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Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development - Ranking; Ways & Means - Capital Budget; Energy, Environment & Telecommunications

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Session ends without a budget agreement



The deadline for the Washington State Legislature to end its business and go home was Sunday, however since no budget agreement could be reached in time, **taxpayers will now be forced to foot the bill for yet another special session** (which seems to be an annual tradition in Olympia). I believe it's terribly shameful that the Legislature couldn't get a budget out after nearly four months, especially since the state is receiving \$2 billion more in revenue and the fact that the Senate [Majority Coalition Caucus](#) passed and sent to the House a budget that lives within the revenue the state is expected to receive over the next four years.

All session long, we have remained committed to our three founding principles: creating jobs, improving education and passing a sustainable, no-new-taxes budget. The Majority Coalition's bipartisan budget proposal - which was approved 30-18 with nine members of the minority party voting in favor of it - would put over **a billion dollars into education, balance for four years, reduce tuition** at state colleges and universities by three percent, and all **without raising taxes**. Yet since the House of Representatives refused to back away from its proposal to raise your taxes by about a billion dollars, a special session is now required to continue the state's unfinished

business.

While [I called on the governor](#) to immediately begin the special session, he instead chose to send lawmakers home for two weeks before **we begin again May 13**. Unfortunately, there are real-world impacts to delay, such as business owners who are trying to determine if they can afford to keep their doors open or not, if they can afford to hire one or two new employees or – if they can't hold off any longer – if they must let the ones they already have go. Additionally, school district administrators need to plan out their budgets for the year, construction companies need to know what capital projects they need to budget their bids for, and county and municipal governments are waiting to make decisions based upon the decisions made by the Legislature.

In the meantime, we will continue attempts at budget negotiations with the House of Representatives in an effort to show them that

billion-dollar tax increases are not an acceptable solution. [Keep visiting my website](#) and stay [subscribed to my Olympia Reports](#) to get the latest progress updates.



My bills that survived the 2013 regular session

2013 has been a very successful session for my proposed bills. I introduced 36 pieces of legislation this year, and 11 of them are now going to become law (including four Senate Resolutions). So far, the governor has signed only one of my bills, **however bills passed by both the House and Senate will become law with or without the governor's ceremonial signature.** He only has the power to veto some or all of a passed bill.

- [SB 5002](#) will update state law to allow local mosquito districts more flexibility in their operations. It was delivered to the governor on April 24th.
- [SB 5056](#) will simplify the paperwork a new business must process in order to hire a minor. That bill was delivered to the governor on April 23rd.
- [SB 5324](#) is concerning how mosquitos are controlled in storm water retention ponds. It was delivered to the governor on April 27th.

- [SB 5400](#) will help power companies with out-of-state customers find other renewable energy resources in order to meet yearly conservation requirements. **The governor signed this bill into law April 23rd.**
- [SB 5702](#) allows Washington State to better protect itself from invasive aquatic species. This bill was delivered to the governor on April 23rd.
- [SB 5724](#) was not passed, however its companion - [HB 1633](#) - was delivered to the governor on April 25th. It will revise bidding requirements for improvement and repair projects within school districts.
- [SB 5770](#) provides conservation districts with the ability to use direct deposit to pay their employees. It was delivered to the governor on April 23rd.
- [Senate Resolution 8610](#), adopted January 30th, honors the career of former **Senator Bob Morton**, R-Kettle Falls.
- [Senate Resolution 8617](#), adopted March 6th, celebrates the presence of **Filipino-Americans**.
- [Senate Resolution 8621](#), adopted February 28th, recognizes the Washington state wing of the **Civil Air Patrol**.
- [Senate Resolution 8660](#), adopted April 23rd, honors the 2013 National Teacher of the Year, **Jeff Charbonneau**.



National Teacher of the Year is from Zillah, Washington

I was extremely pleased to be able to sponsor [Senate Resolution 8660](#) for Jeff Charbonneau, the 2013 National Teacher of the Year. It is not every day the best teacher in the nation comes from your legislative district. **I want to thank Mr. Charbonneau for his dedication to providing a world-class education for the students of Zillah High School.**

Along the way to becoming the 63rd National Teacher of the Year, Charbonneau was named the Zillah School District Teacher of the Year, Educational Service District 105 Regional Teacher of the Year as well as 2013 Washington State Teacher of the Year. The latter put him in the running for the national honor.

Due to a program started by Charbonneau, 90 percent of last year's graduating students have gone on to continue their education in college, apprentice programs or the military. He was able to initiate an articulation agreement granting him adjunct status at Heritage College in Toppenish.

This allows students to obtain up to 10 college credits while taking their high-school science classes.

Charbonneau graduated from Zillah High School in 1996 and returned to his former school in 2001 as a chemistry, physics, engineering and architecture teacher. Since then, he has assisted pioneering STEM-focused learning programs for the Zillah School District as well as the state of Washington.

We are always saying we need to find better role models for our children, and the students of Zillah don't have to look any further than the front of their classroom.



In closing...

A big priority for me is getting your feedback as often as possible. It is one of the best tools I have to help me better represent you. As always, if you would like to contact me you can write, phone, e-mail, or stop by. **It remains my honor to serve you in the Washington State Senate.**



Sincerely,

Jim Honeyford
State Senator, 15th District
