

SENATOR
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SERVING WASHINGTON'S 18TH DISTRICT



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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It's hard to believe a month has already passed since the Legislature adjourned this year's session.

Remember, ***I work for you year-round*** – not just when I am in Olympia. Please don't hesitate to contact my office (360-786-7634) if you have any questions or concerns, or if you need assistance in dealing with a state agency.

My heart and prayers go out to the victims, families and community members affected by the Oso mudslide. *The New York Times* published an [article](#) about the mudslide a few weeks ago and it includes an interactive before-and-after map that shows how widespread the devastation truly is; you can view the map [HERE](#).



Below I provide an overview of the governor's budget vetoes and offer an excerpt of an editorial I wrote for the *Columbian*.

I hope to see you around the district this summer – please stop and say hello, I would love to visit with you!

Sincerely,

Celebrating victories in a 'did not' session

The *Columbian* recently published an editorial I wrote summarizing my take on this year's legislative session. I've included an excerpt below, but please click [HERE](#) to read the full article.

Things Legislature did not do were for the best

Published: April 6, 2014 | By Sen. Ann Rivers

Since this year's legislative session concluded March 13, exactly as scheduled, the published reviews I've seen tend to only focus on certain things that did not happen during our 60 days in Olympia.

Yes, there were some good bills that didn't make it through and important changes that didn't happen — as is the case every year. But I think it's important that we celebrate the victories when we can, so here are several examples of things that luckily did not happen, which deserve far more attention than they have received.

- We did not raise taxes.
- We did not overspend or damage the state's balanced budget.
- We did not neglect our obligation to fund education.
- We did not raise tuition at state colleges and universities.
- We did not waste taxpayer dollars with a special session.
- We did not ignore the opportunity to protect victims of sexual abuse.

Clark County Residents Attend Bill Signing in Olympia

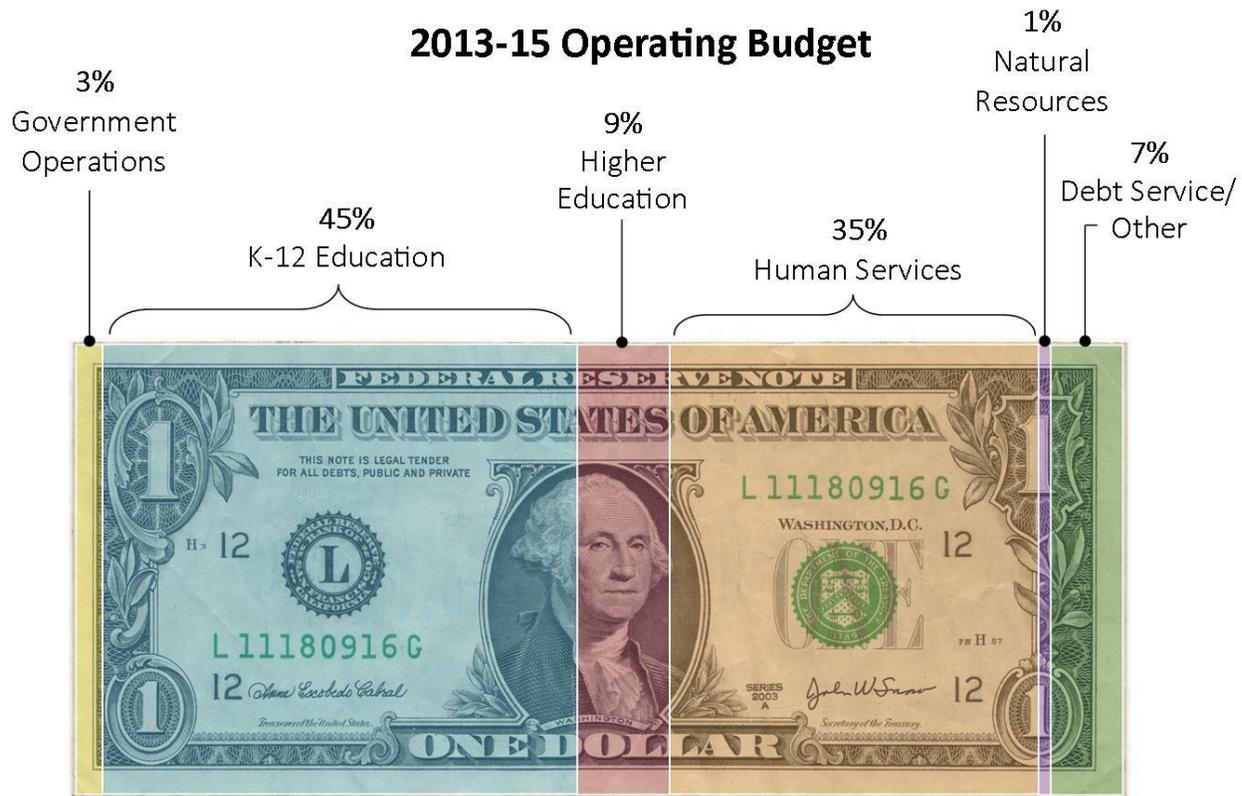
The two Clark County sisters who inspired my measure, Senate Bill 6069, came to Olympia for the ceremonial bill signing with the governor. Click [HERE](#) to read more about their story and why it was important to them to take a stand for victims of sexual abuse.



The Governor Vetoes Sections of the Budget

In my last e-newsletter, I gave an overview of the balanced supplemental budget, which was approved with overwhelming bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House. Here is a

breakdown of the 2013-15 state operating budget – it includes the minor adjustments made in this year’s supplemental budget.



Last Friday, the governor vetoed several sections of the budget before signing his name in approval. The most notable consequence of his vetoes is that the budget is now projected to be out of balance.

The major vetoes are:

- Transfer of Life Sciences Discovery Funds to Education Legacy Trust Account – The Legislature had proposed eliminating new grants to the Life Sciences Discovery Fund (although allowing existing projects to continue to their conclusion) and transferring those funds to the Education Legacy Trust Account. The transfers were \$20 million in 2013-15 and the intent to transfer the remaining \$53 million in 2015-17. The governor vetoed the transfer – and, in so doing, reduced funding for the Education Legacy Trust Account, causing the budget to be out of balance at the end of the 2015-17 biennium.
- State Actuary Funding for Legislative Health Care Analysis – In one of the more important reforms in the 2014 supplemental budget, the Legislature had provided funding to the State Actuary’s office to expand their capacity and offer independent health care actuarial analysis to the Legislature, both as a check on the executive branch and to provide greater analytical tools to policymakers. The Governor, in a very unusual step, vetoed funding for the Actuary, which is a legislative agency.
- Disaster Response Account Transfer to General Fund – There was a \$1.5 million transfer from the Disaster Response Account to the general fund. In light of the Oso disaster, the governor vetoed this transfer.

- Energy Freedom Account Transfer to the General Fund – There was a \$500,000 transfer in the budget. The governor expressed concerns about the level of funding that would remain for the Energy Freedom Account and vetoed the transfer.
- Study of Revenue Impacts of U.S. Open – The budget required the Dept. of Revenue to conduct an analysis of the revenue impacts of the 2015 U.S. Open golf tournament that is scheduled to be held in Pierce County. The governor noted that there were no funds provided for this analysis, so he vetoed the requirement.
- Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee Study of Savings From 12-Month Contraception Policy – The budget had required that JLARC perform an analysis of the assumed budget savings resulting from the state's change to a one year supply of contraceptive drugs for Medicaid recipients. The Governor vetoed the study, although he noted that the Health Care Authority will track savings and report the savings to Office of Financial Management.

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Stay Connected!

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