

REPRESENTATIVE
LIZ PIKE

2014
LEGISLATIVE
REVIEW

18TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

307 N.E. Birch Street, #203 • Camas, WA 98607

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REPRESENTATIVE
LIZ PIKE

18TH DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

Join us for town hall meetings May 10



Sen. Ann Rivers and I have held more than a dozen town hall meetings together since I have been elected. We do this because we believe being accessible to our constituents is paramount.

We are holding upcoming town hall meetings in Ridgefield and Camas. We encourage you to attend, bring your questions and participate.

Saturday, May 10
10 a.m. – noon
Ridgefield Fire Department, Station 21
911 N. 65th Avenue, Ridgefield, WA

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Camas Police Department
2100 N.E. 3rd Avenue, Camas, WA

**New district office in Camas with
new phone number**

I work for you throughout the year, not just when the Legislature is in session. For your convenience, I maintain a district office in Camas from now through December. Please note the office is in a new downtown location with a new phone number. 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:

307 N.E. Birch Street, #203
Camas, WA 98607
Phone: (360) 210-4534

I also encourage you to visit my website for more information and sign up for my e-mail news update: www.representativelizpike.com.



Rep. Liz Pike

18th District Office:
307 N.E. Birch Street, #203
Camas, WA 98607

Phone: (360) 210-4534
Open April – December

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*Open January and through the
legislative session*

E-mail:
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1-800-562-6000

Website:
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Legislative Committees:

- Environment (Assistant Ranking Republican)
- Local Government
- Transportation



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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.

Our efforts produced a state operating budget last year that provided 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.

I am also pleased the Legislature passed and sent to the governor two of my bills to help our district. One will allow local governments to use real estate excise taxes for security and technology improvements at police and fire stations. The other measure will protect your right to be counted on initiative and referendum petitions.

We also ensured the wishes of Clark County residents were carried out by convincing Oregon to abandon its "go-it-alone" proposal on a flawed Columbia River Crossing design, which included a light-rail component that a majority of local citizens do not want. Sen. Ann Rivers and I are working to bring officials together from both Oregon and Washington to talk about future bridges.

This newsletter provides information on these and many other accomplishments in your state Legislature.

I am honored to serve you and the citizens of the 18th Legislative District. Please contact my office in Camas any time you have questions, comments or suggestions about the Legislature and state government.

Sincerely,

Liz Pike
State Representative
18th Legislative District

"Protecting life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Budget helps education, local governments, and the state's most vulnerable citizens

Last year, the Legislature adopted a two-year state operating budget that put more than \$1.6 billion extra into K-12 education. 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 is 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.

I voted for the supplemental budget because it keeps our commitment to education – our state's paramount duty. Plus, it does it within existing revenues. We were able to successfully fight off millions of dollars in tax increases, including a proposal which would have eliminated the sales tax exemption for out-of-state shoppers. That proposal alone could have been devastating for many of our retailers in Clark County.

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.



Bi-State Bridge Coalition in formative stages

Now that the fatally flawed Columbia River Crossing project has been scrapped by both the Washington and Oregon legislatures, it is time to move on with a discussion of a bridge or bridges that *do not contain the light-rail component*.

Sen. Ann Rivers and I are creating a Bi-State Bridge Coalition (BBC) to address transportation corridors between the states of Oregon and Washington and specific to the regions of Southwest Washington and Portland Metro area. Through this process, we hope to identify a multi-phase plan that would improve freight mobility and relieve traffic congestion. This coalition, made up of Washington and Oregon legislators, would identify solutions to meet our region's transportation needs. The BBC would be bipartisan and bicameral, with solutions focused on issues that are acceptable to the broad electorate from both sides of the river.

Transportation—Keeping Washington moving safely and efficiently

During recent meetings with local newspaper editors, I was asked why the Legislature didn't adopt a new transportation budget to pay for projects across the state. I explained to them that in the 2013 regular session, we did approve an \$8.7 billion transportation budget that re-appropriated ongoing projects. This year, we also approved a transportation supplemental budget (Senate Bill 6001) which provides an additional \$453 million.

We did not, however, raise the state gas tax by 11.5 cents a gallon, as the governor wanted, for new transportation projects. My colleagues and I are concerned with the enormous waste of tax dollars within the Washington State Department of Transportation, such as flawed pontoons for the new SR 520 bridge and the tunneling machine in Seattle, which is stuck and will remain that way until March 2015. Before state lawmakers ask voters for more money, we need to reform how your dollars are now being spent.

Pike bills become law

I had personal successes with the following legislation that passed the House and Senate, and was signed by the governor:

- **Making your signature count** - House Bill 2296 requires duplicate signatures on city and county petitions to be counted once, rather than thrown out completely. This is a measure I introduced to bring city and county petition laws up to the same standards as state law, and to protect Washington voters' rights when their intent is to sign a petition on initiatives and referendums. Read more details at this website: <http://tinyurl.com/Pike-signatures>
- **Increasing your safety and security** - House Bill 2298 allows cities and counties to use capital project money from real estate excise taxes to pay for security and technology improvements for police and fire stations. I introduced this legislation at the request of Cowlitz County Commissioner Jim Misner. He and other commissioners wanted the flexibility to use these funds for technology upgrades and infrastructure within police and fire stations. Read more details at this website: <http://tinyurl.com/Pike-REET>



Local teens help Pike in the House

I had the unique opportunity to sponsor three local students as legislative pages during the first week of March in Olympia. Astrid J.D. DuBois, Chiara "Sequoia" Pullella Barca, both of Battle Ground, and Mariah T. Curtiss of Brush Prairie, all served together during their week as pages in the Washington State House of Representatives.

I found these young girls to be delightful, extremely intelligent and very helpful to our legislative process. During their week, they worked to deliver documents and amendments to state lawmakers on the House floor and the Capitol campus. They also attended page school where they learned about the legislative process and wrote mock bills.

Astrid and Sequoia are both 16-year-old students at Vancouver iTech Preparatory School. Mariah is a 15-year-old student at River Homelink School in Battle Ground.

A highlight of the week was when I got the opportunity to interview them on my Legislative Update video program (see photo above). I invite you to watch the video at this website: <http://tinyurl.com/PikePages>.



- ✓ We put more money into K-12 education to help our local schools;
- ✓ Public higher education tuition rates remain frozen for students;
- ✓ We prevented tax increases and provided a supplemental budget that addresses priority needs and lives within its means; and
- ✓ Rep. Pike's Education and Business Kitchen Cabinet groups provided effective citizen input for issues relating to kids and schools, and job creation.