Rep. Dan Roach
31st Legislative District
2010 Session Review

REPRESENTATIVE
DAN ROACH
31ST DISTRICT

Committees:
- Transportation
- Financial Institutions and Insurance
- Audit Review and Oversight

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1-800-562-6000

About your Representative:
Currently serving his fifth term, Rep. Dan Roach, R-Bonney Lake, was elected to the House of Representatives in 2000.

If you would like to learn more about Rep. Roach, visit his Web site at: www.houserepublicans.wa.gov/Roach

Dear Neighbors:

It is good to be back home in the district following a 60-day regular session and an extended 30-day special session that ended April 13.

Following the tragedies last fall in which several law enforcement officers in King and Pierce counties lost their lives, we responded with legislation to further protect our officers and provide greater public safety.

We also saved the Rainier School in Buckley, which had been listed for closure in the governor's budget proposal.

Perhaps most disappointing was how much time and effort was spent by the Legislature in raising taxes when it should have focused on job creation and restructuring state government to keep it living within its means. As a result, employers and citizens will be paying nearly $1.7 billion in new tax increases over the next three years at a time when they are struggling in this recession. This Legislature should have done a better job protecting taxpayers, not taking more from them to bail out government's bad spending practices.

As always, I appreciate your comments. It is an honor to serve you!

Sincerely,

Dan Roach

Rep. Dan Roach

I was pleased to host students of Daffodil Valley Elementary School of Sumner who came to the state Capitol for a tour.

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Budget gap filled with tax increases: Roach votes 'NO'

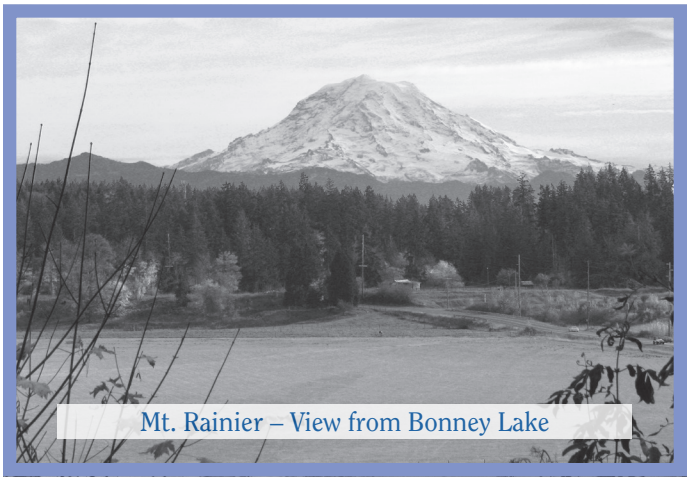
Continued overspending by the Legislature combined with this recession pushed our state budget into a $9.6 billion deficit last year and another $2.8 billion shortfall this year.

Two different solutions were proposed to address this year's shortfall. The first focused on raising taxes, relying on one-time federal dollars, and transferring state funds dedicated to other purposes. The second approach, which I supported, sought to restructure state government, prioritize spending to focus on education, public safety and the state's most vulnerable citizens, and generate revenue through a jobs plan that would get people working again in the private sector. Unfortunately, the first approach was chosen.

To raise taxes, a majority of legislators approved suspending Initiative 960, known as the Taxpayer Protection Act, which required a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to raise taxes. The voters of this state have made it clear that raising taxes should be difficult and used only as a last resort. That's why I fought, alongside my colleagues, for more than 10 hours on the House floor to defend the will of the people. Unfortunately, we did not have the votes to stop the suspension of I-960. When that passed, it signaled the beginning of tax increases and the end of state government reform.

A package was approved of more than $1.7 billion in new and increased taxes. I voted "no!" The tax increases will add to the prices associated with veterinarians, optometrists, dentists, graphic artists, attorneys, accountants, hair stylists, architects, direct sellers, real estate agents, banks, and credit cards. You will also pay more for bottled water, soda, candy, gum, canned meat, cigarettes and beer.

I'm very concerned the tax increases will cost jobs, result in more closed businesses, and hurt families already struggling. To read more about my views on the tax increases, go to my Web address: www.houserepublicans.wa.gov/news/budget-taxes/roach-opposes-tax-increases/.



Mt. Rainier – View from Bonney Lake

Jobs, not tax increases

Nearly 7,300 people in the 31st District are unemployed and looking for work. In my view, we could have gone a long way toward solving the state's budget crisis by addressing our state's double-digit unemployment crisis. When people are working, they have more disposable income to spend, and when they spend money on goods and services, they pay taxes. That's revenue that provides for the core services of government.

Several of my colleagues and I proposed a "Made in Washington" jobs plan which would have lowered costs for employers so they could hire again. Our proposal included reforming the state workers' compensation system, reducing unemployment insurance rates and providing much-needed regulatory reforms. Unfortunately, our proposals were ignored as the Legislature focused on tax increases.

By increasing taxes, you suppress spending because people have less money, job growth is stifled and more citizens become dependent on government assistance, which is a larger stress on the budget. Because the budget solutions rely on taxes and one-time money, the state most likely will face another multi-billion dollar shortfall again next year.

2010 Session Review

Rainier School saved with a new vision

Protection of the state's most vulnerable population should be one of our top priorities. So when the governor proposed in her budget the closure of Rainier School in Buckley, it certainly got my attention.

The school serves nearly 400 adults, many who have lived there most of their lives. I was very concerned that closure of the school could be devastating for its residents, who would have to be moved elsewhere and could suffer "transfer trauma." Also, much of Buckley's economy is built around those who work at the school – one third of whom live in the community.

I helped to organize a committee of community leaders and elected officials to save the school. The committee created a plan called "A new vision for Rainier School. " It seeks to expand services, provide respite and adult daycare, use the facilities for continuing education, and extend public outreach. Numerous citizens also came to Olympia to testify about the importance of keeping Rainier School open.

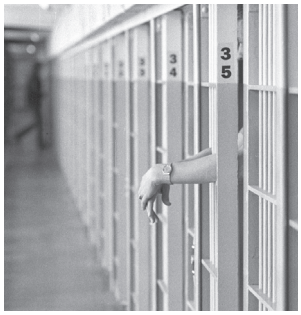
I'm pleased to report these actions made a difference. The final budget saves Rainier School from closure.

As the father of a boy with autism, Rep. Dan Roach is an active advocate for parents and families whose lives are affected with this affliction. Rep. Roach was a guest speaker during the **Austim Awareness Rally** in January at the state Capitol.

Protecting our protectors

Public safety and our law enforcement community were shaken to the core when in the course of three months, six police officers were shot and killed in King and Pierce counties. We honored the families of the fallen officers, not just with words, but with actions. Here's legislation I supported:

- **House Joint Resolution 4220 (Lakewood Police Officers' Memorial Act)** would allow more discretion for judges to deny bail to suspects facing a life sentence and who are deemed dangerous to the community. Voters will have the final say on this measure in November.
- **House Bill 2625** will allow judges latitude to determine if bail is appropriate for offenders arrested on felony charges.
- **House Bill 2717** will prevent outings of the criminally insane from state facilities, except for special circumstances.



- **House Bill 1679** will increase benefits for law enforcement officers and firefighters injured/disabled in the line of duty.
- **House Bill 2519** will enhance death benefits for survivors of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.
- **House Bill 2777** will increase penalties for repeat domestic violence offenders.

Edgewood approves East Pierce fire and rescue merger

Edgewood residents now have the opportunity for better emergency services with the recent merger of East Pierce and Fire Rescue. Voters approved the merger in February and it took effect April 1.

In addition to expanded fire and emergency medical services, Edgewood residents now have ambulance transport services from the fire department with no out-of-pocket costs to the patient.

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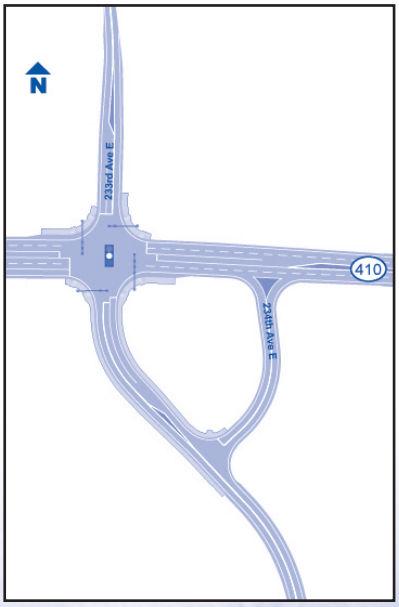
Celebrating Lake Tapps

Lake Tapps is a great asset for our community. When the mountain is out, it is breathtaking to see the reflection on the water. We nearly lost the lake when Puget Sound Energy's permit was due. The company decided it would be less expensive to just let the lake dry up. Many local citizens, however, came to its rescue. In February, they celebrated the success of saving the lake.

It's hard to imagine what that area would look like today had it not been for the dedication of a lot of people and local governments. We all know it was more than 10 years of hard work, but it was well worth the effort.

Construction under way on SR 410 - Bonney Lake intersection



The intersection of 233rd and 234th Avenue along State Route 410 in Bonney Lake is a high accident location. I'm pleased to report construction is under way to provide safety and congestion improvements to this location.

I worked to secure $27.5 million in the transportation budget a new traffic signal, a raised median, and additional lanes on this 1.49-mile project along State Route 410. Construction is to be completed in the summer of 2011.

Join me for a telephone town hall meeting

I'd like to invite you to pick up the phone and join me in a tele-town hall meeting, Thursday, May 27, at 6:50 p.m. The program works much like a call-in radio show and offers callers an opportunity to ask questions, vote in a survey, and engage in a community conversation with me from the comfort of their own homes.

I know it is often difficult to attend a traditional town hall meeting, so this offers a convenient alternative. Plus, I'd really like to know your thoughts about state government issues.

To connect to my teleconference, call toll-free at 1-877-229-8493 (enter PIN: 15565) from 6:50 p.m. to 7:50 p.m. on May 27. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

Representative
Dan Roach
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