



### Keeping in Touch

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**House Committees:**

- Business & Financial Services (Assistant Ranking Republican)
- Appropriations
- Appropriations Subcommittee on Education
- Finance
- Government Accountability & Oversight
- Technology & Economic Development



# Rep. Brandon Vick

## 18th District

### Position 1–Felida

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The 2014 legislative session ended on March 13. Thankfully no special sessions have been called and it is very good to be home. The Legislature passed 237 bills this year, including a supplemental operating budget. I voted “yes” on the budget and you can read details about it in this newsletter. The majority party pushed for more than \$200 million in new tax increases, but Republicans were able to stop them.

Now that interim is in full-swing I am back home in the beautiful 18th District. Washington state has chosen to institute a part-time Legislature made up of regular citizens - real people with real life experiences, creating laws that we, too, have to live under. Like my fellow state representatives, I leave my home, family and job during the legislative session so I can represent the good people of the 18th District. **I am proud that in my two years as your state representative I have not missed a single vote.** Being your voice in the Legislature is vitally important to me!

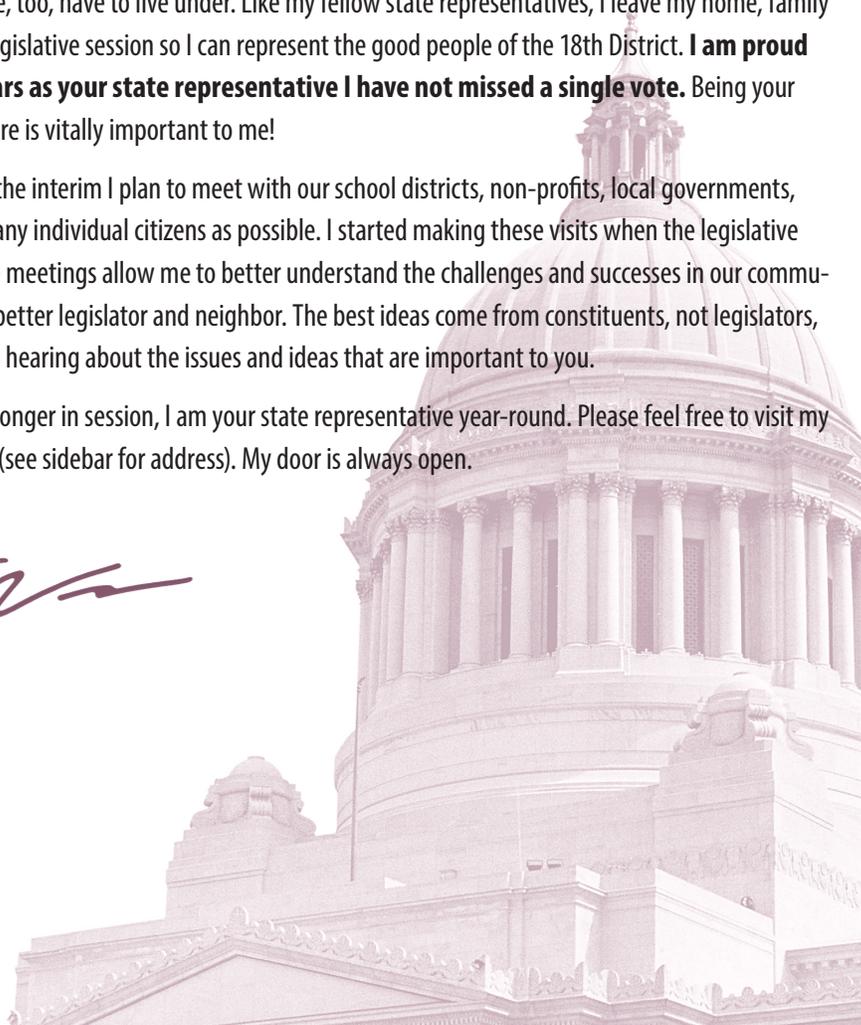
Additionally, during the interim I plan to meet with our school districts, non-profits, local governments, businesses and as many individual citizens as possible. I started making these visits when the legislative session ended. These meetings allow me to better understand the challenges and successes in our communities, making me a better legislator and neighbor. The best ideas come from constituents, not legislators, and I look forward to hearing about the issues and ideas that are important to you.

Although we are no longer in session, I am your state representative year-round. Please feel free to visit my Camas district office (see sidebar for address). My door is always open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brandon Vick".

Rep. Brandon Vick



## State Representative Brandon Vick

### Bipartisan supplemental operating budget and no new taxes!

One of the primary responsibilities of state lawmakers is to pass an operating budget that pays for our K-12 education system, correctional system, health and human services, state agencies and more. During the 2014 legislative session, we were able to pass a balanced budget that left a responsible ending balance.

A few highlights of the supplemental operating budget are:

- An additional \$58 million for schools for materials, supplies and operating costs;
- Tuition freeze for higher education, plus additional dollars for the Opportunity Scholarship Program were added;
- Additional funds to help address space and treatment for those suffering from mental illness, helping some of our most vulnerable citizens; and
- We left more than \$300 million in reserves, not counting the secured "rainy day" account.

Certainly, this budget was not perfect, but it is another step in the right direction and will help rebuild trust with taxpayers.

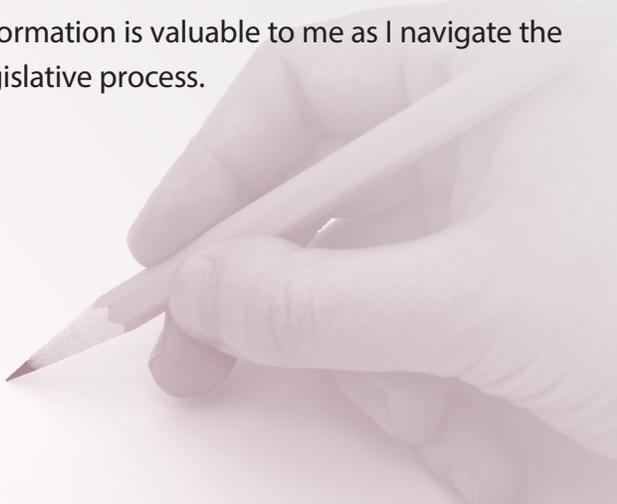
A lengthy list of taxes was proposed by the majority party that would have negatively impacted our communities. The proposals included new or increased taxes on bottled water, recycled fuel, prescription drugs, and e-cigarettes, and an elimination of the sales tax exemption for out-of-state shoppers. These new taxes would impede job creation. We should not sacrifice jobs so the state can spend more. Fortunately, Republicans were able to stop these tax increases.



## SURVEY RESULTS

### Thank you for your feedback

I would like to thank those of you who answered the survey questions from my last newsletter. Hundreds of you mailed the survey back, while others called or e-mailed me with feedback. This information is valuable to me as I navigate the legislative process.



**Question 1:** Please rank the following issues in order of importance to you.

**Results:** Every community in the 18th District ranked Jobs & Economy as their top priority. The others were as follows: 2. Taxes 3. Health Care 4. Education

**Question 2.** Please rank your priorities for funding the state budget?

**Results:** 1. Tax Relief 2. Education K-12 3. Public Safety 4. Health Care

**Question 3:** Is your financial condition better or worse than it was last year?

**Results:** 15.5% are better, 33.8% are worse, and 50.7% are the same.

**Question 4:** Is the cost of your health care more or less expensive than it was before?

**Results:** 51.6% pay more, 8.2% pay less, and 40.2% pay the same.

# 18th District Legislative Report

## Passage of my first bill – to help the timber industry

Legislation that I sponsored to streamline the tax reporting process for timberland owners of all sizes was signed by the governor. **House Bill 2099** provides timberland owners predictability and makes it easier for them to do their own accounting. This was my first bill to make it through the legislative process and I am happy that it will help land owners of all sizes be successful.

As you can see from the picture, my wife Darci and my daughter Makena were able to attend the bill signing with me. It was wonderful to have my family there for this proud moment.



Makena, Darci and Rep. Brandon Vick with Gov. Jay Inslee at the signing of House Bill 2099.

Rep. Brandon Vick with constituents and industry leaders Michael Chacon and Andrew Ross.

I was also proud to sponsor four other measures that would help reduce regulations, improve competitiveness, or eliminate barriers to entry to the marketplace for businesses and products. While this legislation did not become law this year, all the bills passed out of committee with overwhelming support.

- **House Bill 2371** would have allowed growlers to be sold in grocery stores, helping breweries and businesses with increased sales and giving customers more options.
- **House Bill 2404** would have helped two high-tech companies bring innovation to our community by expanding the legal definition of an electric personal assistive mobility device, which would let their products be used on sidewalks and side streets.
- **House Bill 2452** would have required agencies to pool their intelligence regarding violations and protected consumers by streamlining information-sharing at federal and state levels. The Senate version of this bill passed and was signed into law.
- **House Bill 2281** would have obligated the director of the Washington State Lottery to report revenues annually and require the probability of winning to be more obvious on tickets and in advertising. Consumers would be able to see the odds of winning and their contribution to the state lottery income.

The impetus for these bills came from the constituents in my district. I look forward to continuing the success of these bills next year and watching this good legislation become law.



# 2014 Legislative Report

## Rep. Brandon Vick

### 18th District

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## 18th District

