

JAN ANGEL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

26TH DISTRICT 2012 LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

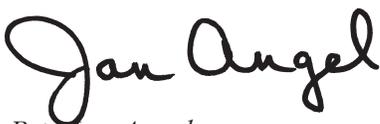
It's good to be home in the 26th District after the Legislature finally adjourned from its business on April 11. After a special session held at the end of November and well into December, we entered the regular session Jan. 9 with a projected budget shortfall of \$1.5 billion, which was later adjusted to just over \$1 billion after a positive revenue forecast.

I wanted to make sure the Legislature strongly supported education as its top priority in the budget, and I agreed with the state Supreme Court, which ruled in January that the state must "amply provide for the education of all Washington children as the state's first and highest priority before any other state programs or operations." That's why I supported the House Republican budget that proposed to fund education first. Although that was not the proposal accepted, a bipartisan majority of lawmakers negotiated a final supplemental operating budget that included reforms and preserved important levy equalization funds. Still, I have concerns you can read about within this newsletter.

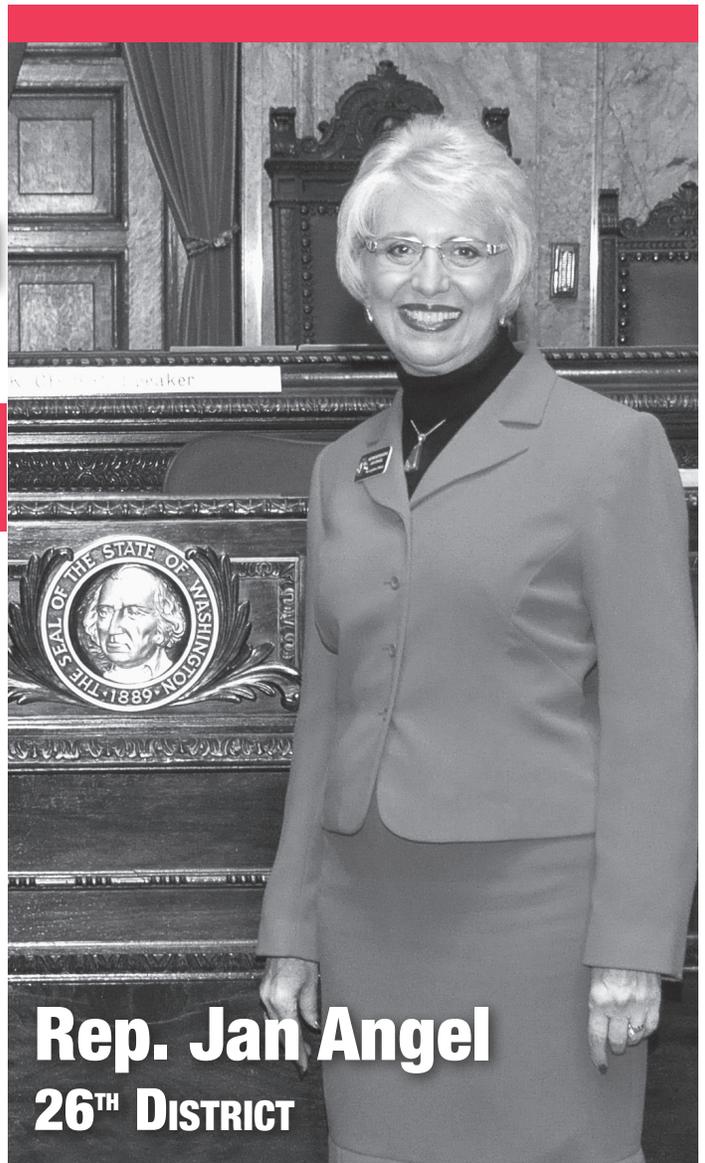
Aside from budget negotiations that were frustratingly slow, the 2012 regular session produced very positive results for the 26th District, including funding for numerous local infrastructure projects, ensuring lower tolls on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, giving developers more flexibility when mapping out plats, and opening doors for our port districts to get help from community groups in the care of habitat and recreation sites. This newsletter highlights these achievements and more.

It's my great honor to serve you. Please contact my office any time you have questions, comments or suggestions about state government.

Sincerely,



Rep. Jan Angel



Rep. Jan Angel
26TH DISTRICT

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COMMITTEES:

- Local Government (ranking)
- Education
- Transportation
- Rules

SUPPLEMENTAL OPERATING BUDGET:

Priorities protected, but reserves far too low

It took three special sessions and a 60-day regular session before the Legislature finally reached agreement and passed a supplemental operating budget which closed a \$1 billion shortfall.

Early in the regular session, House Republicans drafted our own budget proposal based on the Priorities of Government model used back in 2002 by Gov. Gary Locke. We identified three core areas of government

for funding in the budget: **education, public safety and protection of the state's most vulnerable citizens.** These were the priorities we fought for in the final budget.

With hours remaining on April 10 as the special session was coming to a close, negotiators reached agreement on budget reforms, including changing early retirement eligibility for new employees hired after May 2013, providing more efficient health care insurance options for public school employees, and requiring future operating budgets to balance across four years.

I was pleased the final agreement maintains school levy equalization dollars, avoided a sales tax increase

(such as the governor proposed), and includes reforms toward long-term sustainability. However, I was unable to support the final operating budget for several reasons: primarily it still spends too much and leaves an ending fund balance of \$81 million (excluding \$238 million in a local government accounting change), which is **less than two days of reserves** based on state expenses. One bad revenue forecast could immediately wipe out that balance and require another special session on the budget. We have FIVE revenue forecasts remaining before the new budget cycle. This is primarily why I voted against the supplemental operating budget bill.

COST SAVINGS: Angel legislation saves money for counties, motorists

One of my priorities this session was to find ways to make government more efficient and to keep more money in taxpayers' pockets. Two bills I co-sponsored passed the Legislature this session that will help to achieve these goals:

House Bill 2834 – Will provide a cost savings for local governments by eliminating a limited number of non-essential reporting requirements.

Senate Bill 6073 – Will help to keep toll increases to a minimum on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge by deferring nearly \$6 million in sales taxes on construction of the bridge for six years. This could save drivers as much as 50 cents every time they cross the bridge. I co-sponsored the House measure, House Bill 2394, and worked to bring the Senate bill to a vote in the House.



Rep. Jan Angel helped to shepherd legislation through the House that will help to keep future toll increases on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge as small as possible. Senate Bill 6073 passed the Legislature and was signed into law by the governor.

CAPITAL BUDGET:

Local projects funded

The capital budget passed the Legislature in the last hour of this year's second special session. This \$1.07 billion budget pays for the construction and repair of public buildings and other long-term investments, such as land acquisitions and transfers. I voted for the capital budget because it provides \$17.7 million for projects in the 26th District, including:

- \$5.9 million for wastewater treatment plant improvements in Gig Harbor;
- \$3.6 million for the Olympic College Instruction Center in Bremerton;
- \$1.4 million for the Kitsap Community Resources' Jackson Village affordable housing project in Port Orchard;
- \$2 million to replace old water mains in Gig Harbor;
- \$1.2 million for the Cushman Trail Project;
- \$735,000 for installation of pervious parking for Kitsap County Parks;
- \$500,000 for a pedestrian path in Port Orchard;
- \$400,000 for removal of Harper Pier creosote pilings in South Kitsap; and
- \$326,000 for pavement removal at the Tacoma Narrows Airport.

Although the following projects funded under the capital budget are not located within the 26th District, they are important to our local area:

- \$39.1 million for a new health career center at Tacoma Community College;
- \$4.8 million for the Pierce County Skills Center in Puyallup; and
- \$2.5 million to resolve water quality issues within the Kitsap County Public Utility District.

ANGEL'S BILLS:

Legislation will help create jobs in our communities

I'm very pleased to report the Legislature passed and the governor signed two bills I authored that will help to protect and create local jobs:

House Bill 2152 – Clarifies timelines for development of plats for subdivisions. This bill will help to preserve the status of work by developers who have had to put their plat developments on hold, so that when the economy recovers, they can start where they left off. This will preserve their investment as well as jobs to get the work done.

House Bill 2305 – Allows port districts to contract with community service organizations. This measure will let port districts partner with community service groups for stewardship of port-owned habitat and recreation sites without the complications of competitive bidding. This measure could be useful for several of our local port districts, including the Port of Bremerton, which is seeking to refurbish the historic Harper Pier in South Kitsap.

Association of Washington Business Vice President of Government Affairs Gary Chandler recently presented Rep. Jan Angel with the AWB Cornerstone Award in recognition of her "strong record of supporting measures that help Washington's competitiveness and its ability to attract and retain businesses."

In addition, Angel was named "Legislator of the Year" by the Washington Association of Vocational Administrators, "Outstanding Legislator" by the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts, and she received the "Legislator Award" from the Washington Food Industry.



OTHER LEGISLATION

An Angel on your side!

Here's a list of other legislation I prime-sponsored this year that is on my "to-do" list in the future, since these bills did not make it through the entire legislative process this year. These measures meet four categories I set this year as goals: fix, save money, consolidate or eliminate.

House Bill 2267 – Would have saved taxpayers money by allowing more flexibility in planning and funding of sewer systems.

House Bill 2270 – Would have created consistent requirements for placement of signs warning of traffic signal light cameras.

House Bill 2268 – Would have required financial literacy to be taught in high schools.

House Bill 2269 – Would have eliminated the requirement for a front license plate.

House Bill 2282 – Would have eliminated the Growth Management Hearings Boards, saving tax dollars.

House Bill 2344 – Would have ensured citizens who own corporations, or are corporate officers, receive fair treatment related to unemployment benefits.

House Bill 2345 – Would have required state colleges and universities to give priority registration to veterans.

House Bill 2424 – Would have required drug testing for welfare applicants.

VISIT MY WEB SITE

Sign up for my e-news updates, look up bills, watch videos, read my news releases and see where I stand on the issues that affect the 26th District. You can find all of this information and more on my Web site:

www.housepublicans.wa.gov/members/Jan-Angel/

LOCAL YOUTH SERVE AS PAGES

I was honored to sponsor the following students as legislative pages this year:



Maverick Ryan
Port Orchard



Jackie Kremer
Silverdale



Daniel Buchignani
Fox Island

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