



League of Women Voters of Washington

Linnea Hirst, President // Kim Abel, Action Chair // Newsletter edited by Stasha McBride

www.lwvwa.org/advocacy

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Action Priority

21 February - 27 February 2010

Support - HB 3176 - This bill increases state revenues to preserve funding for education, public safety, healthcare and safety net services for elderly, disabled and vulnerable people. It raises revenue by preventing abusive tax avoidance transactions, narrowing or eliminating certain tax preferences, and providing equitable tax treatment.

League positions - The League has many positions supporting education, public safety, and basic health. We do not have positions on what or whom should be taxed but we do have positions stating that revenue-generating proposals should be progressive, with ability to pay as a guiding principle; taxes should not fall disproportionately on the poor and that loopholes should not be given that create an unfair advantage to special interest groups.

Bill status - In the House Finance Committee waiting for the suspension of elements of Initiative-960 it needs to move forward. (I-960 allows a small minority, 1/3, of legislators to hold up all tax proposals.) Things are moving fast, in this short session, to get budgets in place. Budget hearings are being held Monday in the House and Tuesday in the Senate: see 'Tip of the Week' below.

ACTION - We do support increased revenues for programs helping those hurt by this depression. Please contact your elected representatives in the House and Senate asking them to support the move to increase revenues for the critical programs facing devastating cuts in these hard times. Legislators supporting increased revenue will face an organized attack in November elections by those opposed to taxes. Your legislators need to know your views. CALL TODAY!

LWVWA Lobby Team Contact - Nora Leech, 206 328 0445, bluwatermelt@yahoo.com

Action Items

GOVERNMENT

Expressing Concerns – HB 2483 – Concerning Overseas and Service voters - This bill allows Service and overseas voters to request that they receive all future ballots by fax, email, or other available electronic means and that they may return a voted ballot by fax or email if the voter's signature on the declaration accompanies the ballot. County auditors are required to establish policies to protect the secrecy of the ballots.

League position - Voting procedures should serve the voter with a maximum of convenience, simplicity and efficiency while insuring that the requirements of secrecy, accuracy, and impartiality are maintained. Voting procedures should also provide for voter verifiable ballots that can be recounted when a recount is needed. We are concerned that this does not go far enough to protect the security of our voting procedures. While email is easy and convenient, it is not completely secure. Voting procedures should contemplate an effective way to counteract the risk of fraud and tampering *before* electronic formats are employed in our elections.

Bill Status – The bill passed out of the Senate's Government Operations and Elections Committee on Feb. 18.

ACTION – Please call your Senators and tell them that the League is concerned that this bill does not protect the security of our voting procedures. While we recognize that **HB 2483** improves convenience, simplicity and efficiency of voting procedures, it does not provide enough protection with respect to secrecy, accuracy, and impartiality. We suggest that auditors provide for public review, a sample of the security policies they intend

to implement which will ensure ballots are verifiable, secure and secret *before* passage of the bill or *before* the bill takes effect.

Support - SB 5912 - Providing public funding for supreme court campaigns - The bill establishes a program for voluntary public financing of campaigns for the Washington State Supreme Court. It creates a State Judicial Campaign Fund, sets out qualifications for candidates participating in the program, establishes a formula for grants, and provides for rescue funds. The bill also requires that the program will not become operational until at least \$3 million is appropriated and deposited in the State Judicial Campaign Fund.

League position - LWV supports campaign finance reform and a public campaign finance option. Public funding for Supreme Court campaigns furthers our organizational position to take action to combat corruption and undue influence in elections, to enable candidates to compete more equitably for office, and to promote citizen participation in political process.

Bill Status – The bill was set for a vote on the Senate floor on Feb. 16th but an issue was raised about whether the funding source would require a 2/3 vote because of I-960 implications. This effectively brought **SB 5912** to a standstill for now but it is not dead yet! We are waiting to see what the Senate’s budget looks like on Monday 2/22, and if we can find a plausible funding source.

ACTION – This bill is not dead yet! Call your Senators and let them know that you support Campaign Financing for Judicial Races.

Support – SB 6754 - Making the names and addresses of persons signing initiative or referendum petitions public records - It is reasonable to believe that an issue, in order to get to the ballot, has been vetted, meets certain qualifications, and that it really is a legitimate issue. The public should always be able to depend on the fact that an initiative has qualified to be on the ballot by acquiring the required number of signatures. The government should not be the only institution ensuring that this is true. **SB 6754** would allow external organizations to verify, through independent review, the legitimacy of gathered signatures.

League position - LWV supports openness and transparency in government and, to further open government, the initiative process must remain open to public oversight.

Bill Status – The bill is scheduled for a hearing in the House’s State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee on Tuesday 2/23.

ACTION - If you have Representatives in the House’s State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee (**Hunt, Appleton, Armstrong, Alexander, Flannigan, Hurst, Miloscia, Taylor**) please ask them to support the bill.

Support the Policy - SB 6449 - Regarding signature gatherers for petitions - This bill requires paid signature gatherers to register with the Public Disclosure Commission and to sign a declaration on the petition. The bill balances the need for paid signature gatherers who generate successful initiatives and referenda with the need to prevent fraud through regulation of paid signature gatherers. Current law does not adequately prevent fraud or ensure that the process is transparent and open to public oversight because there is no way to verify who collected the signatures.

League position - The Initiative and Referendum Process provides access to citizens and voters to initiate or modify legislation, however some restrictions should be put on paid signature gathering.

Bill Status – The bill is scheduled for executive session in the House’s State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee on Tuesday 2/23.

ACTION – This bill has a small fiscal note which takes from the General Fund. Because of this we cannot fully support the bill, however, we do support the policy of the bill. If you have Representatives in the House’s State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee (**Hunt, Appleton, Armstrong, Alexander, Flannigan, Hurst, Miloscia, Taylor**) let them know that we strongly support the policy of this bill however given the dismal condition of the budget this year we cannot offer our full support for the bill which would draw funds away from critical programs.

Support – SB 6344 - Establishing Contribution Limits for City Council Campaigns (Substitute Name: Concerning Campaign Contribution Limits) - This bill limits campaign contribution for city council

campaigns, including charter county, non-charter county, city council, and mayoral offices. Contributions from an individual, union, or business may not exceed \$800.00 per election.

League Position - LWVWA has a position that campaign contributions should be limited. These limits should apply to both instate and out-of-state contributions. This bill encourages better democracy by ensuring that a candidate has the broad support of a community. Contribution limits also prevent individuals and organizations with a great deal of money from controlling elections purely because they can afford to do so.

Bill Status - The bill is currently in set for a hearing on Feb. 23 in the House's State Government & Tribal affairs committee.

ACTION - If you have Representatives in the House's State Government and Tribal Affairs Committee ([Hunt](#), [Appleton](#), [Armstrong](#), [Alexander](#), [Flannigan](#), [Hurst](#), [Miloscia](#), [Taylor](#)) please ask them to support the bill.

LWVWA Lobby Team Contact - Katy Sheehan, katysheehan@gmail.com, 360 250 0431

SHORELINES, WETLANDS, LAND USE

Support – **SB 6851** - Working for Clean Water - The companion bill to **SB 6851** (**HB 3181**) passed its first test yesterday in a tough vote in the House by an 8-7 margin. It will be just as close of a vote in the Senate Ways & Means Committee. This bill would triple the "hazardous substances" tax created in 1987 by voter Initiative (I-97). This could raise as much as \$250 million a year to clean up stormwater, the number one water pollution problem in the state. By allocating the bulk of the dollars to the general fund in the near term and transitioning back to clean water purposes over time, over \$600 million over the next five years would be available for core public services: education, health care, and social services. Monies would also be allocated to fund storm water costs for Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the administration of local government stormwater funding through a competitive grant process. The "Hazardous Substance Tax" was approved over 20 years ago by Washington voters and is also known as the "state superfund law". It is levied upon substances that are the most significant pollutants: petroleum, pesticides, and other toxic chemicals (around 8,000 different chemicals in totals). Extending the tax to cover stormwater pollution cleanup is a common-sense solution to our biggest water quality problem.

League Position- League participated in and supported Initiative 97 in 1987.

Bill Status - Late Thursday night the House Capitol Budget Committee passed the Working for Clean Water bill. **SB 6851** is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Ways & Means Committee this Monday 2/22 at 3:30pm Unfortunately, the major polluters targeted by this legislation, including the major oil refineries in Bellingham and Tacoma, are pulling out all the stops to kill **HB 3181/SB 6851**.

ACTION - Both bills still have a long way to go before final passage and our voices are needed! Send an e-mail or call your Representatives and Senator via the toll-free hotline, 1-800-562-6000, and leave them a message letting them know you support the Working for Clean Water Bill: **HB 3181/SB 6851**! If you live in the Olympia area, please attend the Senate Ways & Means hearing on Monday in Room 4 J.A. Cherberg Building. A show of support for clean water is needed! Stormwater pollution is the most immediate threat to clean water, and must be addressed if we are to clean up Puget Sound by 2020. This bill puts people to work while cleaning up our water. This bill is a top priority for cities and counties all over the state.

LWVWA Lobby Team Contact - Ann Aagaard, 425 488 8418, ann_aagaard@verizon.net

HEALTH CARE

Support - **SCR 8409** – Relating to the implementation of Federal Health Care Reform - **Senate Concurrent Resolution 8409** would create a joint select committee of Senate and House members who would work together to determine how best to implement Federal legislation in Washington State. This is proactive legislation to improve the access of health care to all residents of Washington State.

League Position - LWVWA supports universal access for all residents to a comprehensive, uniform, and affordable set of health services regardless of one's health status or financial status.

Bill Status – On February 11th **SCR 8409** was passed unanimously on the Senate Floor. This bill had a public

hearing on February 19th in the House Health Care & Wellness Committee. On February 23 **SCR 8409** is scheduled for executive session in this committee.

ACTION – Contact your Representative if she or he is a member of the House Health Care & Wellness Committee (**Cody, Driscoll, Ericksen, Bailey, Campbell, Clibborn, Green, Herrera, Hinkle, Kelley, Moeller, Morrell, Pedersen**) and ask them to support this bill. This is proactive legislation that has the potential to improve the access to health care for all residents of Washington State.

Support - **HB 2388** – relating to public health financing using a sales tax on candy – Public health financing in local health jurisdiction has steadily declined during the past two or more years. Public health needs a more stable dedicated funding system by providing a dedicated state revenue stream. This bill eliminates the sales and use tax exemption on candy and dedicates those funds for public health. Even though the sales tax is a regressive tax, the exemption from sales tax of candy as a food, may not be health producing for people of Washington. Taxing candy would provide an adequate and sustainable source of revenue for public health.

League Position - LWVWA supports universal access for all residents to a comprehensive, uniform, and affordable set of health services regardless of one's health status or financial status. LWVWA believes any tax exemption proposal should be carefully evaluated for purpose, benefit and cost; and, all tax exemptions should be periodically reviewed.

Bill Status – A public hearing was held on January 22 in the House Committee on Finance, but no executive session has been scheduled to vote on this bill. (Bills dealing with revenue, like **HB 2388**, will be on hold until **SB 6130**, which is written to amend provisions relating to I-960, passes both the Senate and the House and is signed by the Governor.)

ACTION - Contact members of the House Committee on Finance who represent you (**Hunter, Hasegawa, Orcutt, Parker, Condotta, Conway, Ericks, Santos, Springer**) and ask them to request that this bill be brought up for a vote of the committee. Let them know you approve of eliminating the sales and use tax exemption on candy, and having the funds generated from the tax used to fund public health.

Oppose - **Proposed Reductions in 2010 Supplemental Budget** – Senators and Representatives are working on the 2010 Supplemental Budget. The governor released her all cuts budget in December and released a letter on the budget in January. The governor's letter contained fewer proposed reductions, but health care access was cut substantially in 2009 and more cuts are recommended for 2010. Currently there are more people on the waiting list for the Basic Health Plan (BHP) than there are people on the BHP. General Assistance – Unemployable (GAU) may be limited to six months of lifetime benefits per person. For the BHP to remain at its current level, \$160.6 million of revenue needs to be appropriated. For GAU to remain at its current level, \$118.9 million of revenue needs to be appropriated.

League Position - LWVWA supports universal access for all residents to a comprehensive, uniform, and affordable set of health services regardless of one's health status or financial status.

Bill Status – The Senate and House will each release Supplemental Budgets on Monday and Tuesday, February 22nd and 23rd, respectively: see “Tip of the Week” below.

ACTION – Contact members of the House Ways & Means Committee (**Linville, Ericks, Alexander, Bailey, Dammeier, Chandler, Cody, Conway, Darneille, Haigh, Hinkle, Hunt, Hunter, Kagi, Kenney, Kessler, Pettigrew, Priest, Ross, Schmick, Seaquist, Sullivan**) and the Senate Ways & Means Committee (**Prentice, Fraser, Tom, Zarelli, Brandland, Carrell, Fairley, Hewitt, Hobbs, Honeyford, Keiser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McDermott, Murray, Oemig, Parlette, Pflug, Pridemore, Regala, Rockefeller, Schoesler**) who represent you and ask them to preserve the health care safety net by not making reductions in the Basic Health Plan, GAU, public health, children's health, family planning, and mental health. Give your representatives, who serve on these committees, suggestions for raising more revenue in a fair, progressive manner. If you have a personal story concerning yourself, a member of your family, or a friend who has experienced negative effects from the reduction in funding of any of these programs, tell your legislators about it.

LWVWA Lobby Team Contact – Susan Eidenschink, susaneiden@harbornet.com, 253 572 9305
Lounette Templeton, lounettet@wavecable.com, 360 504 2060

HOUSING

Support – **HB 3177/SB 6817** - These bills would authorize the State Finance Committee to issue \$100 million in state G.O. bonds for the Housing Trust Fund program at the Department of Commerce. Investing in housing now will allow the state to take advantage of lower construction and land costs, so more housing can be built. This bill will create jobs at a time when Washington needs them most. The construction industry has been the hardest hit sector, with a third of the year's job losses coming from that industry. A surcharge of \$62 would be collected on each assignment or substitution of a previously recorded deed of trust recorded with a county auditor to pay debt service payments on the bonds.

League Position – League generally supports the use of public funds for the creation of low-income housing.

Bill Status - **SHB 3177** was passed by the Capital Budget Committee and will go to either Rules or a fiscal committee. **SB 6817** was passed and referred to Ways & Means. It did not make it out of Ways & Means, but it may be brought out if it is necessary to implement the budget.

ACTION—Call on both of these bills. Message to Senators on the Ways & Means Committee (**Prentice, Fraser, Tom, Zarelli, Brandland, Carrell, Fairley, Hewitt, Hobbs, Honeyford, Keiser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McDermott, Murray, Oemig, Parlette, Pflug, Pridemore, Regala, Rockefeller, Schoesler**) should be to hear the bill. If you have a representative on Capital Budget, (**Dunshee, Ormsby, Warnick, Pearson, Anderson, Blake, Chase, Hope, Jacks, Maxwell, McCune, Morrell, Orwall, Smith & White**) thank them for moving **SHB 3177**.

Support - **ESHB 2753** - Creating a workforce housing program. This bill requires that \$1 billion of outstanding debt be used for implementing the Washington Works Housing Program to increase opportunities for nonprofit organizations and public agencies to purchase, acquire, build, and own real property used for affordable housing if state subsidies are available.

League Position - League generally supports the use of public funds for the creation of low-income housing.

Bill Status - **ESHB 2753** has passed the House and is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on February 22nd. The Senate companion bill is dead.

ACTION - If your Senator is on the Ways & Means Committee (**Prentice, Fraser, Tom, Zarelli, Brandland, Carrell, Fairley, Hewitt, Hobbs, Honeyford, Keiser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McDermott, Murray, Oemig, Parlette, Pflug, Pridemore, Regala, Rockefeller, Schoesler**) let him/her know that you want this bill to survive because more low-income housing is greatly needed in Washington State. All League members should write or call committee chair Senator **Prentice** with this message.

LWWWA Lobby Team Contact - Betty Sullivan, jaybetty2@msn.com, 206 682 5240

NATURAL RESOURCES

Support - Safe Baby Bottle bill – **SB 6248/HB 1180**

Priority Legislation for Environmental Priorities Coalition.

This bill phases out BPA in baby bottles, cups or other containers (except for metal cans) intended for food or drink for children age three and under. It also phases out BPA in sports water bottles (at least in the House bill). More and more evidence shows that the industrial chemical bisphenol A (BPA) is harmful to children's health. Laboratory studies have linked BPA to cancer, miscarriage, obesity, reproductive problems, and hyperactivity. Yet manufacturers can still legally use BPA in products such as baby bottles and cups, infant formula cans, and other drink and food container intended for very young children. Alternative non-BPA containers are now readily available. Of great significance for this bill is the recent action of the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) reversing an earlier decision that BPA in food and drink containers was not a health hazard. From the FDA website, here is part of their statement:"...on the basis of results from recent studies using novel approaches to test for subtle effects [from low levels of human exposure to BPA] both the National Toxicology Program at the National Institutes of Health and FDA have some concern about the potential effects of BPA on the brain, behavior and prostate gland in fetuses, infants, and young children." For more information about the FDA decision, go to FDA website, www.fda.gov for its full report (BPA update 2010).

League positions - LWVWA supports this bill based upon the LWVUS positions, Early Intervention for Children at Risk, and the general premise in our Natural Resources positions of support for prevention of harm before the damage occurs; and the LWVWA position Toxics in the Home.

Bill status - This bill has passed in both the House (95-1) and the Senate (36-9). Each house is considering the bill from the opposite house because the House bill includes sports water bottles and the Senate bill does not. This week the House amended the Senate bill to include sports bottles (the word 'water' was removed). The Senate has not yet acted on the House bill. Because Senator **Marr** is opposed to including sports bottles (with or without water), the Health & Long Term Care Committee is stuck with a 4-4 vote. Yes, the saga continues.

ACTION - For those in Senator **Marr's** district (#10, Spokane area), contacting his office would be very helpful. Thank him for voting for the underlying bill to ban BPA in baby bottles and other containers. After all, young children and pregnant women DO drink from sports bottles: All the reasons for banning BPA from baby bottles and sippy cups apply to sports bottles!

Support – Washington Food Policy Forum – **SSB 6343**

The bill establishes the Washington Food Policy Forum, and builds upon the Local Farms-Healthy Kids Act passed in 2008. The intent is to better integrate food related policies and programs statewide. The goals of the forum are to increase production, sale, and consumption of Washington grown foods; promote healthy Washington grown foods to state residents; support nutrition programs and avoid burdens of obesity and other diet-related diseases; protect land and water resources needed to sustain local food production; encourage retention of farmers and economic viability of local foods; reduce food insecurity and hunger.

League positions - LWVWA Agricultural Lands. LWVUS Land Use, Federal Agricultural Policy, Early Intervention for Children at Risk.

Bill status - The bill passed the Senate 45-3. A hearing on the Senate bill is scheduled for today, February 19, in the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.

ACTION - Please contact your representatives, especially if they are on this committee, (**Blake, Ormsby, Chandler, Smith, Jacks, Kretz, Liias, McCoy, Nelson, Pearson, Rolfes, Van De Wage, Warnick**) urging support for this bill.

Support - Mercury Lights Recycling - **HB 1469/ESSB 5543**

This bill establishes a producer-financed product stewardship program for the collection, recycling, and disposal of mercury-containing lights. It requires that the producers of such lights participate in and fully implement a product stewardship program by 1/1/2013; and, it prohibits the sale of bulk mercury by 6/30/2012. Effective 1/1/2013, mercury-containing lights may not be disposed of in waste incinerators or landfills.

League Positions - LWVWA Hazardous Waste Management, Toxics in the Home.

Bill status - This bill passed the Senate, 37-9. This past week **ESSB 5543** passed out of the House Environmental Health Committee.

ACTION - Please contact your representatives urging support for this bill. Currently, only an estimated 2% of these mercury-containing lights are properly handled. This legislation establishes a producer-financed program that will provide for the safe disposal of these products in every county.

Support - Reducing copper in brake pads - **SSB 6557**

This bill addresses the problem that arises from the presence of copper in storm water run-off that flows into Puget Sound and other waters of the state. Copper is a highly toxic substance and is of particular concern for the health of salmon. NOAA research has shown that copper interferes with the salmon sense of smell, essential to knowing the presence of predators, finding a mate, and returning to home waters. Vehicle brake pads are a significant source of the copper and other toxic substances that are found in storm water run-off. The bill restricts some of these toxins beginning 1/1/2014; it prohibits the use of brake friction material (brake pads) that exceeds 5% copper by weight beginning 1/1/21.

League Positions - LWVUS Natural Resources, Resource Management, Environmental Protection and Pollution Control, Water Resources positions.

Bill status - This bill has passed in the Senate, 39-8. In the House its public hearing in the House Environmental Health Committee was on February 17; executive action there has been set for February 23.

ACTION - Please contact your representatives, especially if he/she is on the House Environmental Health Committee, (**Campbell, Chase, Shea, Orcutt, Dickerson, Dunshee, Finn, Hudgins, Kretz, Rolfes**) to urge passage of this bill.

LWWWA Lobby Team Contact - Elizabeth Davis, elizabethd@whidbey.com, 360 331 4184

Tip of the Week

The Budgets from the House and Senate are being released early next week. Why is informing yourself about the State Budget important to the League? We are moving into the period during the legislative session when we focus on the budget. Many of our priorities involving health care, education, and the environment depend on the availability of additional revenue.

The Senate's budget (**SB 6444**) is expected to be released on Monday morning February 22. There will be a public hearing on the bill the same day at 3:30pm in the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

The House's budget (**HB 2824**) will be released on Tuesday, February 23, and will be heard starting at 6pm the same day in the House Ways & Means Committee. The hearing will continue on Wednesday in the same committee at 3:30pm.

You can view these committee hearings live on TVW <http://www.tvw.org/index.cfm?bhcp=1> and we encourage you to watch them in order to inform yourselves about the important and relevant issues that affect the funding of our critical programs.

Issue Background Items

NATURAL RESOURCES

Secure Medicine Return **PSSB 5279/2SHB 1165**

The disappointing news about the Secure Medicine Return bill is that it did not get out of its house of origin by the deadline of Tuesday, February 16, and thus, the bill is dead for this year. This take-back program for unwanted and expired medicines would have gone far to preventing accidental or improper use of such medicines. It would also have reduced the quantity of such drugs eventually draining into Puget Sound and other waters of the state through improper disposal of such drugs.

LWWWA Lobby Team Contact - Elizabeth Davis, elizabethd@whidbey.com, 360 331 4184

For Reference

KEY SESSION DATES

The 61st Washington State Legislature opened its short session on Monday, January 11. The 2010 legislative session in Olympia runs from January 11 to March 11. Every day (including Saturday, Sunday, and holidays) is counted in the 60-day session. The Lobby Team will meet regularly during the session to talk with the League lobbyist, Lonnie Johns-Brown, and to decide on priority action for the upcoming week.

Feb. 26 - Last day to read in committee reports from opposite house, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.

March 1 - Last day to read in opposite house committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.

March 5 - Last day to consider opposite house bills (5 p.m.) (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session).*

March 11 - Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.

* After the 54th day, only initiatives, alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, messages pertaining to amendments, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session may be considered.

CONTACT LISTS

Legislators Legislative Committees

L LEAGUE POSITIONS

LWWA positions

R ESOURCES

League action website - <http://www.ckwebsites.com/lwwa/positions.html>

House Floor Activity as it happens – flooractivityext.leg.wa.gov/default.aspx?chamber=3

Senate Floor Activity as it happens – flooractivityext.leg.wa.gov

Public hearings as they happen – twv.org

Bill information – text, analysis, status, committee action – apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo

Bill room (legislative information center) – **360-786-7573**

State budget information – www.ofm.wa.gov

Governor’s website – governor.wa.gov

Washington state’s official website – access.wa.gov

Speaking to a Legislator

Visit, write to, call, or email the legislator directly (follow “Legislators” link above). Or, use the toll-free Legislative Hotline available weekdays from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm, and Saturdays from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm:

800-562-6000 / TTY: 800-635-9993

Legislative hotline operators will send your message to one of your legislators, all three of your legislators, the governor and lieutenant governor, or all of these, as you request. Language translation services are also available. Person placing the call needs to know enough English to understand “Please Wait” and to report the language needed.

Addressing a Letter to a Legislator

Representative _____ Senator _____

P.O. Box 40600 P.O. Box 404[leg district]

Olympia, WA 98504-0600 Olympia, WA 98504-04[leg district]

Visiting Your Legislators

Citizens are welcome to visit their legislators in Olympia on any day during the session. Making an appointment first is prudent but not always required. Later in the session, town hall meetings back in the legislators’ home districts are good opportunities for talking to your legislators. Lobby day events provide organized support for visits.