



April 23, 2007

## Wrapping things up

Hello friends and neighbors! I'm happy to report that the 2007 Legislative Session has come to an end, and there were a number of good things I was able to accomplish. I'll tell you about a few of them below, but look for my end-of-session newsletter in your mailbox in the coming months. There will be more in-depth information about what we accomplished in the newsletter, so keep an eye out for it.

**As always, it is an honor to represent you in the state Legislature.**

Thank you for taking the time to read these e-mails, and if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please e-mail me at [Carrell.Mike@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Carrell.Mike@leg.wa.gov), call my office at 360-786-7654 or just call me at home at 253-581-2859.

## The Holy Grail for Pierce County

It was one of the last issues the Legislature tackled before the final gavel fell on Sunday, but both the House and Senate agreed to pass my prison and supervision reform measure, Senate Bill 6157. It's now on its way to the governor's desk where she's expected to sign it into law. **I can't tell you how good it feels to get this legislation passed for the people of Pierce County.**

To begin with, the bill itself has what most people are calling the longest bill title in state history with **over 600 words!** In fact, the title alone takes up more than two pages. It was necessary to do that in order to be very specific about what the bill does, so nobody could try to amend it and change the original intent.

I'm particularly pleased with the fair share aspect of the bill. It really is the Holy Grail for Pierce County. We've struggled mightily to get fair share for close to 30 years, and now it will finally become a reality. **No longer will the state Department of Corrections be releasing felons from all over the state into our neighborhoods.** Instead, the bill requires them to be released into the counties where they committed their original felonies.

Another good part of my bill will distribute community justice centers around the State of Washington. The DOC will use these facilities to transition offenders from prison into statewide communities. The siting of work releases areas and

other DOC facilities is not going to be focused on Pierce and Spokane Counties. It will be distributed evenly around the state over the next few years.

**These provisions, along with the fact that DOC will be studying the work release programs to see if they actually work, are outstanding additions to current law and big victories for the 28<sup>th</sup> Legislative District.**

## Signed into law

I wanted to run down the list of bills that I worked on this session that passed the Legislature and will be signed into law by the governor.

- ☑ **SB 6157, Prison and Supervision Reform.**
- ☑ **HB 1458, Eminent Domain** (I sponsored the Senate version, SB 5444). This bill requires government agencies to provide adequate notice to property owners when the agency intends to seize private property through eminent domain.
- ☑ **SB 5321, Child Welfare.** This bill will protect families accused of child abuse or neglect by requiring the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to make reasonable efforts to investigate the validity of the claim and resolve the case. It will direct DSHS to classify allegations in one of two categories: founded (meaning, based on available evidence, it is likely abuse or neglect did occur) and unfounded (meaning, based on evidence, it most likely DID NOT occur), and eliminate the “inconclusive” finding that has been so problematic for families.
- ☑ **SB 6059, Cost Recovery for Service of Process.** This bill will allow attorneys to recover actual costs of service of process, rather than a court determined amount.
- ☑ **SB 5405, Distraint of Personal Property.** This bill allows a county sheriff to enter private residences to recover property that belongs to someone else. Pierce County’s sheriff had requested this legislation.

All in all, I had a tremendously successful 2007 Legislative Session, and I’m looking forward to building on that success next year.

## Wins for our community

**Another positive for our district is the fact that I was able to get all the requests for financial assistance into the final version of the capital budget.** I had requested a test bed of calcium hydroxide to help clean up Lake Waughop. If it is successful, it may be used to help clean up the rest of the lakes in our community. I also secured \$225,788 to help fix the dilapidated roofs on buildings at Fort Steilacoom, and got more funds to improve the general facilities.

Here are some of the other projects that will be funded now that the Senate and House have passed the capital budget:

- ☑ **Tacoma Musical Playhouse**
- ☑ **Chambers Creek Pedestrian Bridge**
- ☑ **University Place Town Square**
- ☑ **Special Commitment Center Housing Addition**
- ☑ **Western State Hospital upgrades**
- ☑ **Tacoma Community College upgrades**

I am pleased that these much needed projects were able to get funded this session, so that our Pierce County neighborhoods can remain great places to live.

### **In Closing**

**Thanks again for taking the time to read my e-mail update.** I invite you to please call, write or e-mail me with any other comments, questions or concerns you might have. You can reach me using the information below.

- Office address:  
**109A Irv Newhouse Building  
P.O. Box 40428  
Olympia, WA 98504-0428**
- Office phone number: **(360) 786-7395**
- Home phone number: **(253) 581-2859**
- E-mail address: [\*\*Carrell.Mike@leg.wa.gov\*\*](mailto:Carrell.Mike@leg.wa.gov)

Sincerely,



Mike Carrell  
28<sup>th</sup> District State Senator