

# Rep. Brandon Vick

## 18th District

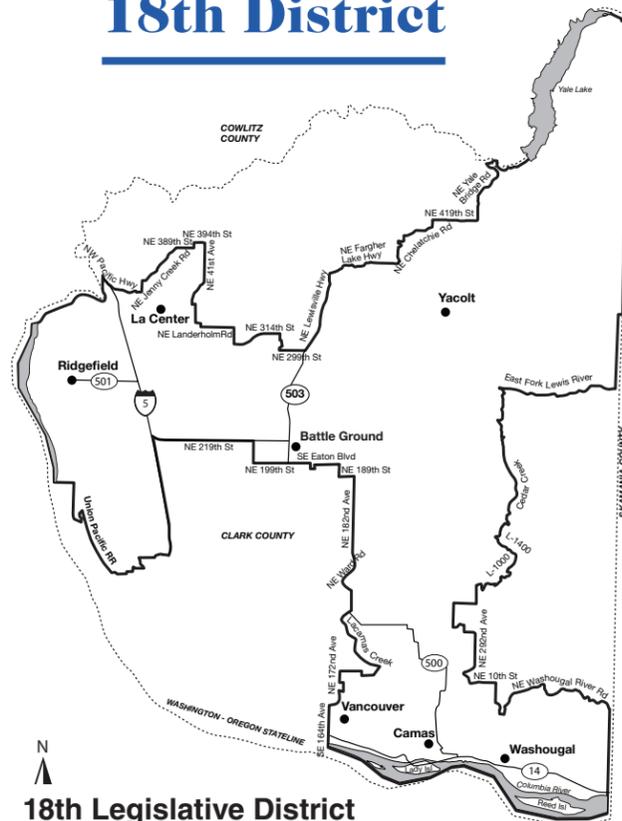
109 SW 1st Street, Ste. 262  
Battle Ground, WA 98604

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

### Stay connected to your citizen Legislature, state government

- 1-800-562-6000** ..... Legislative Hotline
- leg.wa.gov** ..... Legislature and visiting the Capitol Campus
- access.wa.gov/agency** ..... State agencies, boards and commissions
- tvw.org** ..... TV Washington
- apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo** .. Bill information (where you can also post comments)
- leg.wa.gov/civiced** ..... Civic education for kids, college students and teachers

## 18th District



18th Legislative District



### Keeping in Touch

**Website:**  
RepresentativeBrandonVick.com

**Email:**  
Brandon.Vick@leg.wa.gov

**District Office:**  
109 SW 1st Street, Suite 262  
Battle Ground, WA 98604

**District Phone:**  
(360) 723-0704

**Olympia Phone:**  
(360) 786-7850

**Toll-free legislative hotline:**  
1-800-562-6000

**TTY (Hearing-impaired):**  
1-800-635-9993

- Committees:**
- Business and Financial Services (*Ranking Member*)
  - Commerce and Gaming
  - Finance
  - Legislative Ethics Board
  - Washington State Gambling Commission



# Rep. Brandon Vick

## 18th District

### Position 1–Felida

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The last two years in Olympia have been successful from the standpoint we have stopped major tax increases in both the two-year operating and supplemental budgets. While I am frustrated by the special sessions the last biennium, I am pleased with many of the accomplishments. This legislative session, state lawmakers were able to:

- Create a framework for K-12 education funding solutions;
- Save public charter schools;
- Take steps to address the teacher shortage;
- Hold the WSDOT secretary accountable;
- Provide Washington State Patrol with pay raises;
- Pass the Washington Cybercrime Act; and
- Create the Parent to Parent Program, connecting parents of individuals with developmental disabilities with support and resources.

In this legislative review, I share more on the details of the budgets, some of our successes as well as some disappointments.

Please remember, I am your state representative year-round. Please feel free to call, email or write me any time. I am also available to meet with you.

It's my honor to serve the people of the 18th District.

Sincerely,

Rep. Brandon Vick

### Protecting employers

The last two sessions, some eye-opening pieces of legislation were introduced that would have negatively impacted small businesses in Clark County and around the state - proposals to increase the minimum wage, require mandatory paid sick and safe leave, require mandatory paid vacation leave, and repeal the nonresident sales and use tax exemption. It was important we stop these proposals and focus on providing a business environment fair to all employers. Business owners in Washington already contend with a unique Business and Occupation tax, high payroll taxes, and cumbersome permitting process and regulatory hurdles. In an effort to bring more family-wage jobs to Washington and strengthen our economy, I helped pass legislation to protect and create jobs while also providing incentives for hiring our veterans!

## State Representative Brandon Vick

### 2015-17 operating budget

One of the highlights of the last couple sessions is the two-year operating budget passed in 2015. It was historic on many levels. We reduced the cost of tuition at the state's four-year colleges and universities, 15 to 20 percent, and two-year community colleges – a huge win for students and middle-class families. It was also the largest education budget ever as we invested \$1.3 billion in K-12 basic education. The spending plan reduced class sizes in grades K-3, made significant investments in treatment and capacity for our mentally ill and increased funding for state parks.

The budget accomplished all these things with NO major tax increases. Capital gains, carbon, cap and trade and B&O tax proposals from the governor and Democrats were taken off the table.

It ended up being a true win for the taxpayers of Clark County and Washington state.

### Supplemental spending plan

This year we passed a supplemental spending plan. I did not support this year's budget because of my concern with the low-funding level of the integrated health system for Clark County as we move away from the Regional Support Network. Other legislators and I will be watching this situation closely as it progresses.

### 27 bills vetoed

During the last week of this year's regular session, the governor threatened to veto legislation unless state lawmakers could reach a budget agreement by the March 10 deadline. When an agreement was not reached, he vetoed 27 bills that had broad, bipartisan support. The governor's actions did not help budget negotiations. He vetoed legislation that would have:

- ▶ removed obstacles for higher education students with disabilities;
- ▶ assisted the state Apple Commission to help promote the apple industry;
- ▶ promoted economic development;
- ▶ created jobs by authorizing the growing of industrial hemp;
- ▶ reduced the costs of prescription drugs; and
- ▶ increased the availability of affordable housing.

Both parties expressed frustration with this move. In fact, on the last day of the special session lawmakers in the House and Senate voted to override the vetoes on all 27 bills, which required a two-thirds vote of those present in each chamber. It was historic as the last time a veto was overridden was 1998.

## 18th District Legislative Report

### Strengthening our economy

One of my goals in Olympia is to find ways of improving the business climate in Washington. Every rule and regulation we can streamline or remove gives small businesses another reason to keep their doors open and operating in Washington. The governor signed three of my business-related bills into law this session.

- ▶ **House Bill 2565** changes the frequency local sales and use taxes may be changed from four times a year to three, saving time and money for employers.
- ▶ **House Bill 2433** levels the playing for certified public accountants (CPA's) in Washington by allowing them to do business in other states, under the same rules and guidelines out-of-state CPA's have in Washington.
- ▶ **House Bill 2584** removes from public disclosure security plans, delivery and travel routes, and personal financial information of marijuana producers, processors, and retailers. This will maintain transparency in the industry without putting business owners and employees in danger.

These bills are a step in the right direction, but more needs to be done. A look at unemployment rates by county around the state shows many are struggling. Clark County is holding steady at 6.3 percent, but 14 counties have an unemployment rate of more than 8.2 percent, while King and Snohomish have unemployment rates of 4.7 and 5.2 percent.

We need to preserve the jobs we have and strengthen our business climate across the entire state, not just in the Puget Sound region. Unfortunately, the governor has proposed new taxes and rules and regulations that go the opposite direction.

Three other bills I had signed into law in 2015 included:

- ▶ **House Bill 1309** allows real estate brokers to sell floating homes.
- ▶ **House Bill 1308** requires the tax on premiums for surplus line property be computed upon the entire premium where the risks covered are located within the U.S.
- ▶ **House Bill 1884** expands current law to allow the use of one-wheeled, self-balancing assistive mobility devices on sidewalks and in other public areas. The law only allowed Segways, and other two-wheeled machines.



Rep. Vick's CPA mobility bill is signed by the governor.

### Right to Try

This year, I introduced legislation late in session deemed "Right to Try." It would allow terminally ill patients access to experimental treatments and investigational medical products. An agreement would be required between the patient, physician and manufacturer. People should not have to get government approval to save their own lives and should be able decide what potentially life-saving treatments may benefit them, and what they would be willing to try. Because I introduced the bill late in the session, I was unable to get it through the legislative process before we adjourned for the year. I intend to introduce the legislation again in 2017.