



## REP. LIZ PIKE

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NOTE: The proposed measures will be assigned bill numbers after they have been submitted to the state Code Reviser's Office.

# Rep. Liz Pike 18th Legislative District

## 2014 Legislative Proposals

- ◆ **Consistency with city and county petition signature laws.**
  - This measure would bring city and county petition signature laws in compliance with state law by stating that all duplicative signatures will be counted once. This bill comes as a result of a Cowlitz County Superior Court case: *Patella v. Kimsey* (April 2013). The court considered whether the auditor should count the original signature of a person who signed a petition more than once. The state Supreme Court says current law for duplicative signatures on city and county petitions/initiatives is unconstitutional. My proposed legislation would make it clear that only one valid signature per person would be counted on a petition, even if the person signed the petition more than once.
- ◆ **Financial relief for smaller cities through seasonal worker pension reform.**
  - Small cities across Washington often struggle to provide local services within their tight budgets. That hurdle is even greater when they are responsible for providing expensive pension benefits to seasonal workers. Seasonal workers should not have the same expectations of identical pension benefits from those who are permanent full-time, year-round employees. My proposed legislation would eliminate eligibility from public employment retirement benefits for seasonal employees who work fewer than nine months of the year for municipalities with 30,000 or fewer residents. This would provide much needed financial relief for smaller cities that face increasing budget pressures.
- ◆ **Protecting private property through changes in adverse possession law.**
  - This constituent-request legislation would extend the adverse possession law from 10 years to 20 years. This would allow a homeowner more time before a neighbor adversely possesses land due to improper placement of a fence or other adverse use of a neighboring property.
- ◆ **Creating a fair process of changing school district boundary lines.**
  - This measure would provide that before school boundary line changes could be initiated, a majority of all affected school boards must sign a written agreement to approve the boundary changes.
- ◆ **Reducing highway littering.**
  - This measure would strengthen penalties for highway littering. Currently in state law, there is no distinction in penalties and monetary fines between an unsecured load violation (accidental loose trash) and blatant highway littering.

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## 2014 Legislative Proposals

- ◆ **Reforming government rulemaking and regulatory permitting.**
  - Too often, state agencies draft new rules and increase thresholds for air and water quality permits that go beyond federal guidelines. We need to have oversight on such rules to ease onerous regulations on Washington's business and industry. My proposed measure would require the Joint Administrative Rules Review Committee (JARRC) to review an agency rule under any one of the following scenarios:
    - ◇ At the request of at least 15 legislators;
    - ◇ If the rule has an economic impact of \$10 million or more; and/or
    - ◇ At the request of five or more local governments collectively representing at least 50,000 or more Washington residents.
  - In addition, the bill would include this same review of regulatory permits, certain water quality permits, permits issued by the Department of Ecology, and the shoreline master program and critical areas. If a majority of the committee finds the rules inconsistent with the agency's adopted guidelines, that agency has 30 days to respond.
- ◆ **Reducing public construction costs through prevailing wage reforms.**
  - Local governments would benefit from reduced construction costs on projects such as police and fire stations, libraries, streets, water and sewer facility upgrades. Those costs could be lowered through changes in the prevailing wage law. I am proposing legislation that would permit local governments (by a majority vote) to opt out of prevailing wage requirements from projects estimated to cost less than \$5 million. This threshold would exclude certain fees, including engineering fees, land acquisition costs, taxes and change orders.
- ◆ **Limiting benefits from injuries, diseases, death caused by use of drugs and alcohol in the workplace.**
  - This measure would prohibit industrial insurance benefits (excluding medical benefits) for a worker and spouse/dependents if alcohol or drugs, including recreational and medical marijuana, consumed by the worker is the primary cause of his/her injury or death on the job. The law would not apply for prescription drugs or if an employer permitted or had knowledge of alcohol and/or drug use. This bill was suggested by my Business Kitchen Cabinet.

### Other legislative priorities

- \* **Restaurant apprenticeship program**—I am working with the Clark County Skills Center, a local Battle Ground restaurant owner, the Washington Restaurant Association and the Department of Labor and Industries on an apprenticeship program for the restaurant industry.
- \* **License plate replacement costs**—I have heard from several constituents who object to the state's mandate to change license plates, even though they are in perfectly good condition. Other constituents object to front license plates. I will be studying this issue over the coming year.
- \* **Public Works Trust Fund**—I am committed to restoring this fund in the budget either in 2014 or the next budget cycle. This money provides low-interest loans for critical city and county public works projects.
- \* **Public education**—This summer, I visited several classrooms and spent many hours with my Education Kitchen Cabinet discussing schools. Education professionals want no more new mandates and new programs to implement, and fewer high stakes assessments. More time is needed to implement the Teacher-Principal Evaluation Program and we need greater parental involvement.
- \* **Affordable Care Act**—I am deeply concerned about the cancellation of thousands of health care policies in Washington and the adverse impacts of Obamacare. I am told that for every one American who has signed up for Obamacare, 32 citizens have lost their current insurance plan. This is wrong.