

State Representative
Brad Hawkins

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**12th District
LEGISLATIVE
REVIEW**

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Representative Brad Hawkins • 12th District

"The children all throughout our great state...they represent our hope and our future."

Rep. Brad Hawkins during Children's Day 2013

Rep. Brad Hawkins' first speech on the floor of the Washington State House of Representatives was given during Children's Day on Feb. 18, 2013. With his young boys, Tyler and Luke, at his desk, Hawkins spoke of his optimism for Washington state and the importance of ensuring a promising future for children. Watch his full speech at representativebradhawkins.com.



Rep. Brad Hawkins

12th District Legislative Review



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Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your 12th District state representative!

During my legislative term, I have worked hard to represent our district's values, participate in responsible policymaking, and approve balanced budgets. I have also established good working relationships with my colleagues in Olympia. These experiences have been helpful and will continue to benefit our district in the years ahead.

I have also enjoyed actively participating in the committee process. As you may know, legislators are assigned to certain policy committees based on their experience and district needs. The House appointed me to the Education, Transportation, and Business and Financial Services committees. This is a good mix of committees for our district, and it has provided me the ability to make an immediate contribution to policy discussions in these committees.

As your legislator, my goals include preserving funding for public safety, protecting our most vulnerable citizens, adequately funding our educational system, and minimizing tax burdens. This legislative review highlights some of my activities in Olympia. For your convenience, I have provided website addresses where you can find more information on these highlights.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you!

Sincerely,

Brad Hawkins
State Representative
12th Legislative District
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- Education
- Transportation
- Business and Financial Services

GET MORE INFORMATION AT:

leg.wa.gov, tvw.org, and fiscal.wa.gov

Rep. Brad Hawkins • Legislative Review



During a House Transportation Committee hearing, representatives from Columbia Marketing International (CMI) of Wenatchee and the Port of Quincy joined me to share information about the Cold Train, a refrigerated rail transport facility in Quincy. The Cold Train ships more than 800 containers per month of Washington state fresh produce and frozen food to the Midwest and East Coast – nearly half of which are Washington state apples.

Promoting transparency in government

Promoting greater transparency in government has been one of my top priorities because a more transparent government benefits everyone.

During the 2013 session, I sponsored House Bill 2058, which received broad bipartisan support and was signed into law by the governor. The bill utilized existing data to create a user-friendly online map to display transportation and capital budget expenditures by legislative district and county. These expenditures are more than \$12 billion per budget cycle. Citizens deserve to know how these tax dollars are spent. House Bill 2058 was my first bill to pass the Legislature. You can view the map and information at fiscal.wa.gov/WebMaps.aspx.

I continued the effort to promote greater government transparency during the 2014 session. This past session, I sponsored House Bill 2105 to update the state's Open Public Meetings Act, which was first enacted in 1971. My bill helps modernize state law by directing public agencies to post their meeting agendas online at least 24 hours in advance of meetings. It also received broad bipartisan support and was signed into law by Gov. Inslee on March 27.

Web link: <http://tinyurl.com/hawkins-transparency>

I was honored to welcome the Washington State Apple Blossom Festival Royal Court to the state Capitol. They include (from left): Princess Nikara Morgan, Queen Roslyn Thompson, and Princess Caroline Dahl. These young ladies did a fantastic job representing the Apple Blossom Festival at the state Capitol! Watch my interview with the royalty at representativebradhawkins.com.



Hawkins' bill to eliminate unnecessary primary ballots becomes law

I am very pleased the Legislature passed my bill to fix an issue regarding primary ballots. Under House Bill 2106, counties will no longer be required to hold primary elections for county positions if only one candidate has filed to fill an unexpired term. This bill resolves an issue for Chelan County and many other counties in our state.

Supplemental operating budget receives broad bipartisan support

The supplemental operating budget we passed this year makes \$155 million of new investments, with about two-thirds of the new dollars directed to education. It provides approximately \$64 million more to K-12 education, \$35 million more to higher education, and \$56 million more to protect our most vulnerable citizens. The budget also continues a freeze on state college and university tuition increases for the second straight year. These are remarkable successes for families with kids in school, especially considering our modest but steady economic recovery.

As a result of slightly more revenue flowing into the state than anticipated, we set aside \$315 million in the state's ending-fund balance. Combined with \$582 million in the budget stabilization account, we now have nearly \$900 million in total reserves (savings). This will help to protect taxpayers from unanticipated costs/emergencies in the budget. Although millions of dollars in tax increases were proposed, the Legislature adjourned without raising taxes. Plus, we adjourned on time (the first time in five years) without a special session. These are big wins for taxpayers!

Web link: <http://leap.leg.wa.gov>

representativebradhawkins.com



It was my pleasure to sponsor Preston Burnett as a legislative page in the Washington State House of Representatives. This photo shows Preston with his father, Chelan County Sheriff Brian Burnett, in the House chamber.

Legislative pages experience Olympia

Serving as a legislative page is a great opportunity for young people to be involved in their state government. Pages play an important role in the day-to-day operations of the Washington State House of Representatives while observing laws being developed. Living away from home for a week and attending legislative page school with students from across the state allows young people to connect with their peers while gaining first-hand government experience.

Page duties consist primarily of delivering correspondence and legislative materials to members, carrying bills and amendments to their desks, and participating in ceremonial tasks, such as presenting the flags. Pages must be between 14 and 16 years of age. If you know of someone in our district who would be interested in participating, please contact my office.

Web link: leg.wa.gov/house/pages/housepageprogram.aspx

Jack Yount, an 8th-grade student from Pioneer Middle School, also served as my page. Read about Jack's experience in the Wenatchee World's Community Connections "What I learned at our State's Capitol" (Feb. 18, 2014).



I was pleased to invite Wenatchee High School students (from left) Katherine Robinson, Jackie Bollinger, Carie Graves and Logan Brown to Olympia. I met them when evaluating their high school's Project Citizen presentation last year. At the Capitol, the girls testified on House Bill 2410 regarding competitive grants for schools to provide healthier food options. They each presented compelling facts and were very articulate and professional. They did an outstanding job.

Web link: <http://whsappleleaf.com/2014/02/four-history-students-take-case-to-state-legislature/>

Education: Our paramount duty

The Washington State Constitution declares education is the "paramount duty" of our state. In 2012, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled the state was not meeting its constitutional duty regarding education funding. In response to this court ruling, both Republicans and Democrats worked together to allocate more funding to our K-12 education system. I am thankful both parties were able to work together on a budget compromise that addresses past reforms and helps our state meet its constitutional duty.

Education has long been an area of interest for me. As you may know, I had the privilege of serving for 10 years on two local school boards in the 12th District before my election to the Legislature. Based on my experience and interest, my colleagues appointed me to the House Education Committee. It is the first time since 1978 that a House member from the 12th District has been appointed to this committee.

I am thankful for my local school board experience and look forward to continuing to serve on the House Education Committee in the years ahead.

Read my guest opinion: "Education front and center"
– Wenatchee World, April 6, 2014
– <http://tinyurl.com/hawkins-education>