

# State Representative Dick Muri

## 2016 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW



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In order to accommodate diverse schedules, office hours are 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Our district office is open Wednesday and Thursday. Our Olympia office is open on Monday, Tuesday and Friday.

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### HOW TO STAY CONNECTED:

- [leg.wa.gov](http://leg.wa.gov)
- [twv.org](http://twv.org)
- [fiscal.wa.gov](http://fiscal.wa.gov)

### COMMITTEES:

- Education (Assistant Ranking Member)
- Judiciary
- Joint Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

There were a number of accomplishments during this legislative term, but one of the best is the strongly supported bipartisan operating, capital and transportation budgets approved for 2015-17. It is encouraging that many of my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, worked together to approve a plan to provide for significant reforms for education funding, strengthens our mental health care system, and improves our transportation system.

Since 2012, an additional \$4.7 billion, a 36 percent overall increase, has been added to K-12 education funding. The results of this responsible policy-making include a commitment to K-3 class size reductions, addressing teacher shortages, expanding full-day kindergarten, saving public charter schools, fully funding teacher COLAs, and providing for a significant increase for materials, supplies and operating costs. Plus, we lowered tuition at our public colleges and universities and made large investments in early learning. While there is work ahead in 2017 to meet the goal of fully funding education, including the challenge of local levy reform, it is good to see measurable progress is being made.

As your state legislator, it is my job to be fiscally responsible with the tax dollars you send to Olympia. I am glad to tell you all of this was accomplished without raising taxes. This is good news for all Washingtonians.

Please remember while the Legislature only meets a few months each year, I am your state representative year-round. Feel free to contact my office any time you have questions, concerns or comments about the Legislature and state government.

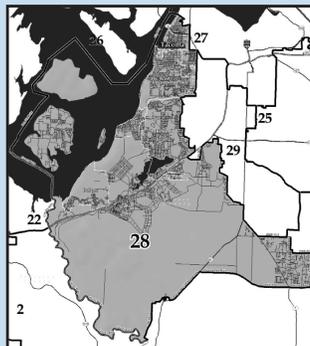
Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dick Muri".

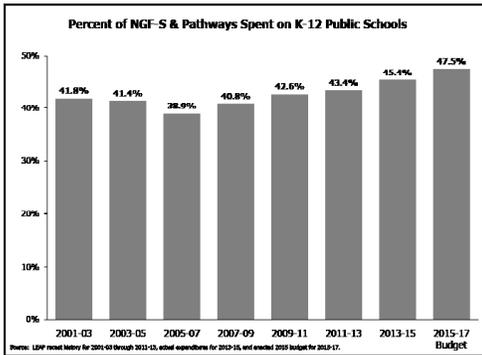
Dick Muri  
State Representative • 28th Legislative District

**28th District Includes:** University Place, Steilacoom, DuPont, Fircrest, Spanaway, Graham, Lakewood, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, McNeil Island, Anderson Island, Ketrion Island and the western part of Tacoma.



We live in a wonderful area to work and raise a family. Highlights include: Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the largest military power projection platform west of the Mississippi; Steilacoom, incorporated in 1854 and the oldest municipality in the state; the Steilacoom ferry dock; Pierce College at Fort Steilacoom; Chambers Bay Golf Course, home to the 2015 U.S. Open; and Western State Hospital, the largest psychiatric hospital in the state and second oldest state-owned enterprise, after the University of Washington.

# Education



K-12 funding 2001-2017

In the 2012 *McCleary* case, the Washington State Supreme Court reaffirmed the state's obligation to provide every child with a high-quality education. Since the ruling, lawmakers have increased school funding

significantly. More than 47.5 percent of the budget is now dedicated to education funding. As a state legislator and father of two school teachers, I am greatly encouraged by these new investments in education.

Much of the new spending addresses increases in student enrollment and materials, supplies and operating costs. It also funds smaller K-3 class sizes and cost of living adjustments for teachers and other school employees.

## Taking the next steps to fully fund basic education

While school districts are starting to see the benefits from these investments, the current funding arrangement still forces school districts to rely too heavily on their locally approved school levies for stable funding. More needs to be done on levy reform and funding so schools can use their local levy dollars for enrichments, rather than basic education expenses.



*Would you consider an art teacher an enrichment? How about a baseball coach who also teaches math? What part of their pay is basic education and what part is an enrichment? This data collection will help determine the total amount of the state's fiscal responsibility.*

I voted 'yes' on Senate Bill 6195, the first legislation signed into law by the governor in 2016. This legislation establishes the Education Funding Task Force to study and find a solution to the overreliance of school district local levies and to determine compensation reforms so districts can recruit and retain high-quality staff. The goal is to collect task force recommendations and take action in 2017 to eliminate school district dependency on local levies for basic education funding.

## A victory for public charter schools

The Washington State Supreme Court struck down the 2012 voter-approved initiative that created the charter school system.



*Charter schools improve education by giving parents choices. They offer students a more creative approach to learning and a more personalized learning environment.*

The court ruling was not about whether charter schools are good for students. Rather, it was focused on whether they are eligible for public funding.

I voted "yes" to Senate Bill 6194. This law reestablishes the Washington State Charter School Commission and keeps these schools open. Funding will be provided through the

Opportunity Pathways account—a constitutionally unrestricted source of lottery revenue.

## Outstanding Legislator award

Thank you to the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WSDVA) for the "Outstanding Legislator" award for my legislative work on behalf of our state's approximately 700,000 military veterans. As a veteran of the United States Air Force, I understand first-hand the tremendous sacrifices our veterans and their families endure to serve our country in peace and wartime. I'm honored to be an ally and a voice for them in the state Legislature.



## Other successes during the 2016 session

- ✓ Establishing Washington Cybercrime Act. House Bill 2375
- ✓ Holding the WSDOT secretary accountable for agency failures. SGA 9137
- ✓ Creating Parent to Parent Program – a statewide program that connects parents of individuals with developmental disabilities with support and resources. House Bill 2394
- ✓ Providing near-vision screening for students. Senate Bill 6245
- ✓ Creating forest resiliency burning pilot project. House Bill 2928

## Washington state troopers receive 15 percent pay increase

The number of state troopers has fallen from 690 to 580 in recent years partially because of retirements, but also because we're losing them to other law enforcement agencies that can offer better pay. That's why I was glad to see broad, bipartisan support for House Bill 2872, which provides another 5 percent increase in pay for our state troopers for a total 15 percent bump over two years. Money spent on efforts to retain the troopers we currently employ is a worthy investment and actually saves the state money.

The Washington State Patrol makes a difference everyday by providing the best in public safety services. Would you like to become a state trooper? Visit the Trooper Career page at: [wsp.wa.gov/employment/trooper.htm](http://wsp.wa.gov/employment/trooper.htm).

## Transportation update

In 2015, state lawmakers passed a \$16 billion transportation package to fund new projects throughout the state. Given the growth projections in our area, these improvements are essential to reduce traffic congestion on I-5 and near Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

### Improvements for the 28th District include:

#### I-5, Mounts Road (exit 116) to Thorne Lane (exit 123) – Corridor Improvements

- Rebuild Thorne Lane interchange (exit 123).
- Rebuild Berkeley Street interchange (exit 122).
- Add one lane to both directions of I-5 between Thorne Lane and DuPont-Steilacoom Road.
- Build local road connection between Gravelly Lake Drive and Thorne Lane.
- Additional I-5 improvements from DuPont-Steilacoom Road (exit 119) to Mounts Road (exit 116) are being defined.

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**2016 – 2017** – Complete environmental studies, purchase needed right of way, acquire permits, hire a design-builder.

**2018 - 2021** – Build improvements between Thorne Lane and DuPont-Steilacoom Road.

**2021 - 2024** – Build improvements between DuPont-Steilacoom Road and Mounts Road.

**2024** – All corridor improvements complete.

## The 2016 supplemental operating and capital budgets

The 2016 supplemental operating budget, approved on March 29, increased state spending by \$190 million in the context of a \$38+ billion budget. It addresses mental health treatment and care, homelessness, damages due to the wildfires in 2015 and maintains our historic tuition cuts at state colleges and universities. One of the smaller items in total dollars – but an important investment – is \$1.7 in professional development for paraeducators who provide more than 50 percent of classroom instruction to special needs students.

## Funding for local projects

The supplemental capital budget includes several local projects for the 28th District. I was glad to help many of these through the legislative process.

- \$450,000 – Child Study and Treatment Center
- \$500,000 – Emergency Management Division (EMDs) UPS Replacement
- \$1.95 million – Minor Works Program Projects: Western State Hospital
- \$450,000 – Western State Hospital new Civil Ward
- \$950,000 – Western State Hospital competency restoration
- \$21,000 – Dupont Historical Museum Renovation
- \$257,000 – Fort Steilacoom Park pave and strip parking lot
- \$1.5 million – Pierce County Health Home
- \$200,000 – Asia Pacific Cultural Center
- \$1.5 million – The Department of Ecology Remedial Action Grant for the Water Treatment Plant (Lakewood)
- \$50,000 – JBLM North Clear Zone under BRAC Preparation under disaster emergency response

## Balanced budget highlights

- ✓ K-3 school class size reduction
- ✓ Funding for all-day kindergarten
- ✓ Teacher cost of living adjustments
- ✓ Improvements to early learning
- ✓ Increased investments to public safety
- ✓ Enhancements to state parks
- ✓ Reduction in college tuition
- ✓ Mental health program reforms and investments
- ✓ Improved wildfire prevention and response
- ✓ State Patrol compensation reforms

## New investments for mental health services in the supplemental operating and capital budgets include:

- \$27 million for mental health facilities through Community Behavioral Bed grants and institution-based mental health facilities.
- \$41 million for mental health – including \$11 million for transitional support for Western State Hospital.
- \$31 million for programs and services for long-term care and developmentally disabled persons.

WASHINGTON STATE • 28TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

State Representative  
**Dick Muri**

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Rep. Dick Muri • 28th District

*“My door is always open and I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for allowing me to serve in Olympia as your 28th District state representative.”*