

# Representative Steve Kirby

## 29th District



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Kirby

### Committees:

- Business & Financial Services (Chair)
- Commerce & Gaming
- Judiciary

Spring 2018

I'm happy to report that with new leadership in the Senate, the 2018 legislature finished on time with **no extra sessions** and no threats to shut down the government – for a change. Instead, we passed a balanced budget that puts people first by **cutting taxes**, complies with the Supreme Court's McCleary decision requiring **full-funding of K-12 education**, and invests in community mental health. We also passed a **job-producing capital budget** that last year's Senate leadership refused to even bring up for a vote because they tied it to another bill to fix the Supreme Court's Hirst decision regarding water rights – oh, and we passed that, too.

After years of gridlock and stalled negotiations in the Senate, there was a lot of pent-up public policy that needed implementing, including requiring **equal pay for equal work** to close the wage gap between women and men, expanding voter **access to democracy** by passing the Washington Voting Rights Act that will provide representation to disenfranchised voters, a bill to **expose hidden money** in elections and other bills designed to **encourage more voter registration**. We also passed a Net Neutrality bill to protect Washington households from receiving **slowed or reduced internet service**, and we helped protect consumers from **identity theft** by prohibiting credit reporting agencies from charging fees to people who want to freeze or unfreeze their credit reports, a result of the infamous Equifax security breach.

Those are just a few of the 312 bills that we passed, but there were also a few disappointments. For example, I voted for a bill that would have given relief to the **unfair license tab fees** required in the **Sound Transit vote**. Unfortunately, that bill never made it out of the Senate. I have a bill that will require a majority of voters in **all three counties** included in the Regional Transit Authority to approve before any ballot proposal can take effect. That should provide an incentive for the RTA to **more equitably distribute the projects** so that everyone in its boundaries benefits, and **one county doesn't end up being used as a piggy bank for projects in the other two**.

Well, it looks like I'm running out of space. Now it's back to civilian life for me – which means returning to my family and my regular, full-time job as a Community Relations Representative for my 29th district-based employer – so I won't be far. **Stay tuned!**

A stylized handwritten signature of Steve Kirby in black ink.

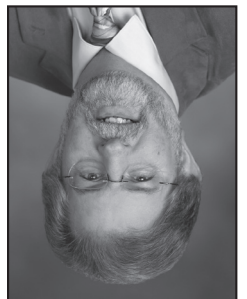


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