

State Representative
Dan Griffey
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

2016 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT NO. 1885

Providing parent and student choice in public education

I was honored to receive the Digital Public Schools Alliance's Champion for Kids Award this year for my support of digital public schools. Every child has unique learning styles, and I believe it's important we provide students with alternatives to the traditional school model. The Alliance held a learning day and rally at the Capitol in March, where students and parents met with lawmakers to discuss the benefits of online schools.



Connecting with your government

The best ideas in the Legislature often come from constituents. We truly have a citizen Legislature – a place where ordinary people can accomplish extraordinary things. You can make a difference. Here are some ways to get involved in the legislative process and state government:

Governor's office	governor.wa.gov
Legislature	leg.wa.gov
State agencies	access.wa.gov/agency
TVW	tvw.org
Bill information	app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo
Civic education	leg.wa.gov/civiced
Washington House Republicans	houserepublicans.wa.gov



State Representative **Dan Griffey** 35th Legislative District Position 1

OFFICE:

410 John L. O'Brien Building
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

PHONE:

(360) 786-7966

EMAIL:

Dan.Griffey@leg.wa.gov

WEBSITE:

RepresentativeDanGriffey.com

COMMITTEES:

- Local Government
(Assistant Ranking Republican)
- Education
- Public Safety

TOLL-FREE HOTLINE:

1-800-562-6000

Go inside the Legislature

leg.wa.gov

Learn more about the legislative process, read bills, get committee agendas and documents, and more.

2016 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

State Representative Dan Griffey



Dear Friends,

March 29 marked the final day of the 2016 legislative session. Since then, I've been back home meeting with community leaders, spending time with my family and enjoying all the 35th District has to offer.

There were some hard-fought battles this year, as well as many successes to celebrate. While I think the Legislature could and should have wrapped up its work on time, which would have been on March 10, I'm proud of our accomplishments. To name a few, lawmakers:

- Passed supplemental operating, capital and transportation budgets;
- Gave pay raises to Washington State Patrol troopers;
- Established the Washington Cybercrime Act;
- Created a statewide tracking system for rape kits;
- Saved public charter schools; and
- Helped address the state's teacher shortage.

On the final day of special session, we passed supplemental operating and capital budgets. These budgets aren't perfect, and while I would have liked to see more investments in the 35th District, we stuck to the true spirit of a supplemental year by only making small, midcourse adjustments to the two-year spending plan we passed in 2015.

Even though session adjourned for the year, I'm still your full-time state representative. I encourage you to continue expressing your ideas and concerns to me. I believe, together, we can get our district and state headed in the right direction.

It is a privilege to serve you.

In your service,

Rep. Dan Griffey
35th Legislative District

2016 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW



Budget makes historic progress on K-12 education funding

We have made major strides in addressing the state's K-12 funding obligations outlined in the 2012 state Supreme Court *McCleary* ruling. The \$38.2 billion spending plan we passed last June increased funding for K-12 education by nearly \$3 billion in 2015-17 – a 19 percent increase. As much as 48 percent of the state budget is now directed to K-12 education – the largest amount in state history.

In addition, we made historic tuition cuts at our state's public colleges and universities. This set our state apart from the rest as being the only state to reduce college tuition. Significant investments in our state's mental-health system, long-term care and services for individuals with developmental disabilities, and early learning and child care programs were also made.

The 2016 supplemental budget builds upon the progress we made last year:

- \$15 million invested in K-12 education, including \$5 million to recruit and retain K-12 staff and support for beginning teachers;
- \$4.2 million to keep public charter schools open;
- \$16 million for early learning and child care;
- \$40 million for court-mandated mental-health system improvements;
- \$4.3 million for health home services;
- \$8 million to backfill costs to keep tuition reduced at state colleges and universities; and
- \$190 million emergency funding out of the Budget Stabilization Account (rainy-day fund) for wildfire recovery from last summer's wildfires.

It took a 20-day special session for lawmakers to reach agreement on a budget this year. I share the frustration of many that the Legislature had four special sessions the past two years. This should not become the status quo. If families are able to agree upon a budget around the dinner table, lawmakers should be able to do the same.

That said, we ended on a note of fiscal responsibility. The budget deal avoided the gimmicks and out-of-control spending habits that got the state in serious trouble during the economic slowdown several years ago. Republicans were able to successfully negotiate a state operating budget that saved taxpayers from nearly \$1.5 billion in new taxes proposed last year and another \$120 million this year.

Capital budget invests in our communities

Your 35th District team worked hard to make sure community projects were prioritized in the 2015 and 2016 capital budgets.

- \$400,000 for the Shelton Senior Center renovation;
- \$1.5 million for sewer rehabilitation in Shelton;
- \$1.5 million for wastewater (sewer) relief in Belfair;
- \$3 million for a new dormitory that will house 50 students at the Washington Youth Academy in Bremerton;
- \$5.5 million for electrical and roof repairs at the Washington Corrections Center in Shelton;
- \$4.6 million to shift trout hatchery production from the Clarks Creek Hatchery in Puyallup to the Eells Springs Hatchery in Shelton.
- \$206,000 for a Mason County veterans' shelter. The money will renovate existing properties to provide transitional housing for veterans in cooperation with Mason County's specialty veterans' court. Another \$100,000 for the project will be provided by Mason County;
- \$1 million for minor works repairs at the West Sound Technical Skills Center in Bremerton;
- \$300,000 to help maintain the USS Turner Joy, the historic warship that is a major Bremerton tourist attraction.



There were a few important projects in our communities that didn't receive funding, but I'm looking forward to working in 2017 to get those projects funded!

Providing further privacy protections

After learning some counties were providing process servers' Social Security numbers through public information requests, I sponsored legislation to provide stronger privacy protections. House Bill 1962 prohibits county auditors from displaying or releasing Social Security numbers collected when filing the registration information of process servers, unless disclosure is required by federal law. No longer should these individuals be concerned about having their identity stolen or their credit destroyed. This was a long overdue reform, and I was happy to see it signed into law last year.



Representative Dan Griffey • 35th District

Helping families and senior citizens

It was an honor to team up with Rep. Linda Kochmar of Federal Way and the family of former Top-40 radio personality Casey Kasem to introduce legislation aimed at combatting elder isolation. As you may remember, Casey Kasem died in Washington state as his children fought for the right to see him. He had been moved out of state against family wishes, and it took a gossip website to finally locate him.

No family should ever have to go through what the Kasems experienced. The bills I supported would allow any person to file a petition to compel visitation with a loved one in situations when access has been impeded. They would also require guardians to provide loved ones with notice in the event of hospitalization or death.

These bills are important to vulnerable adults and their families, and fair processes for petitioning for visitation must be provided.



It's also critical we provide protections for vulnerable adults by ensuring visitation is mutually desired by the adult and those seeking visitation. This balanced approach would give other families just that. The bills received public hearings but did not advance.

Rep. Dan Griffey speaks with Kerri Kasem, daughter of former Top-40 radio disc jockey Casey Kasem, before testifying on legislation he co-sponsored to prevent elder isolation.

Expanding basic firefighter training

My bill to increase basic firefighter training to all public firefighting agencies in Washington state was signed into law last year. Smaller firefighting agencies simply don't have the resources to send men and women to training. Two-thirds of Washington firefighters are volunteers. By helping provide the necessary regional training and support, these agencies will be able to lend a critical hand in fighting fires.

Under House Bill 1382, the Washington State Fire Marshal must develop and adopt a plan for the Washington State Patrol's Fire Training Academy to deliver basic firefighter training to every public firefighting agency in the state.



The bill also established an order of priority for the type of firefighting agencies that receive the training, with volunteer fire departments being the first priority.

Seeking justice for victims of sexual violence

Survivors of sexual violence rarely come forward to tell their story, and I believe we must provide additional outlets for victims to seek justice. According to 2012 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly one in five women and one in 71 men report experiencing rape during their lives. More than 42 percent of female rape victims and 29.9 percent of male rape victims were first raped before the age of 18.

This year, I sponsored House Bill 2873, which would remove statutes of limitations for certain felony sex offenses, including, but not limited to, rape and rape of a child, child molestation, and sexual exploitation of a minor. The bill received a public hearing but sadly did not advance. Victims shared their personal stories and testified in support of the bill during session. Their courage will continue inspiring me to work on this legislation for next year.

Additionally, I was proud to support bipartisan legislation this year to make Washington the first state to track rape kits. The bill, House Bill 2530, requires the Washington State Patrol to create a statewide tracking system for rape kits. There are currently 6,000 untested kits in Washington.