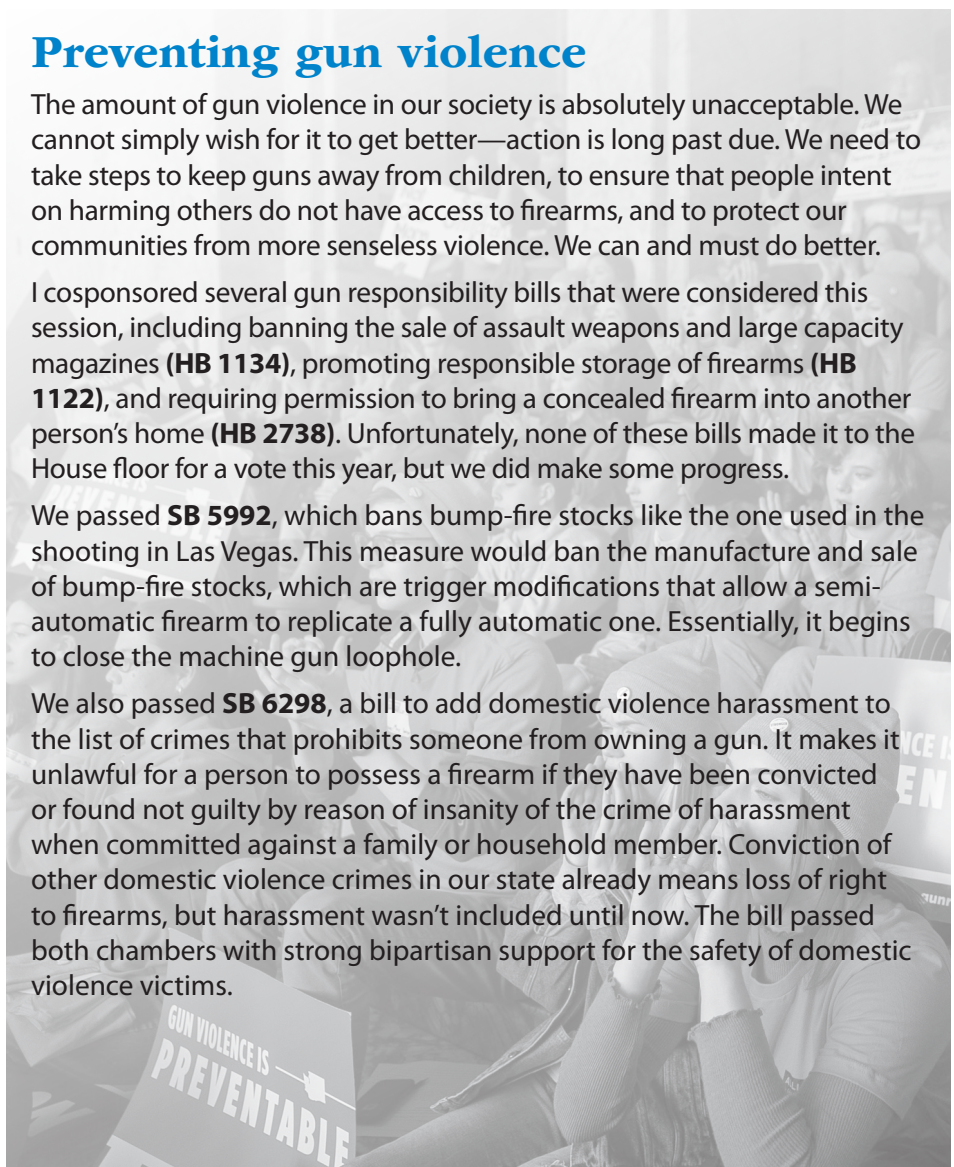
## Preventing gun violence

The amount of gun violence in our society is absolutely unacceptable. We cannot simply wish for it to get better—action is long past due. We need to take steps to keep guns away from children, to ensure that people intent on harming others do not have access to firearms, and to protect our communities from more senseless violence. We can and must do better.

I cosponsored several gun responsibility bills that were considered this session, including banning the sale of assault weapons and large capacity magazines (**HB 1134**), promoting responsible storage of firearms (**HB 1122**), and requiring permission to bring a concealed firearm into another person's home (**HB 2738**). Unfortunately, none of these bills made it to the House floor for a vote this year, but we did make some progress.

We passed **SB 5992**, which bans bump-fire stocks like the one used in the shooting in Las Vegas. This measure would ban the manufacture and sale of bump-fire stocks, which are trigger modifications that allow a semi-automatic firearm to replicate a fully automatic one. Essentially, it begins to close the machine gun loophole.

We also passed **SB 6298**, a bill to add domestic violence harassment to the list of crimes that prohibits someone from owning a gun. It makes it unlawful for a person to possess a firearm if they have been convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity of the crime of harassment when committed against a family or household member. Conviction of other domestic violence crimes in our state already means loss of right to firearms, but harassment wasn't included until now. The bill passed both chambers with strong bipartisan support for the safety of domestic violence victims.



*Representative*  
**Joan McBride**

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### A Heartfelt Thank You

*I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the privilege to serve as your voice in Olympia. After 25 years as an elected official I've decided that this will be my last year.*

*I will not be seeking re-election in 2018.*

*It has been the opportunity and honor of my life to act as a leader in our community. I have worked hard to make Washington a safer and more prosperous place to live, and met so many wonderful people in the process.*

*I thank each of you for your support over these many years. I look forward to being 'in-district' on a regular basis and plan on playing an active role in moving our community forward.*

*From the bottom of my heart... Thank you!*

A blue ink handwritten signature that reads "Joan".

Joan McBride

