

# BAILEY BULLETIN



## Representative Barbara Bailey<sup>★</sup> 10th District

Dear Friend:

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Hopefully you are taking advantage of the nice spring days and thinking about your summer plans. We are so fortunate to live in an area where we don't have to go far to enjoy the most beautiful places in the state.

Many people – from parents, to teachers, to police officers, to small business owners – have expressed their frustrations to me on what is happening in Olympia. They are concerned about cuts to education, the reliability of our transportation system, persistent unemployment, and state budgets that are not balanced. People want more accountability and better results. I share these frustrations and expectations.

Olympia is broken, but it can be fixed if one-party control would allow new solutions to move forward. For too long, one set of ideas and principles have dominated our citizen Legislature – and the results are clear, including six special sessions in the last two years. We need a new approach to old problems. I talk about some of these solutions in this newsletter.

Much like families and small businesses in these tough economic times, Olympia needs to tighten its belt. The Legislature must align state spending with tax collections, and state government needs to understand that it works *for* taxpayers. At a time when we need to reset, reform and reshape state government, the status quo in Olympia is being defended at all costs.

While our state has a part-time Legislature, please remember I am your full-time state lawmaker. I am always just a phone call, e-mail or letter away from assisting you or listening to your ideas. In the upcoming months, I will be meeting with constituents and groups, holding a telephone town hall meeting, and hosting local coffee talks. I hope you can join these community conversations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Bailey".

Rep. Barbara Bailey



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#### COMMITTEES:

- Business and Financial Services  
*(ranking member)*
- Ways and Means  
*(assistant ranking member)*
- Health Care and Wellness
- Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs *(co-chair)*
- Select Committee on Pension Policy *(chair)*

#### SIGN UP FOR MY E-MAIL UPDATES

If you would like to stay connected with your citizen Legislature, please consider signing up for my e-mail updates. You may do so by going to my legislative Web site or contacting me.

# Representative **Barbara Bailey** • 10th District

## RESPONSIBLE STATE SPENDING



### **OPERATING BUDGET**

The Legislature spent two regular sessions and six special sessions in the last two years trying to solve the same problem: an unsustainable operating budget. There are no excuses for these failures and the extra costs to taxpayers.

I voted against the final operating budget that passed on April 11 because it: does not leave a responsible amount in reserves; does not reset, reform and reshape state government; and is not sustainable. It is a status quo state spending plan.

### **BUDGET PRINCIPLES AND SOLUTIONS**

I continue to be guided by a set of budget principles and solutions.

First, our state should only spend as much as it plans to take in and live within its means. Second, new tax increases are not necessary. State government should be able to run effectively on a \$31 billion budget. Third, K-12 basic education should be fully funded – first. I sponsored a bill that would require the Legislature to pass a separate, K-12 basic education budget before any other appropriations.



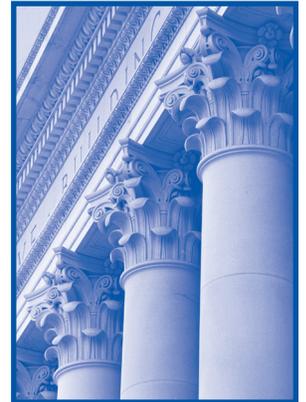
I have sponsored several bills that would ensure budget sustainability and transparency. For example, measures that would: put more money aside in good economic times; require the state auditor to review all new state programs; and ensure the Legislature adopts sustainable budgets. These are the common-sense solutions our state needs for sustainable budgets in the future.

## **RESET, REFORM AND RESHAPE STATE GOVERNMENT**

Difficult budget times should be used as an opportunity to improve and find efficiencies in state government. When money gets tight in a household budget, parents make sacrifices. When business is slow, employers adjust their operations. Olympia should be making the same type of sacrifices and adjustments.

We need to reset, reform and reshape state government. A good start would be implementing more of the recommendations from our State Auditor Brian Sonntag, who has done a tremendous job identifying waste and problems in state government. From the problems in the Puget Sound Partnership, to funding for unused state cell phones, to paying for medical exams that never happened – our state can and must do better with your tax dollars.

I want to emphasize that I believe in our front-line state employees and the important work they do. There are talented workers in the public sector making a difference in people's lives on a daily basis. No one expects perfection from state government, but we should work to improve transparency, efficiency and outcomes.



## **CONNECTING OUR LOCAL VETERANS TO GROUPS, SERVICES**



As co-chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs, I have an opportunity to be involved directly with military issues at the state level. I was proud to have led an effort to bring a meeting of the Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC) to the NAS Whidbey Island Chiefs' Club last October. It was a mutually-beneficial location for the

committee and local veterans' and military groups, and I am happy the connection was made.

To learn more about the VAAC, please visit: [http://www.dva.wa.gov/advisory\\_committees.html](http://www.dva.wa.gov/advisory_committees.html).

For more information on services for veterans, please call 1-800-827-1000 or visit <http://www.dva.wa.gov/>.

If you ever have any ideas to pass along for our veterans and military, please don't hesitate to contact me.

# Representative **Barbara Bailey** • 10th District

## CREATING JOBS AND RECRUITING EMPLOYERS TO THE REGION



*Rep. Bailey speaks about responsible state spending on the House floor.*

Many people are having trouble finding a job or fearful they could lose the one they have. This uncertainty adversely impacts consumer confidence. When consumers are not spending, businesses are not as successful and this affects hiring decisions. It is a cycle our state must break, and it begins with creating jobs.

While some economic indicators are pointing in the right direction, no one is comfortable with the recovery. The fundamental question is what can our state do to foster a business climate that allows employers to be successful, grow and hire? It starts with understanding the challenges facing employers.

If we are going to recruit employers to the region, we need state government to be collaborative – not punitive – when working with businesses. We also need to reduce burdensome and costly regulations on employers, and ensure consistency and predictability. Ask business owners and they will tell you that “time is money” is not a figure of speech.

### ***COMMON-SENSE SOLUTIONS FOR OUR ECONOMY***

I have been presented awards from the National Federation of Independent Business and Association of Washington Business because I care about the problems facing our employers and promote solutions to help them. I was proud to have supported bipartisan reforms last May that

lower workers’ compensation costs. We cannot stop here though. The Legislature must continue to explore ways to lower costs in the state’s expensive workers’ compensation and unemployment insurance systems.

State lawmakers must also find ways to improve permitting processes, incentivize start-ups and limit the number of new rules and regulations on private-sector employers. We can also ease financial burdens in the public sector by making some unfunded mandates on schools and local governments optional.

All of these solutions can be found in the form of bills I will continue to support.

## ADDRESSING TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS



Our state’s transportation system continues to face serious problems. From building an off-ramp to Highway 16 in the wrong place, to delays and extra costs with mega-projects in King County, to KING 5’s eye-opening “Waste on the

Water” series that documented the abuse of tax dollars in our state ferry system, transportation leaders need to be held accountable for results. With state gas tax dollars scarce, we must ensure the mistakes of the past are not repeated in the future.

### ***A RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE STATE FERRY SYSTEM***

No legislative district is more dependent on ferries than ours. Whether it is commuters, tourists or local residents just wanting to get around, we need a reliable and affordable state ferry system. This requires the state to recognize its ferry system as a marine highway, now and into the future, and meet ongoing challenges head on.

### ***MV KENNEWICK***

I was excited and honored to be a speaker at the inauguration of our third new ferry for the Port Townsend-Coupeville route. On a rare sunny day in January, around 100 people turned out to dedicate the MV Kennewick. A lot of people deserve credit for this accomplishment and I thank them for their efforts.

## ***DO YOU NEED A SPEAKER?***

If you need a speaker for a group or an event, I would enjoy the opportunity to share ideas and take questions. Please contact me if you know of an opportunity.

# Representative **Barbara Bailey** • 10th District



## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

### TELEPHONE TOWN HALL MEETING

*Monday, May 14*

6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

It's easy to join in. Simply call **1-877-229-8493** and enter code **15431**. Once connected, you may ask me questions, share your views or just listen in from the comfort of your own home.

## COFFEE TALKS

**PLEASE JOIN ME FOR A COFFEE TALK NEAR YOU**



### Friday, June 8

#### **Oak Harbor**

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Angelo's Caffè

670 Southeast Pioneer Way

#### **Coupeville**

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Coupeville Coffee and Bistro

(formerly Miriam's)

200 South Main Street

#### **Freeland**

3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Timbuktu Java Bar and Cafe

(formerly 1504 Coffee Bar)

18205 State Route 525, #7

### Saturday, June 9

#### **Mount Vernon**

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Calico Cupboard Old Town Café and Bakery

121-B Freeway Drive

#### **Silvana**

11:00 a.m. to noon

Willow and Jim's Country Café

1421 Pioneer Highway

#### **Stanwood**

2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Ramona Lisa's

(formerly Scandia Coffeehouse and Eatery)

9808 State Route 532

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**Barbara Bailey**

Representative

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