



[Ag, Water & Rural Economic Development](#) | [Energy, Environment & Telecommunications](#) | [Early Learning & K-12 Education](#) | [Transportation](#)

*June 14, 2013*

## **Budget deal continues to be priority number one**

The Washington State Legislature concluded its first special session Tuesday without reaching agreement on a state budget or a number of government reforms.

The budget proposal passed by the Senate Saturday includes no new taxes and makes an unprecedented billion-dollar investment in K-12 education specifically in response to a court ruling on school funding. The House proposal would put significantly less toward responding to the justices' decision – about \$700 million – and tie that to approval of a hefty number of tax hikes.



The bottom line is that providing for basic education is our paramount duty, and we need to be doing that with the first dollars that government collects, not the last dime. We're projected to receive more than two billion dollars in new revenue in the next biennium, and next week's revenue forecast - which will be made public on Tuesday - is expected to show even more of an increase. Our Senate proposal uses the vast majority of that to fund education. Leadership in the House seems to want to use that to grow government, and follow that up by raising taxes to pay for education. I don't think that's fair to Washington taxpayers and frankly, it's pretty dangerous to gamble with our children's futures.

We were working on the floor negotiating and moving closer to a final budget agreement until 12:30 this morning. I feel that the House and Senate are very close to reaching a compromise and I hope that will come very soon.

## Watch my recent Senate Sessions video update

Click the image below to watch my video update on budget negotiations during the first special session, and my comments on the second special session.



## 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. I value your opinion highly and - 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Sharon R. Brown".

**Sharon Brown**  
State Senator  
8th District

## CONTACT ME:

**E-mail:** [sharon.brown@leg.wa.gov](mailto:sharon.brown@leg.wa.gov)

**Phone:** 360-786-7614

**Toll-Free:** 800-562-6000

**Address:**

201 Newhouse Building

P.O. Box 40408

Olympia, WA 98504-0408

