

SENATOR
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SERVING WASHINGTON'S 18TH DISTRICT



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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

For the first time in five years, the Legislature completed its work and adjourned on time last Thursday. We passed a strong, bipartisan supplemental operating budget that will serve our state well. Please continue reading – I include more details about the approved budget below.

Unfortunately, my medical marijuana bill died in the hands of the state House as an agreement could not be reached before the session ended. I released a statement to the media late Thursday night when it became clear there was no hope for the bill this year. Click [HERE](#) to read my short statement.

It is great to be back at home in La Center and I hope to see you around the district this summer. I work for you throughout the year – not just when I am in Olympia. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns with state government. My office in Olympia will remain open year-round and my legislative assistant Liz Coleman is happy to help in any way we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann".



Three Bills Headed to the Governor

Three of my measures received near-unanimous approval from both the Senate and the House and are headed to the governor for his final signature. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

[Senate Bill 6007](#) – a bill developed by public utility districts from around the state, will help protect customers' information – both electronic contact information and usage information.

[Senate Bill 6016](#) – the intent of this bill is to implement grace periods for the state health benefit exchange in a way that protects our state’s patients, health insurers and health care providers.

[Senate Bill 6069](#) – this is a constituent-request bill that will give an extra layer of protection and notification to victims of sexual abuse.

Supplemental Operating Budget Approved

As with all “short” sessions, we used the 60 days allowed under our constitution to make minor adjustments and emergency fixes to the operating budget adopted in 2013. Because that budget was balanced and sustainable we were able to agree on a [supplemental operating budget](#) more easily this year.



Budget writers from the Senate and House came together Thursday afternoon to sign the agreed-upon budget.

The final result was, once again, a **balanced budget that prioritizes education and does not raise taxes**. The budget earned broad bipartisan support in both chambers with a near unanimous vote of 48-1 in the Senate.

The approved plan invests an additional \$60 million toward the McCleary court ruling for K-12 education, which builds upon last year’s \$1 billion McCleary investment. It also allocates about \$42 million more to higher education and maintains the freeze on college-tuition rates for the next school year.

Additionally, we held the line against new taxes, which will allow job creators a better chance to grow, innovate and flourish. At a time when Washington’s economy is experiencing a sluggish recovery and chronic unemployment, we needed to agree on a plan that supports small businesses and job seekers.

If you are interested in more details about the budget, please see the below links for information compiled by non-partisan staff.

- An overview of the budget can be found [here](#);
- Agency-level details can be found [here](#); and
- Text of the entire supplemental operating budget can be found [here](#).



Check out this episode of Candid Conversations. I talk about the Senate’s original budget proposal – it’s very similar to the final budget that passed on Thursday.

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Stay Connected!

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