

Representative
Norm Johnson | 2014
LEGISLATIVE
REVIEW

14TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

421 N. 20th Avenue • Yakima, WA 98902

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It was an honor to serve with Rep. Charles Ross. As my seatmate, we worked very closely together on issues involving the 14th Legislative District. Near the end of the 2014 session, Rep. Ross announced he would finish his term in office, but would not be returning to the Legislature next year.

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District office is open in Yakima

I work for you throughout the year, not just when the Legislature is in session. For your convenience, I maintain a district office in Yakima from now through December. I encourage you to call or visit my office any time you need assistance with state government or have questions regarding legislation. Here is the address and phone number:

**421 N. 20th Avenue
Yakima, WA 98902**

Phone: (509) 454-7210

I also encourage you to visit my website for more information:
www.representativenormjohnson.com



Rep. Norm Johnson

14th DISTRICT OFFICE:

421 N. 20th Avenue
Yakima, WA 98902

Phone: (509) 454-7210

Open April – December

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TOLL-FREE LEGISLATIVE

HOTLINE: 1-800-562-6000

WEBSITE:

www.representativenormjohnson.com

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES:

- Community Development, Housing and Tribal Affairs (Ranking Republican)
- Education
- Higher Education
- Rules
- Transportation

Other committees:

- Aging and Disability
- Oral History
- Pacific Northwest Economic Region

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 60-day session came to an end on March 13. It is the first time since 2009 that state lawmakers finished their business on time without the need for a special session.

I am encouraged that many of my colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate, worked together to find common ground on the challenging issues facing our state. I learned many years ago from my friend, the late Sen. Alex Deccio, that when state lawmakers set aside partisan politics and reach across the aisle to address the state's challenges, the people of Washington are better served.

As a former teacher and school administrator, I am pleased the Legislature is taking steps to meet our state's constitutional duty to "make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders."

Our bipartisan efforts produced a state operating budget last year that included more than \$1.6 billion in additional money for K-12 education. This year's supplemental operating budget pumped an additional \$100 million into public education, including \$35 million for our colleges and universities. Plus, we froze higher education tuition rates for the second straight year. We did all this without raising taxes.

As a former member of the United States Army, I am proud state lawmakers came together to pass legislation that will help veterans and active military personnel. This includes passage of a bill I sponsored that designates March 30 each year as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans' Day" in Washington.

This newsletter provides information on these and many other accomplishments the past two years in your state Legislature. I am honored to serve you and the citizens of the 14th Legislative District. Please contact my office in Yakima any time you have questions, comments or suggestions about the Legislature and state government.

Sincerely,

Norm Johnson
State Representative
14th Legislative District



An education budget

Last year, the Legislature adopted a two-year state operating budget that put more than \$1.6 billion extra into K-12 education. This was a good first step toward the state Supreme Court requirement (McCleary decision) that the Legislature meet our constitutional obligation of amply providing for the education of all Washington children. There is still more work to be done in this area.

This year, with bipartisan support, we adopted a supplemental operating budget that makes \$155 million in new net investments, about two-thirds of which are directed to education. Here's the breakdown of how those additional dollars will be spent:

- K-12 education – \$64 million;
- Higher education – \$35 million;
- Long-term care, mental health, developmental disabilities – \$26 million; and
- All other non-education funding and other state programs – \$30 million.

This was the first time since the recession that we didn't start out the budget process in the red. We ended with a responsible budget that prioritized spending and didn't raise taxes.

New Seattle University license plates will fund scholarships

Yakima native and KIT Radio newsman Lance Tormey, a Seattle University graduate, came to me with a great idea of how to help students attending or who would like to attend Seattle University. Tormey suggested the creation of special Seattle University license plates with the proceeds funding scholarships for current and prospective students.

I introduced House Bill 2100. Under the bill, \$40 will be charged for a Seattle University special license plate. A fee of \$30 will be charged for renewal. The bill, which passed the Legislature and was signed into law, takes effect Jan. 1, 2015.

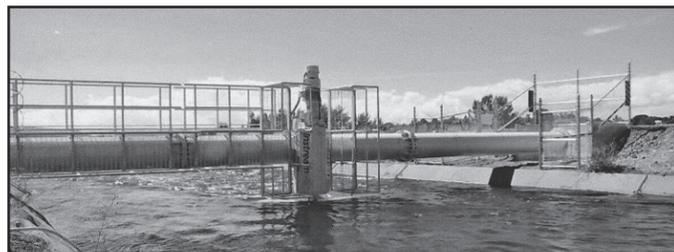


Rep. Norm Johnson frequently meets with citizens and local leaders across the district to discuss issues and solutions. Pictured here at a Yakima coffee shop is (from left): Washington State Parks and Recreation Commissioner Doug Peters, Sen. Curtis King, former Rep. Jim Whiteside, and Rep. Norm Johnson.

Transportation – Keeping Washington moving efficiently

Sen. Curtis King continues to work to secure much needed reforms in the state transportation system before the Legislature seeks additional tax dollars for new projects. In the meantime, we adopted a supplemental transportation budget (Senate Bill 6001) which provides an additional \$453 million to the underlying \$8.7 billion transportation budget.

In addition, the Legislature approved and the governor signed a measure I introduced at the request of the Washington State Patrol. House Bill 2137 modifies safety rules for oversized loads on the highway, exempts certain agricultural operations from regulations involving transport of hazardous materials, and removes the exemption for school buses to stop at railroad crossings.



New hydroelectric generating plants, such as this one in the Roza Irrigation District, are authorized under certain conditions through House Bill 1417, a measure I supported that was signed into law.

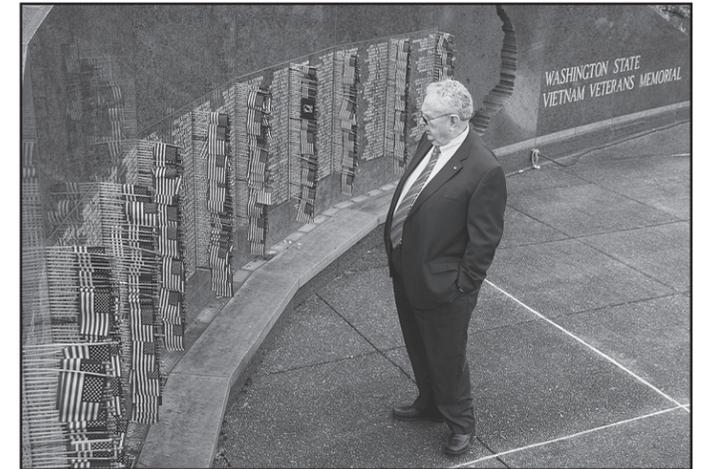
Welcome home, Vietnam veterans! A day of recognition

While attending an event with the Yakama Warriors Association, which is a group of 190 members who make sure veterans are not forgotten, its representative, Gil Calac of White Swan, came to me with a suggestion. Calac, a Vietnam veteran, asked if I would sponsor legislation to create a “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans’ Day” in Washington.

“When I came home, it was just emptiness,” said Calac. “A day of recognition is important for all Vietnam veterans for closure. It was important for them to come home and have someone recognize them.”

Unfortunately, as U.S. soldiers returned home, many were called war mongers and baby killers, and they were scorned. This was possibly the cruelest aspect of the Vietnam War.

It was my honor to introduce House Bill 1319, which created a day of recognition on March 30 each year for Washington’s Vietnam veterans. The measure passed the House and Senate unanimously.



Amid a room full of veterans, Gov. Jay Inslee signed the bill.

Mr. Calac thanked me, saying, “This will help the healing when we all get together and know that the state of Washington recognized us as Vietnam veterans and gave us a chance to pull together as one.”

Other important veterans’ bills

I was proud to sponsor, co-sponsor or support the following bills for our veterans and military personnel:

- **Financial and legal protections** – House Bill 2171, a measure I co-sponsored, provides various protections for military service members ordered to federal active duty. Examples include: reduced interest rates on preexisting debts, foreclosure and eviction protections, and protections from default judgments.
- **Officer promotions** – House Bill 2115 is a measure I prime sponsored that restructures the Officer Promotion Board within the Air

and Army National Guard and State Guard so that it consists of at least five voting members who are officers senior in rank to those being considered for promotion. The board will make recommendations of promotion to the Adjutant General. The bill gives the Adjutant General the flexibility to appoint the best-qualified officers for promotion.

- **Higher education for veterans** – Senate Bill 5969 awards academic credit to individuals for certain military training courses or programs by 2016. Senate Bill 5318 waives the one-year residency requirement for in-state tuition for veterans in Washington.

Harrah teen helps around the House

It was my pleasure to sponsor Katheryn Dick, a student at White Swan High School, as a legislative page in the Washington State House of Representatives. Katheryn is the 16-year-old daughter of Roger Dick Jr. and Magdalena Dick of Harrah. You can listen to a radio interview of Katheryn at <http://tinyurl.com/JohnsonCapitolReport>.

