



STATE REPRESENTATIVE TINA ORWALL

33RD DISTRICT

2012 Legislative Session Report

May 2012

Dear friends,

Thank you for giving me the privilege of serving as your legislator in Olympia.

The times we are living in continue to be extremely challenging for families and businesses. At the state level, shrinking revenues and growing demands for services make it even more difficult than ever to find a balance between cutting costs and protecting critical services.

While it took a tremendous amount of time and energy, including working through the last night, we were able to reach an agreement on the budget. We balanced it **without new taxes** that would have placed a burden on struggling families and businesses, and included some positive aspects. We are **funding K-12 and higher education** without further cuts. Instead of wiping out entire programs that our most vulnerable citizens depend on, **we saved the safety net**. We also passed the **Jobs Now Act**, which will provide employment for approximately 20,000 people, and **we eliminated the tax exemption for big out-of-state banks**. These are all positive changes that will help Washington families move forward.

I remain hopeful that our economy will continue to slowly stabilize and that our state and communities will recover from this tough economic time.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with your ideas and any concerns you may have. Your feedback is important and guides my work in Olympia.

I hope you and your families have a safe, healthy and happy summer.

Sincerely,

Tina Orwall
State Representative

HERE'S HOW TO REACH ME

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- Judiciary
- Rules
- Joint Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs, co-chair
- Assistant Speaker Pro Tempore

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE TINA ORWALL

BOOSTING STEM

This session we took historic steps to steer the state in a new direction by passing measures to boost training in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics:

- A Joint Center for Aerospace Technology Innovation will get more students into the aerospace industry with the right training and skills.
- A Student Achievement Council will coordinate our post-secondary education systems and establish new roadmap for our colleges and universities.
- Specialized STEM courses for high schools as part of Project Lead-The-Way.

COLLABORATIVE SCHOOLS

House Bill 2799 embraces innovation and collaboration to help turn around struggling public schools. The bill creates a five-year Collaborative Schools for Innovation and Success (CSIS) pilot program that encourages colleges to partner with underachieving elementary schools. The goal is to test new and creative approaches to teaching in these schools where the traditional education model has struggled.



ALTERNATIVES, REMEDIES, AND ASSISTANCE FOR HOMEOWNERS

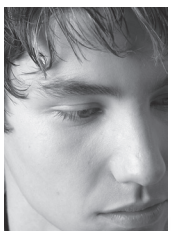


As you may remember, last year I sponsored the Foreclosure Fairness Act to help homeowners by providing housing counselors to walk them through the foreclosure process, and giving them the opportunity to meet with the lenders and a mediator to determine the best course of action. Since going into effect last summer, over 1,000 homeowners have stopped the foreclosure process and have been able to meet with their lender. Some were able to keep their homes, and those who couldn't were helped in their transition.

This session I authored **HB 2421**, which makes necessary changes to the Foreclosure Fairness Act for the mediation program to run more smoothly and streamline the demands on lenders. My bill was combined into **HB 2614**, a comprehensive measure to help homeowners in crisis by providing them with alternatives, remedies, and assistance. In addition to the Foreclosure Fairness Act changes, this legislation also:

- Brings clarity to the short-sale process to ensure that homeowners are informed if they will be responsible for any outstanding debt after the house has been sold.
- Provides remedies for when a home is lost due to mistakes in the trustee sale. This component will void the trustee sale if certain conditions are met.

EFFECTIVE HELP FOR THOSE AT RISK OF SUICIDE



According to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death. In Washington State, it is the 8th. Sadly, in our state, two youth between the ages of 10-24 commit suicide every week. This is especially heart-wrenching because suicide is preventable. The final budget does include \$140,000 for youth suicide prevention activities.

But our communities will have further challenges with so many brave men and women returning from combat, since we know that male veterans are twice as likely as their civilian counterparts to commit suicide. There is also a correlation between suicide and PTSD. For these reasons, it is more important than ever that all of our health care providers get trained in the best practices of suicide assessment, treatment and management. I authored **HB 2366**, which requires a broad range of mental health care professionals to complete training in suicide assessment, treatment and management. This is an important first step.

ADDRESSING THE RECENT RISE IN CAR THEFTS

Last summer, the Seattle Times reported that auto theft rose 18.8 percent in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue area in 2010 compared with 2009 and that, overall, auto thefts in Washington climbed nearly 10 percent over that same period. To curb this recent rise in car thefts and target repeat criminals, I sponsored, and the governor signed into law, **HB 2354**, which gives law enforcement the ability to investigate complex rings of auto theft and will help as they go after the most prolific offenders.



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BIG PROJECTS THAT CREATE JOBS IN OUR AREA

One of the biggest wins this year is passage of the 2012 Jobs Now (**HB 2793**) package. It will put around 20,000 people back to work, giving a boost to our construction sector, which has been hurt by the recession. Some of the projects include:

- \$1.5 million for the Puget Sound Skills Center to start design of a health sciences building along with old building infrastructure updates.
- \$298,000 for Kent Youth & Family Services to rebuild the Valli Kee Community Center into a full community/youth Center for KYFS's after school Outreach youth development program.
- \$3.5 million for Northeast Redevelopment Area in Burien for the development of stormwater facilities and related improvements to provide critical infrastructure needed to spur redevelopment of this area.

These are other big projects in the **Capital Budget** that will also create numerous jobs in our district:

- \$1 million for Burien Public Works – Miller Creek Stormwater Management Facility.

- \$2.2 million for Angle Lake Watermain Replacement.
- \$2.5 million for Sea Mar Des Moines Family Housing.
- \$7 million for Briscoe-Desimone Levee Improvements.

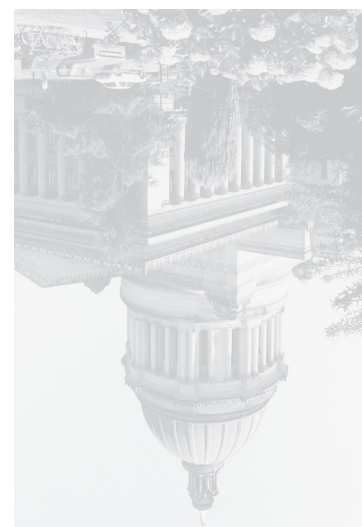
And our district fared well in the **Transportation Budget** also, with \$19.4 million for several projects including:

SR 167/8th St E Vic to S 277th St Vic - Southbound Managed Lane:	\$2,912,000
SR 509/I-5 to Sea-Tac Freight & Congestion Relief:	\$1,234,000
SR 518/SeaTac Airport to I-5 - Eastbound Widening:	\$2,369,000
R 515/SR 516 to SE 232nd St Vic – Paving:	\$1,253,000
Sound Transit, S 200th Intermodal Station and park and ride:	\$3,600,000

For more information on the projects in the Capital and Transportation Budgets, please go to:

<http://fiscal.wa.gov/Maps.aspx>

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