

Rep. Linda Kochmar
30th District

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30th District Legislative Update | Rep. Linda Kochmar



Join me for coffee every Friday

I would like to personally invite you to join me and fellow community members for coffee every Friday from 11 a.m. to noon in my district office. There's no set agenda for these meetings. Just show up and meet with me and other 30th District residents to ask questions, and share your ideas and concerns. I look forward to seeing you!

My district office is located at 33305 1st Way South, Suite B-104, (1st and 333rd) in Federal Way, and is open April through December. The office is shared between Sen. Mark Miloscia, Rep. Teri Hickel and me.



30th District Reps. Linda Kochmar and Teri Hickel honor the student winners of a World War II Essay Contest at the state Capitol.

Linda Kochmar

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

30th DISTRICT



REPRESENTATIVE
LINDA KOCHMAR

KEEPING IN TOUCH

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HOUSE COMMITTEES:

- Business & Financial Services
- Capital Budget
- Transportation

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The Legislature adjourned 20 days past due March 29. While I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve you in Olympia, my favorite part about being your representative is being back home and meeting with folks directly in our communities. It is great to be home and enjoying all our 30th District has to offer.

We accomplished a lot during the 2016 legislative session:

- Prioritized K-12 education by creating a framework for education funding solutions for next year, addressed the teacher shortage, and passed legislation requiring vision screening for students;
- Saved public charter schools, which were invalidated by the state Supreme Court just before the school year in September 2015;
- Empowered individuals with developmental disabilities by creating the statewide Parent to Parent program, which will connect parents of children with special needs with services and resources, and by passing the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) that will allow individuals to invest more in their futures without threatening their disability benefits;
- Provided prosecutors the tools they need to punish cybercriminals by passing the Washington Cybercrime Act;
- And more!

In addition, we passed supplemental operating, capital and transportation budgets. These were all adopted with strong bipartisan support and make important investments in communities throughout Washington.

Please remember that while session has ended, I am your representative year-round. I am here to answer your questions, listen to your ideas and assist you with state government. My door is always open and I encourage you to reach out to me. You can also visit my website at RepresentativeLindaKochmar.com to learn more about me and the legislation I support. I look forward to hearing from you.

In your service,

Representative Linda Kochmar
30th Legislative District



2015-17 operating budget prioritizes education, mental health



Rep. Linda Kochmar on the House floor with two young guests during Children's Day at the Capitol.

The \$38.2 billion spending plan passed last June put our students and most vulnerable first. The 2015-17 budget invested nearly \$3 billion in K-12 education, a 19 percent increase, putting serious dollars toward materials, supplies and operating costs, reducing K-3 class sizes, and expanding full-day kindergarten. K-12 education now makes up 48 percent of the state operating budget. In addition, we reinstated the voter-approved teacher cost-of-living adjustments as well as a one-time salary increase for teachers.

We also made major investments in mental health as a result of court mandates, and made historic reductions in college tuition at state four-year, regional, and community and technical colleges. Funding for early learning programs and child care were also provided. All of this and more were made possible without major tax increases.

The 2016 supplemental operating budget we passed this year provided \$15 million in additional funds toward K-12 education, about \$40 million for mental-health programs, and \$190 million from the rainy day fund for wildfire recovery after last year's wildfires. Again, we staved off tax increases proposed by the governor and others in order to make these critical investments.

Investing in our communities

The 2015-17 capital budget and the 2016 supplemental capital budget set aside funds for a number of projects in the 30th District. It's been an honor to serve on the House Capital Budget Committee the past two sessions to ensure our district gets the projects it needs to be a safer, caring and productive community.

- \$2.05 million for the Federal Way Performing Arts and Event Center
- \$1.5 million for the Redondo Beach boardwalk
- \$1 million for the City of Algonia Community Center
- \$500,000 for the Auburn Youth Resources campus extension
- \$250,000 for the City of Pacific Community Center
- \$150,000 for the Federal Way Karl Grosch Field repair
- \$38,000 for the City of Milton Police Station

Empowering parents of children with Down Syndrome

One in every 691 babies in this country is born with Down Syndrome. When faced with the news, many pregnant women need information and have few places to turn. My legislation to require healthcare providers to distribute information to parents expecting a child with Down Syndrome was signed into law this year. The pamphlet would include evidence-based information about the genetic condition, and contact information for organizations who provide support services for parents.

As parents enter a new chapter of their lives, it's crucial they're equipped with information that will help them best care for their child. The level of misinformation spread about Down Syndrome is astonishing, and we must ensure evidence-based information is available to new parents.



Preventing elder isolation

This session, I was honored to partner with the family of former Top-40 radio personality Casey Kasem to introduce legislation aimed at combatting elder isolation. Casey Kasem died in Washington state as his children fought in the courts for the right to see him. Kerri Kasem struggled for months to locate her father. He had been moved out of state against family wishes. It took a gossip website to finally locate him. The bills 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 a hospitalization or death of a ward.

These bills are important to vulnerable adults and their families, and we must ensure fair processes for petitioning for visitation of loved ones when visitation has been denied. I began working on these issues with the Kasem family to prevent other families from having to go through what they experienced before their father's death. This balanced approach would give other families just that.

Giving Federal Way a tourism boost

Last session, my bill to authorize the city of Federal Way to promote local amenities within a local tourism promotion area was signed into law. From an emerging arts scene to family-friendly parks, terrific restaurants and an Olympic-sized aquatic center, the Federal Way community has much to offer visitors and tourists. This bill is important to helping our local economy thrive.

King County currently permits two or more cities over a certain population limit to enter into a tourism promotion agreement but due to Federal Way's geographic location, the city has been unable to form an agreement with a neighboring city. My bill removes the requirement that only two or more cities can form an agreement together.

Honoring our veterans



Rep. Linda Kochmar introduces Retired Army Master Sgt. James Hayden and family during a House Republican caucus meeting.

Last year, we honored Retired Army Master Sgt. James Hayden with a resolution I sponsored in recognition of his sacrifices during World War II and the Korean War. Several months before, Hayden's family contacted me inquiring about the possibility of Hayden receiving

his Prisoner of War medals for his service during the Korean War, which he had never received. After hearing his story, the sacrifices he made and the torture he endured on behalf of our country, I wanted to make sure he was properly honored for his service. It's important we continue to honor and remember the sacrifices so many brave men and women make on our behalf.

Bill benefitting SNAP recipients signed into law

I was proud to co-sponsor Rep. Teri Hickel's House Bill 2877 to extend the date range for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to be distributed. She and others worked hard to push this bill through the legislative process this session. This bill will make a big difference for grocers and SNAP recipients throughout Washington.

Under House Bill 2877, SNAP benefits will now be distributed over a period of 20 days – an increase of 10 days from the current distribution model.

