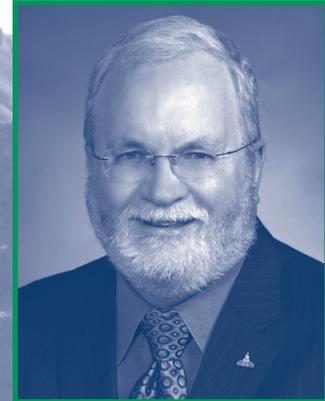


12th Legislative District

ARMSTRONG REPORT

A legislative update from
Representative Mike Armstrong



Representative
Mike Armstrong

Inside this report:

- Operating budget balanced, but fragile
- Armstrong negotiated transportation budget
- Apple Capitol Loop Trail preserved
- Redistricting expands 12th District

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Dear friends and neighbors,

The Legislature finally adjourned April 11 after going into a second special session of about seven hours overnight to pass a supplemental operating budget that closes a \$1 billion shortfall. Much of the negotiations involving the operating budget centered on coming to agreements on reforms to prevent future shortfalls.

As the lead Republican on the House Transportation Committee, I was directly involved in writing a bipartisan supplemental transportation budget. It was the only budget to win approval of the House and Senate before the Legislature adjourned the regular session March 8.

This newsletter provides a brief glimpse of the major issues during the 2012 sessions. I welcome your thoughts and comments. Please contact my office at any time.



Rep. Mike Armstrong

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Rep. Mike Armstrong

Supplemental operating budget remains fragile

It took three special sessions and a 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 agreements 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.

In the end, however, I was unable to support the final operating budget for several reasons: primarily it still spends too much, leaves a dangerously low reserve, continues to use one-time money for ongoing programs, and could easily lead to another shortfall next year.



Several local officials came to Olympia during the 2012 regular session. In addition, I enjoyed lunch with Liz Havlicek and her daughter, Kasia, from Wenatchee. From left, Wenatchee World Publisher Rufus Woods, Chelan County Commissioner Dale Snyder, Rep. Mike Armstrong, Kasia Havlicek, Liz Havlicek, Wenatchee Mayor Frank Kuntz, and Chelan County Commissioner Ron Walter.

ARMSTRONG REPORT

Armstrong key negotiator in supplemental transportation budget

When I was appointed ranking Republican on the House Transportation Committee in March of 2010, I made a commitment to work with all legislators, regardless of party affiliation, to ensure we meet the transportation needs of all citizens across the state.

This bipartisan attitude has been very positive toward helping us to come to agreement in the Legislature on important issues affecting transportation across Washington. It was especially helpful when I sat down with House Transportation Committee Chair Rep. Judy Clibborn in November to begin negotiating a supplemental transportation budget. Ours was the only budget that passed the Legislature during the regular session. It happened because we placed the needs for highway, bridge and ferry projects ahead of partisanship.

“Rep. Armstrong helped us bridge differences between east and west, Republicans and Democrats. His leadership on transportation was invaluable.”

House Transportation Chair Judy Clibborn, D-Mercer Island

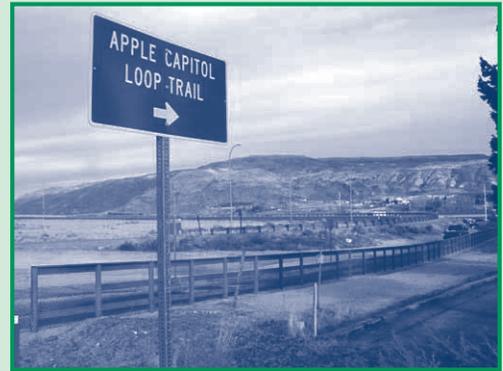
The supplemental transportation budget includes funding for the new Columbia River Crossing project between Vancouver and Portland, a new 520 floating bridge across Lake Washington between Seattle and Bellevue, and “seed money” for future projects across the state, including \$300,000 for replacement of the Central Avenue Bridge/State Route 155 in Omak, and \$200,000 for State Route 28 “Sunset Highway” corridor improvements in East Wenatchee.

Capital budget includes funding for local projects

The capital budget passed the Legislature in the last hour of the 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. It also lends money to local governments and nonprofit organizations for infrastructure, housing, and cultural and heritage facilities.

I voted for the capital budget because it provides \$44.8 million for projects in our local communities, including \$17 million for Grand Coulee Dam Schools, \$9.5 million for the Wenatchee Valley Skills Center, \$1.5 million for cleanup of the old Cashmere mill site, and \$400,000 for the Rocky Reach Trail development.

For a complete list and more details on 12th District projects, please visit my Web site at www.houseRepublicans.wa.gov/Armstrong and click on the link that says “Capital Budget – Local Project Funding.”



Armstrong takes steps to preserve Apple Capitol Loop Trail

Walking the Apple Capitol Loop Trail along the Columbia River in Wenatchee and East Wenatchee is a popular recreational activity. But there’s a very good chance the Washington State Department of Transportation, which owns the land in East Wenatchee adjacent to the river, could declare it surplus and sell it, since plans for highway development there have long been shelved. If that happens, it could put the trail at risk.

I added a provision in the transportation budget that would give the land on 25 feet of both sides of the trail and the trail itself to Douglas County and the city of East Wenatchee. Douglas County already maintains the trail, so it’s not an additional cost to anyone. This will protect the Apple Capitol Loop Trail for generations to come and ensure this local asset can continue to be enjoyed.



Rep. Mike Armstrong discusses the transportation budget with local radio stations.

Redistricting slightly expands 12th District

Every 10 years following the U.S. Census, the Washington State Redistricting Commission comes together to redraw the boundaries for each of the state's legislative and congressional districts. This is to ensure that all people are fairly represented in the political process.

The commission worked throughout last year to draw boundaries, which were finalized and adopted by the Legislature during the 2012 regular session. While some districts were radically changed, most of the boundaries for the 12th District remained the same, with some additions.

The new 12th District will pick up a larger portion of Okanogan County across the Colville Indian Reservation. It will also include a larger portion of Grant County, with the lines drawn just north of Quincy and west of Ephrata. The new boundaries are effective for the upcoming primary and general elections later this year.

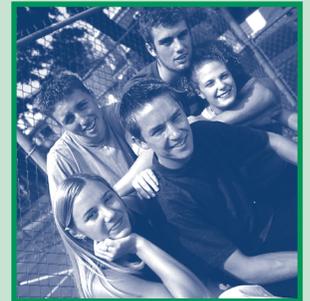
Possibly the largest changes affecting our area are the new congressional district lines. Chelan County, including Wenatchee, which had been in the 4th Congressional District, is now in the 8th Congressional District, along with Kittitas County and parts of King and Pierce counties west of the Cascades. Douglas County, including East Wenatchee, remains in the 4th Congressional District.



More information is available at your fingertips

Got a computer and Internet access? Here are some helpful Web sites where you can get more information on legislation.

- **My Web site: www.leg.wa.gov/Armstrong.** From this site, you can read my news releases, watch video updates and read more about my bills. I also send weekly updates during legislative sessions. I encourage you to visit my site and look for the tab that says "Sign up for my e-mail updates."
- **Washington State Legislature: www.leg.wa.gov.** From here, you can look up bills, find out information about visiting the Capitol campus, and read about the history of the state Legislature.
- **Page/Intern Programs: www.leg.wa.gov/House/Pages/PageandInternPrograms.aspx.** This is a great place to find information about the Legislature's page and intern programs. Young people between the ages of 14 and 16 can download applications from this site to be a legislative page for the 2013 session. The Legislature also offers internships for college and university students.



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