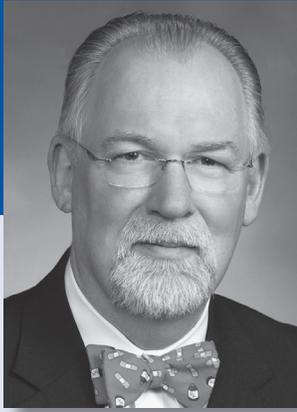


# 2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REVIEW

## Bill Hinkle & Judy Warnick 13<sup>th</sup> District State Representatives



### REP. BILL HINKLE

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### COMMITTEES:

- Agriculture & Natural Resources
- Health Care & Wellness
- Ways & Means

### REP. JUDY WARNICK

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### DISTRICT OFFICE

#### (APRIL – DECEMBER):

326 South Cedar St.  
Moses Lake, WA 98837  
(509) 766-6505

### COMMITTEES:

- Capital Budget (*Ranking Member*)
- Higher Education
- Labor & Workforce Development

**TO SIGN UP FOR OUR PERIODIC E-MAIL  
UPDATES, VISIT OUR WEB SITES  
(LISTED ABOVE).**



Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The legislative sessions have now adjourned, after a 17-day special session in December, a 60-day regular session, and another 31 days of special session. It is good to be east of the Cascades!

Enclosed is a review of our time in Olympia; we hope you find it informative. The Legislature dealt with a \$1 billion shortfall in the operating budget, adopted a supplemental capital budget and had some wins in agriculture.

As always, please feel free to contact us at the information to the left. We appreciate hearing your thoughts and concerns and enjoy helping constituents navigate the bureaucracy of state government. It's an honor to serve you.

Sincerely,

Bill Hinkle  
State Representative  
13<sup>th</sup> District

Judy Warnick  
State Representative  
13<sup>th</sup> District

## A HEARTFELT "THANK YOU" AND "GOODBYE"

As you may know, I will not be running for re-election this November. It has been my greatest professional honor to represent the people of the 13<sup>th</sup> District. Since 2002, you have trusted me to be your voice in the Washington State House of Representatives, and I have relied on you to bring me your concerns, ideas and solutions. It's a partnership that I believe has been very successful and beneficial to our communities. I'm proud of what we've accomplished together.



While I will not miss the time away from home and my family, I will miss you – the people. You are truly the best part of my job. With that, I say a heartfelt "thank you" and "goodbye."

While I will not be running for re-election, I'm still your full-time state representative until the second week of January 2013. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can ever be of assistance or if you have a thought to pass along.

- Bill

# Rep. Bill Hinkle • Rep. Judy Warnick



## OPERATING BUDGET

The operating budget funds our public schools, social programs, prisons, debt service, and other areas of state government. Just more than 44 percent of this budget is dedicated to K-12 education.

Over the last two years, state lawmakers have spent two regular sessions and six special sessions trying to properly align state spending with tax collections. Unfortunately, the Legislature – primarily the majority party – has not been successful in addressing the budget shortfall.

## HOW WE ARRIVED AT THIS PROBLEM

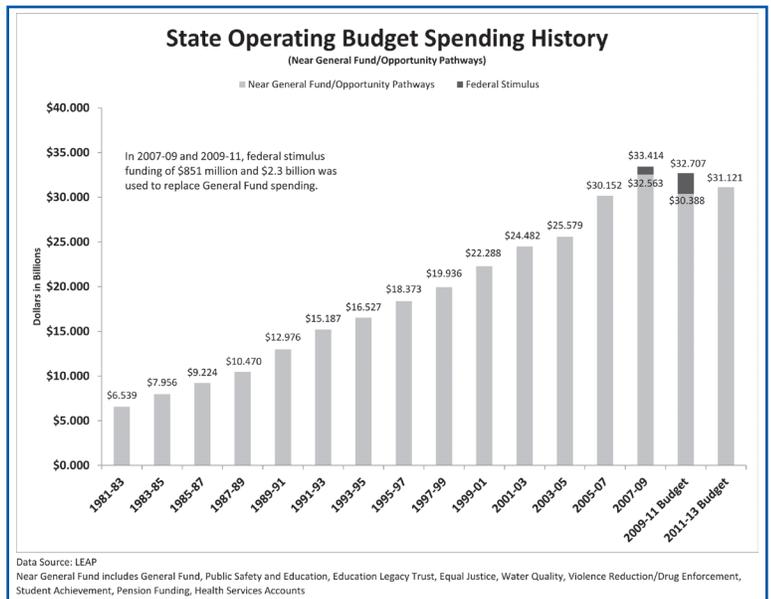
It's important to remember how we arrived at this problem. From 2005 to 2008, in better economic times, state spending grew by more than 30 percent. The majority party saw extra money, spent it and based future budgets off an unsustainable amount of tax collections. When the economy reset to normal levels and the recession eventually set

in, these poor budgeting practices were exposed.

Instead of making responsible spending decisions in 2009, the majority party turned to the federal government for a budget bailout. This allowed them to continue to spend at a similar rate, preserve the status quo and gamble on the economy improving.

When federal bailout dollars went away and the down economy stayed, our budget problem escalated. Since then, the Legislature has been reluctant to make the necessary decisions to put state finances on a sustainable path. This is really disappointing to us when we see all of the sacrifices families and businesses have made in these tough times. The same should be expected of Olympia.

The chart on the right illustrates our points and shows how state spending grew out of control.



## WHY WE VOTED "NO" ON THE RECENT OPERATING BUDGET

We voted against the supplemental operating budget that passed on April 11 for two simple reasons. First, it's still not sustainable. With more than a year left in the budget cycle and only \$319 million in reserves, it's likely the state will face yet another budget shortfall when the Legislature convenes in January 2013 – if not before. We will have to confront the same problem, but hopefully with a different set of solutions.

Secondly, the operating budget continues to defend business as usual in Olympia. Our budget challenges should have been a catalyst for major reforms in state government. We had an opportunity to set priorities and ask, "Should government still be providing this service and, if so, how can we do it more cost effectively?" One-party control has not allowed this to happen and we expect better outcomes next year.

# 2012 Legislative Session Review

## MOSES LAKE IRRIGATION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT



This year, a proposal was introduced to address concerns with the administration of the Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District (MLIRD).

Senate Bill 6512 passed the Senate and the House Local Government Committee before resting in the House Ways and Means Committee.

As soon as the proposal was introduced, we heard loud and clear from constituents they did not want the Legislature to make any changes until a full conversation could be had at home.

We were prepared to amend the bill in the House to create a study to further look at the district and the contentious issues surrounding it. However, the chair of that

committee notified Rep. Warnick the legislation did not have support in that committee to move it forward due to several concerns raised. No further action was taken on the bill.

Through this process, we have understood the need to make improvements with the MLIRD. However, it is critical for local citizens to have this discussion and make their recommendation to the Legislature. We look forward to working with local officials and community members during the interim to hold open discussions about what should be done to alleviate everyone's concerns.



*Rep. Warnick testifying before the House Transportation Committee on her bill to create 4-H license plates.*

## AGRICULTURE & WATER

We were pleased the Legislature adopted several good pieces of legislation that will help the agriculture industry that is so crucial to the 13<sup>th</sup> District and to our state.

- House Bill 1381, which we sponsored, will prevent a **relinquishment of water rights** for water rights holders simply because they are waiting in line to change or transfer their right. Without this exemption, rights holders who do not use all of their allotment after five years could lose their entire allotment. We are pleased with this small but important change to water relinquishment laws.



- Senate Bill 6635 will, among other things, extend the B&O tax **exemption for food manufacturing** until June 30, 2015. This legislation could save many jobs in agriculture.
- House Bill 2299 will allow for license plates displaying the 4-H logo. Proceeds from the purchase of these plates will go toward the **4-H program** which helps the next generation to be engaged and active citizens. We were pleased to welcome 4-H students from the 13<sup>th</sup> District to Olympia in February.
- House Bill 2356 will allow smaller **agricultural fairs** to apply for grants to make important health and safety upgrades. This will help smaller fairs to address numerous upgrades, from complying with disability access, to updating electrical and plumbing, to installing hand-washing stations.

# Rep. Bill Hinkle • Rep. Judy Warnick



## CAPITAL BUDGET

As the ranking Republican on the House Capital Budget Committee, Rep. Warnick's goal is to fund critical infrastructure needs across the state while ensuring Washington does not incur debt it cannot and should not afford. (See her recent article in the Seattle Times on April 21 about this.)

This year's capital budget struck an acceptable balance between funding worthwhile projects and using state-backed bonds to do so.

Projects funded in the capital budget for the 13<sup>th</sup> District include:

- \$19.4 million for the Grant County branch campus of Wentachee Valley Skills Center
- \$2 million for Lake Roosevelt water storage release
- \$1.1 million for the Port of Quincy Industrial Park
- \$703,000 for minor upgrades at Central Washington University
- \$9,000 for the Clymer Museum of Art

In addition, we are pleased the Legislature passed a constitutional debt limit reduction (Senate Joint Resolution 8221) to reduce our debt payments and preserve debt capacity for when we need it during economic downturns. The measure would incrementally lower the constitutional debt limit from 9 to 8 percent by 2034. The Legislature referred this to the ballot in November.

P.O. Box 40600  
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**13<sup>th</sup> District Representatives**  
**Bill Hinkle & Judy Warnick**

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