

# Rep. Steve Bergquist Report on the 2018 Session

11th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

PO Box 40600 • Olympia, WA 98504-0600



**Olympia office:**  
322 John L. O'Brien Building  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

**Direct office line:**  
360-786-7862

**Toll-free Hotline:**  
800-562-6000/ TTY

**Web page:**  
<http://housedemocrats.wa.gov/legislators/steve-bergquist>

**Email:**  
[steve.bergquist@leg.wa.gov](mailto:steve.bergquist@leg.wa.gov)



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### Education funding



*Rep. Steve Bergquist with Talbot Hill Elementary students*

**\$1 billion for schools**—We passed a balanced budget ([Senate Bill 6032](#)) that fully funds public schools, with \$1 billion in new dollars for K-12. This should finish our work complying with the state Supreme Court McCleary decision that changes how we fund public schools, with the state taking on more responsibility for paying the bills.

State Funding of smaller class sizes has led to a need for more classrooms, instead of adding yet more portables, there is a **new school opening in Renton**.

The new K-5 Sartori Elementary School, which will open this fall for the 2018-19 academic year, will have flexible learning spaces that can be changed as the needs of students change; and that can be adapted to accommodate new, innovative technologies. Students will benefit from the school's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) focus. There were over 1,000 applications submitted and hundreds of students are still on the waitlist! Such excitement for cutting-edge learning environments gives me a clear indication that we need more opportunities to continue developing powerful classroom experiences at all our schools.



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### Capital Budget wins

This year, with Democrats holding the majority in the Senate, we broke through political gridlock to pass the state construction budget that puts a record \$1 billion toward building K-12 schools and \$800 million for facilities at colleges and universities. Go to <http://fiscal.wa.gov/BudgetCProjList> for the list of projects in our district. I am particularly happy that we got funding for these two projects:

#### Sunset Neighborhood Park

With the help of **\$1.7 million** in the previous Capital Budget, Phase I of the Sunset Neighborhood Park will be finished later this month and the grand opening will be June 16th from 11am-2pm. The park will feature walkways, restroom facilities, an entry plaza by the library with seating and an overhead pergola, and a large lawn for gathering and playing. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/562448467475891> for details on the opening celebration.



Phase II will include two playgrounds, picnic and fitness areas, an interactive water feature, a gazebo, additional walkways, a pergola with seating, and art. This year's Capital Budget included **\$3 million** for its design and construction, which should be completed by the end of 2019.

#### Doug Baldwin Family First Center

**\$1.5 million** that, added to the \$8.5 million in private and public donations, will allow the City of Renton to begin construction of this project.

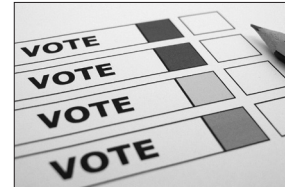
The center will be a multi-service, multi-generational community facility that will provide many health and recreation opportunities for youth and their families living in the Cascade/Benson Hill area of Renton. It will offer a host of programs including sports, recreation, and health and wellness, as well as classes in technology, music and English as a second language.



The estimated groundbreaking is February 2019, and its completion is scheduled for 2020.

## Voter Access bills

As a social studies teacher in the Renton School District, I am happy that the governor signed all the bills in our **Access to Democracy Package** focused on removing obstacles to the ballot, fostering greater accountability, and giving voters more control. I sponsored one of those bills ([HB 1513](#)) to **pre-register 16 and 17 year olds** when they get their driving permit or license. That way, when they turn 18, their ballot will automatically start showing up in the mail.



These are the other bills in the package:

- [SB 6002: Washington Voting Rights Act](#)
- [HB 2595: Automatic Voter Registration](#)
- [HB 6021: Same Day Registration](#)
- [SB 5991: Disclose Act](#)

## Priorities for 2019

### Car tabs

The motor vehicle valuation schedule that Sound Transit is using is unfair and should be updated to reflect a more fair schedule. I supported [House Bill 2201](#), which would have addressed this issue by providing a credit to ST3 car tab payers and lowering tab fees by placing a more realistic value on newer cars. I am disappointed the bill did not pass but am hopeful that we can resolve the issue next session.

### I-405 HOT lanes

I haven't heard much that upsets my constituents more than being stuck in traffic up in Bellevue while there are two lanes with virtually no traffic flowing at over 60 miles per hour. I am working to ensure when there is no reason for the lanes to be 3+ free, that we keep the lanes 2+ free, this would help to reduce congestion in the general purpose lanes and improve travel times on 405.



### Property taxes

Due to last session's GOP property tax hike, many families in our district and across the state are seeing their monthly budgets increase and are at a breaking point. We proposed short- and long-term property tax reductions but, unfortunately, only a one-time **\$391 million property tax cut for 2019** passed into law. I will continue fighting for long-term property tax relief that doesn't cut K-12 education or essential state services.