

## 6<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Representative Kevin Parker

Representative Jeff Holy

### Public Safety

We believe that keeping our communities safe is a top priority of government. Regardless of where you live, you should feel safe in your home and community.

### Getting tough on repeat DUI offenders



Some small steps were made to improving DUI laws, such as adding five new offenses to the list of those that count as prior offenses when a person is charged with a DUI or physical control of a vehicle while under the influence. Legislation also passed requiring

consecutive sentences, in certain circumstances, for DUI or physical control of a vehicle under the influence of intoxicating liquor, marijuana, or any drug.

We still need to be tougher on DUI offenders and will continue to work on smart, effective proposals in the next session.

### Cracking down on human trafficking

House Bill 1791, sponsored by Rep. Parker, cracks down on human trafficking by making traffickers register as sex offenders if prosecutors can prove a sex act was involved. The bill allows law enforcement and prosecutors to come at this problem from both sides: the labor standpoint and the prostitution standpoint.

Parker has helped host human trafficking forums in Spokane and has worked on the issue with Miss Washington USA, Allyson Rowe, whose foundation, the Esther Generation Foundation, works to rescue women and children from the sex trade industry.

### Gov. Inslee ignores victims' families with unilateral death-penalty moratorium

All nine men on Washington's death row committed heinous murders, and their victims include women or small children.

So when Gov. Inslee placed a moratorium on the death penalty by executive order, it caught law enforcement, prosecutors, lawmakers and victims' advocates by surprise.

Regardless of how one feels about the death penalty, a decision this big should be handled through the legislative process where the pros and cons can be weighed and the public can have input. We feel it was insensitive to announce such a decision without even consulting with most of the victims' families.

Capital punishment is the law in our state. If the governor wants to change the law, he should work through the legislative process – allowing public involvement.

### Standing with our veterans



Our nation's armed forces draw thousands of people to Washington, from Fairchild Air Force Base in our part of the state to the several military installations in the Puget Sound area. Many who serve in Washington choose to make it their home after

transitioning out.

Veterans who want to use their military benefits to pursue a college degree have had to wait a year before qualifying for in-state tuition rates. We tried to do away with that waiting period in 2013, but the House majority would not let the bill come up for a vote even though it had passed the Senate unanimously. Fortunately, a change in attitude this year allowed that change to become law.

Representatives  
**Kevin Parker &  
Jeff Holy**

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## 2014 SESSION REVIEW

State Representatives **Kevin Parker & Jeff Holy**

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## State Representatives Kevin Parker & Jeff Holy

## 2014 SESSION REVIEW

### Election-year restrictions

We want you to know what is happening in Olympia, and how it affects you. However, this is an election year, and under the provisions of a 1992 law (created by Initiative 134) there are limits on what and when we can mail to you. After this newsletter, the soonest we can mail another is just before the 2015 session.

The initiative does permit us to respond to your direct requests for information, and we encourage you to write or call whenever you have a question or a comment to share on legislation or other matters.

### Need a guest speaker?

If you belong to a club, civic group or community-service organization and would like a guest speaker at your next meeting or event, please contact our offices to arrange a convenient date. We're happy to report on the issues we dealt with during the 2014 session, or we can tailor our remarks to address particular areas of interest or concern.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

For the first time since 2009, the state Legislature adjourned on time (March 13) with no plans for a special session. This year, those of us who wanted to hold the line on taxes prevailed once again. We also kept the state budget in balance, approved another incremental increase in support for K-12 education and held in-state tuition rates at the state-run colleges and universities steady for another year.

This newsletter will serve to inform you about just some of the issues we dealt with in Olympia on your behalf. If you have questions or other concerns to share with us, please call, send an e-mail or write a letter using the contact information and our legislative website addresses on this page.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Rep. Kevin Parker

Rep. Jeff Holy

# State Representatives Kevin Parker & Jeff Holy

## Legislature passes true supplemental budget



The final bipartisan budget agreement that passed the Legislature was the first truly supplemental budget we've seen in years. The supplemental budget is NOT a time to rewrite the entire budget. It is specifically for addressing unforeseen

circumstances in caseloads or revenue collections so that our budget remains balanced throughout the two-year biennium.

The 2014 supplemental budget increased spending by less than 0.23 percent, mostly for maintenance issues. It included a little more for education and the McCleary decision (\$58 million) and a little more for Opportunity Scholarships (\$25 million). It keeps our promise to college students by freezing tuition rates for the entire 2015 school year and keeps a little more in reserves (\$315 million) to protect against any downturn in our economy.

Rep. Parker's new position on the House Appropriations Committee allowed him to be involved in the negotiations. He was also able to secure a proviso in the budget that brings more accountability and transparency to state agency requests for equipment and IT support after he was made aware of past abuses.

One of the most important aspects about the budget is that it is balanced out for four years! This is a new requirement based on a law that passed in 2012, something we've been advocating for years. In order to help avoid the "budget roller coaster" of the past, our state budget must now be projected to balance out in the next biennium as well as the current two-year budget cycle. This four-year budget requirement is a huge protection for taxpayers and helps prevent overspending.

## Holding the line on taxes



Olympia's appetite for taxes often seems to be insatiable. Legislation from Democrats in both the House and Senate would have raised taxes on e-cigs (vaping), bottled water, prescription drugs, out-of-state residents and fuel refineries. But we worked with our colleagues to hold the line against new and increased taxes. We recognize you have had to do more with less and believe state government should do the same. Living within our means is something the public expects and we continually strive to make that happen.

There was also a big push to raise the gas tax this year by up to 11.5 cents per gallon. However, without serious reforms, we cannot support throwing more good money away to a transportation-construction system and a Washington State Department of Transportation that lacks accountability, transparency and a proven track record of on-time and on-budget success.

The "Bertha" tunneling machine in Seattle; the cracked and damaged pontoons for the SR 520 bridge; a freeway off ramp built in the wrong place (State Route 16 in Tacoma) – these are all expensive examples of time and money wasted with very little accountability. We can and must do better if we are to win back the trust of the citizens who pay the bill.

We supported reforms to make transportation projects less costly, such as: keeping sales-tax revenues collected from transportation projects in the transportation budget; reducing unnecessary regulations that drive up costs; and keeping government-contracted wages under control through prevailing-wage reform.

# 2014 Legislative Review

## Jobs/Economy



Last November legislators were rushed back to Olympia for a whirlwind special session to vote on tax-incentive legislation to keep Boeing jobs in the Puget Sound region and provide millions of dollars in infrastructure. Unfortunately, we were unable to pass any tax-incentive proposals for other regions in the state that would have created good, family-wage jobs.

## The War on Jobs

In addition to several good ideas which were not adopted, there were a number of proposals introduced that would have weakened our state's economy and hurt job retention and creation, particularly for our smaller employers. There were proposals to:

- increase the minimum wage;
- require mandatory sick and safe leave;
- require mandatory vacation leave; and
- add or expand provisions related to Obamacare.

In a sluggish economy these kinds of bills simply add to the instability and uncertainty of our business climate. Fortunately, we were able to defeat these measures this session.

## Lifetime registration for recreation trailers

House Bill 1902, sponsored by Rep. Holy, was introduced last year but died in the House Rules Committee toward the end of the regular session. If signed into law, the legislation would allow owners of trailers used for recreation or intermittently to purchase lifetime registration license plates.

The bill was brought to Holy by a constituent who use his trailers a couple times a year for things like a run to the dump or on summer vacation. It would provide convenience for trailer owners and simplification at the time of licensing.

While the bill gained traction this year and was close to passing the Legislature, in the end, it failed to get the votes needed for final passage. Holy said he'd continue his work on this legislation next year.



Former members of the US Army, Reps. Brad Klippert, Matt Shea and Jeff Holy, with Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient, Staff Sgt. Ty Carter on the House Floor.

## Education

### Making basic education our top priority

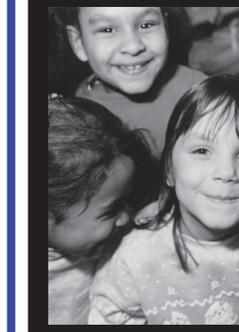


In contrast to the past 30 years, the focus in Olympia is now on prioritizing education in the state budget. We did so last year, and this year's supplemental budget continues that progress with two-thirds of increased spending going toward early learning, K-12 or higher education.

Like you, we know that money alone will not solve all of our state's education problems. That's why we will continue to fight for educational reforms to improve reading and math, improve disciplinary processes and give principals more authority to choose who teaches in their schools.



### Homeless students to get help



This year, the Legislature took a historic step in addressing the rapidly growing problem of student homelessness through passage of Senate Bill 6074, the Homeless Children Education Act. A companion bill was sponsored in the House by Rep. Parker.

The Homeless Children Education Act is the first bill ever passed by the Legislature specifically targeted at aiding homeless students succeed in school. The bill will improve the tracking and reporting of data on the educational outcomes of homeless students, as well as improve training tools available to teachers that will enable them to connect homeless students with existing resources that will help them graduate.

### Students and parents benefit from continued freeze on tuition hikes



As you may recall, last year Democrats in the House of Representatives pushed for a 5 percent annual tuition increase in their budget proposal, but Republicans in the House and Senate said no – enough is enough. As a result of our efforts, the 2013 budget included a one-year "hard freeze" on tuition.

In the second year, however, state-run colleges and universities had the authority to raise tuition.

To address this, we worked with Senate budget writers this year to put a hard freeze on tuition for a second year. Once again, House Democrats fought this move. They maintained the ability for institutions to raise tuition in their budget proposal. However, in the end, we held to our position and the "hard freeze" policy won out in negotiations. That means there will be no tuition increase in the upcoming 2014-15 school year!

Along with no tuition increases we also put nearly \$25 million into the state opportunity scholarship and another \$12 million into College Bound scholarships.