

# 1ST DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



**Senator  
Guy Palumbo**



**Representative  
Shelley Kloba**



**Representative  
Derek Stanford**



## **REP. SHELLEY KLOBA**

### **Olympia Address:**

LEG 132A  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA  
98504-0600  
(360) 786-7900  
Shelley.Kloba@leg.wa.gov

### **District Office:**

19125 Northcreek Parkway, Suite 144  
Bothell, WA 98011  
(425) 419-4627

### **Committees**

Commerce & Gaming (*Vice Chair*)  
Technology & Economic  
Development (*Vice Chair*)  
Transportation

## **REP. DEREK STANFORD**

### **Olympia Address:**

JLOB 327  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA  
98504-0600  
(360) 786-7928  
Derek.Stanford@leg.wa.gov

### **District Office:**

18560 1st ave NE Suite E800  
Shoreline, WA 98155  
(206) 556-3195

### **Committees**

Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Appropriations  
Business & Financial Services  
Rules

## **SEN. GUY PALUMBO**

### **Olympia Address:**

LEG 402  
PO Box 40401  
Olympia, WA 98504-0401  
(360) 786-7600  
Guy.Palumbo@leg.wa.gov

### **District Office:**

19125 Northcreek Parkway, Suite 144  
Bothell, WA 98011

### **Committees**

Energy, Environment &  
Technology (*Vice Chair*)  
Higher Education & Workforce  
Development (*Vice Chair*)  
Local Government (*Vice Chair*)  
Ways & Means

## **Dear friends and neighbors,**

The fast paced, 60-day 2018 legislative session has come to an end. With Democrats controlling both the House and Senate for the first time since 2012, the Legislature finished on time and avoided the special legislative sessions that had become the norm.

This short session produced more major legislation than any in modern memory as the change in Senate leadership freed a backlog of policies that were blocked over the past five years. That meant a fast pace from the first day of session to the last.

What's more, we didn't just pass a high number of bills — we passed bills that make major strides in putting people first and moving our state forward. The biggest pieces of legislation include:

- A balanced budget that completes the last piece of education funding for McCleary and adds important funding for mental health without requiring any new taxes.
- \$400 million in tax relief to property owners reeling from the property tax increase insisted on by Senate Republicans in 2017.
- A biennial construction budget that stalled last year under Republican leadership, and a supplemental construction budget (\$31.1 million total for the 1st district, plus additional millions for regional projects that benefit 1st District residents); the projects in these budgets will provide critical infrastructure, including historic levels of new school construction, and create family-wage jobs in communities across the state. Inside this newsletter you can read how these projects, along with \$30.6 million in new transportation projects, will improve life in the 1st Legislative District.

Beyond that, we passed sweeping legislation to protect access to affordable health care, improve women's health, increase access to democracy through more transparent and accessible elections, close the gender wage gap, combat sexual harassment, and improve access to college for students in households across the state. That's just the short list — you'll find details on those and many more inside.

As always, please reach out to us with any concerns or questions. The better we know what's on your mind, the better we can represent your priorities in Olympia.

  
Sen. Guy Palumbo

  
Rep. Shelley Kloba

  
Rep. Derek Stanford

## 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. While we're proud of funding we've secured for K-12 education, we look forward to continuing the progress that we've made by increasing funding in other key areas of need.

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.



## EQUAL PAY OPPORTUNITY ACT

Women make up almost half of the workforce, yet they continue to earn less than men do for similar work. In Washington, over a 40-year career, the average woman will make \$497,280 less than her male counterpart will. Because of this disparity, women save less toward retirement, which means more women end up living in poverty and struggling to survive in their senior years. This bill updates, for the first time since its passage in 1943, the Washington State Equal Pay Act by:

- Prohibiting pay secrecy policies
- Allowing discussion of wages
- Preventing discrimination by gender in providing opportunities
- Banning retaliation against workers who file complaints, discuss wages or seek advancement opportunities
- Ensuring workers are entitled to administrative and civil remedies in the event of violations

## NET NEUTRALITY

To protect an open internet, in 2015, the FCC created rules against blocking legal content, throttling traffic and using paid prioritization for some traffic. In 2017, with no objection from those in charge in Washington DC, the FCC reversed these net neutrality rules.

So we fought back against this reversal and designed a **first-in-nation** law using the state's consumer protection authority to maintain a free and open internet, despite the rescinding of net neutrality protections.

This measure prohibits internet service providers from blocking and slowing down access to lawful content or favoring certain content over others through paid prioritization.





## CUTTING YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

This session, we voted for Senate Bill 6614, which will give property owners relief from the property tax increase 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.

One idea we support—and will continue to work on—is tax relief for small businesses, which is where 90 percent of workers are employed.



## IMPROVING OUR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Washington's behavioral health system has been in crisis, with the state on the losing end of lawsuits over access to mental health services in recent years.

Last year Democrats took big steps to help solve these problems. This year we continued that work with a \$306 million investment plan including:

- Funding to combat the state's opioid crisis
- Community investments to increase Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) Medicaid and non-Medicaid reimbursement rates, ensuring greater access to care
- Replacing lost federal Institutions for Mental Diseases waiver funding to BHOs
- Increasing reimbursement rates for Children's Long-Term Inpatient Program beds, improving access for youth with severe mental health issues

- Providing more funding to address state hospital deficiencies
- Paying case fines incurred when court-ordered competency exams took too long

Look for Democrats to continue finding improvements to the delivery of behavioral health care moving forward.

## ADDRESSING THE HOUSING CRISIS

**A key tool for reducing homelessness**—When he signed **HB 1570**, Gov. Jay Inslee called it “one of the best things that came out of the Legislature this session.” Homelessness has increased dramatically in recent years. The current document-recording fee of \$40 has been an effective tool in the uphill fight against homelessness, but it was due to roll back to \$10 in 2019.

This legislation increases the surcharge to \$62 and makes it permanent. It's crucial revenue that's shared among the state, counties and cities to build more affordable housing. House Bill 1570 also requires state and local homeless-housing plans to be prepared every five years, rather than the previous 10.

## EASING THE BURDEN

We should do all we can to help vulnerable populations stay in their homes. With voter approval, HB 2597 permits cities and counties to exempt seniors, individuals with disabilities, and veterans from certain portions of their property tax. It is a local option that cities and counties can choose to implement.



## ELIMINATING CREDIT FREEZE FEES

Senate Bill 6018 eliminates the multiple fees that credit reporting agencies have been charging, in the wake of the Equifax security breach, to freeze or unfreeze credit reports. Primarily a response to the 2017 hack of credit reporting agency Equifax's database that exposed the private information of more than 143 million Americans, the bill also directs the state to study the new law's impact on consumers and credit reporting agencies.

Sen. Guy Palumbo  
Rep. Shelley Kloba  
Rep. Derek Stanford

P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
SEATTLE, WA  
PERMIT NO. 1885

LD01

Sen. Guy Palumbo Rep. Shelley Kloba Rep. Derek Stanford

## MAJOR TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS FOR THE 1ST DISTRICT

The infrastructure projects we were able to secure in the 2018 transportation budget (\$30.6 million) and the 2017 and 2018 capital construction budgets (\$31.1 million) will bring family-wage jobs and key improvements to our district. From the start, our focus on these budgets has been to ensure our communities receive our fair share of infrastructure funding to keep up with our explosive population growth across the 1st District. Each time one of these projects is completed, our district will become a better place to live and work — for ourselves, for our families, and for the future.

