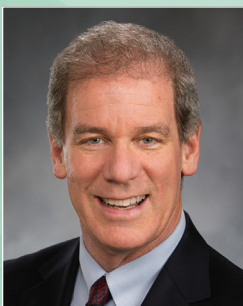


2018 Legislative Session Report



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Friends,

We could start this note by saying, in our opinions, the Legislature just completed a very successful session. Instead, we'll let someone else say it by pointing to the results of a non-partisan survey conducted by Elway Research. Elway's Legislative Report Card rated the 2018 session as the most productive in the nine years that the Report Card has been in existence.

We're gratified, but not surprised. When the first Report Card was issued in 2010, Washington was struggling to recover from the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Then, during the five sessions prior to this one, Republicans held a slim majority in the Senate and the Democrats held a slim majority in the House, making it more difficult to get bills through both chambers.

Those years were characterized by endless special sessions, recurring threats of government shutdown, growing partisanship, and, predictably, low grades on Elway's Legislative Report Cards.

Senate Democrats were returned to the majority in 2018 as the result of a special election here in the 45th district. Once Sen. Manka Dhingra was sworn into office, the difference was immediate, and positive. A few examples:

Within the first two weeks of Democratic majorities in the House and Senate, we passed a state-wide capital budget and reached a bipartisan solution to the very controversial Hirst water issue.

Firearms safety had been a non-starter under the Republican Senate majority. This year we took common-sense steps, banning bump stocks and authorizing persons undergoing mental-health crises to voluntarily waive their right to possess firearms.

The Legislature this year fully funded basic education, adding more than \$1 billion in new K-12 investments and fulfilling our obligations under the McCleary decision.

After years of difficult but ultimately successful negotiations, we crafted a "deadly force" bill designed to make communities safer and help law enforcement professionals protect the public.

The Reproductive Parity Act finally passed after years of delay.

Our Access to Democracy package of bills will ensure better and fairer elections in Washington state, and we at long last passed legislation authorizing school districts to offer breakfast after the bell.

As always, we welcome your feedback, questions, comments, and suggestions. Thank you for allowing us to serve you in Olympia.

Sincerely,

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature, on the left, is 'Larry' and the second, on the right, is 'Roger'.

Rep. Larry Springer – 2018 Session Report

REDUCING YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

You probably have noticed by now a significant increase in your property taxes. The 45th district is ground zero for the property tax increase the Legislature passed last year. And that is why almost all legislators on the Eastside, including I, voted against that property tax increase.

I want to give you some numbers that can help you understand where we're headed.

The original proposal last year by the Senate Republicans was to increase property taxes by \$1.80 per \$1000 of assessed value. That is an unheard-of increase. In our negotiations with the Senate Republicans, House Democrats reduced that \$1.80 to 87 cents, which is what you have seen, or will see reflected on your bill. That's less than half of what the Republicans wanted, but it's still a big increase, which is why we voted against it.

This year, one of our primary goals was to further reduce this property tax increase. We looked at different ways to accomplish this, and in the end chose to invest enough state resources in the supplemental operating budget to push that Republican property tax increase down to 50 cents per \$1000 next year.

LOOKING TOWARD 2019

Even with the successes we've talked about in this newsletter, the Legislature's work is nowhere near done. One of the most important things we can do when January 2019 rolls around is renew the state's commitment to more adequately fund higher education in Washington.



From community and technical colleges like our own Lake Washington Institute of Technology all the way to our major research universities,

the state's higher education system has suffered since the onset of the Great Recession a decade ago. Tuition rates soared in response to a slowdown in state funding, programs have been cut, and the state frankly has not been a responsible steward of what has been, and should always be, a higher education system that is the envy of the nation.

It has not been a smooth process, but the Legislature has devoted several years to fulfilling its constitutional and court-mandated obligation to fully fund basic education. We are finally on a sustainable path for our K-12 schools; we need to be on the same sustainable path for a world-class higher education system.

EMS FUNDING

King County, including the entire 45th district, boasts some of the nation's most respected doctors, nurses, and medical facilities, and a key component of our excellent medical care is an emergency medical services system that is arguably the best in the world.

That system has several components, all of which are funded by voter-approved levies. The laws governing the size of the levies, and the manner in which they could be OK'd by citizens, were written long ago, before the unprecedented population explosion here in King County. They had become cumbersome and impractical, and as a result they threatened to reduce the reach and effectiveness of our first responders.

This year I introduced legislation to update those rules, to assure that King County will remain the model for delivery of emergency medical services in the world. I was grateful for a quick bipartisan approval in both chambers, and on March 21 Gov. Inslee signed HB 2627 into law.



Rep. Roger Goodman – 2018 Session Report

REFORMING THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE LAW

When someone is shot or killed by police and the law doesn't offer pathways to clear justice for the victim, it does damage to the community, to the reputation of law enforcement, and to the notion of justice.



As chair of the House Public Safety Committee, I've worked with community groups, law enforcement, and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle for years to reform Washington's use of deadly force law. We finally found success this session with the passage of Initiative 940.

In 2017, community members organized across the state to collect hundreds of thousands of signatures in support of an initiative to the Legislature to reform Washington's deadly force law, Initiative 940. This session, I facilitated meetings with families, community groups, and representatives of law enforcement to find shared goals and agree to clarifying language, which would allow for the faster implementation of policy and for the healing process to begin as soon as possible. The result of those meetings was my bill, House Bill 3003, which strengthens and clarifies the language of Initiative 940.

These measures will improve the interactions between communities and law enforcement by increasing training and accountability, requiring law enforcement to render first aid

at the earliest opportunity, instituting processes for independent investigations of deadly force incidents, and including standards for family and community notification. The new policy also removes "malice," and replaces it with an objective good faith standard by which prosecutors can more clearly evaluate deadly force incidents.

This update to our laws will help provide the tools for law enforcement to carry out their difficult jobs while creating accountability for aggrieved communities. By building this bridge, we are able to begin the important healing necessary for a safe and more equitable society.

PROTECTING THE PUBLIC

This session, I also worked with my colleagues in the Senate to pass legislation giving the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) the law enforcement authority to investigate and criminally prosecute fraud, abuse and neglect perpetrated by Medicaid providers. With this new law, the MFCU will be able to better protect vulnerable adults, and crack down on Medicaid fraud, including pill-mill operations that are contributing to the opioid public health crisis.

In another success for public safety, I secured \$7.5 million to rebuild the facility at the state Fire Training Academy. This investment will help ensure that firefighters from around the state have access to regular, live-fire training so they can better protect their communities.



IMPROVING COMMUNITY REENTRY

Every year, about 8,000 people are released from prison here in Washington, but too many of them go back because they don't get the help they need to successfully transition back into the community. This obviously has an adverse effect on public safety, with new crimes being committed and increased prison costs.

Unfortunately, people recently released from prison often face barriers to housing, employment, and education. This session, I successfully sponsored legislation to expand eligibility for work release and allow certain offenders

to serve up to six months of the end of their sentence in home detention under electronic home monitoring, easing the transition into the community.

I also sponsored a bill to provide state-issued identification cards to people released from prison. Something as simple as an ID card is critical, because it is needed to access housing, treatment, services, and employment. While this bill did not pass, I will continue to advocate for this and other legislation to increase public safety by ensuring that those who have served their time have a better chance of succeeding after release.

Continued on back page

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GET AN INSIDE VIEW OF THE LEGISLATURE AS A PAGE OR INTERN

If you are between the ages of 14 and 16 next January, why not consider being a page for a week in Olympia?

Being a page is a great opportunity to participate in the legislative process and learn more about our state government.

While all 14-16 year olds are eligible for the page program, many students in the past have been unable to take part in this unique program due to financial restraints. There is now a scholarship available to help offset the costs of living in Olympia for the week.

You can find more information about the page program and the application process by visiting: <http://leg.wa.gov/House/Pages/HousePageProgram.aspx> or contacting our offices.

A legislative internship offers college juniors and seniors the opportunity to get paid work experience and get a close-up view of the legislative process. Interns work in Olympia for the legislative session, working directly with legislators and staff.

The internship is a great way to begin a career in public service or just find out more about how your government works.

You can find more information about the internship program and how to apply by visiting: <http://leg.wa.gov/Internships/Pages/default.aspx>.

