



November 30, 2007

Special session highlights the tenets of our system of government

It always amazes me how well our system of government works. Last Thursday night, the Washington State Legislature wrapped up a one-day special session to enact a 1-percent cap on annual property tax collections. **In 2001, 58 percent of the people in Washington State voted for property tax limits in the form of Initiative 747, a vote the state Supreme Court recently overturned on a technicality, saying that the people really didn't know what they were voting for.**

As legislators we were able to carry out the will of the people, despite the ruling of what some call "activist judges." That tells me our system works. As I was thinking about what happened during the special session, it became clear to me that this was a huge win for the constitution here in the state of Washington. Article one, section one reads, "All political power is inherent in the people, and governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed." **That is exactly what happened during this special session.**

It's also another illustration of something that I've talked about for years, which is that we as a society are blessed to have separate branches of government in order to ensure the balance of power. A few years ago, a felony murder case went before the Supreme Court. The court's opinion was that the Legislature "really didn't mean" that someone who died as a result of felony related injuries was a victim of murder. **In 2004, the Legislature had to reiterate the fact that it really did mean to pass the law that was enacted originally in 1905, and strengthened in 1977.**

The arrogance of the Supreme Court to purport that it knows better than the people what the people want is infuriating. In overturning I-747, we have another example of the men and women in black robes, with holier-than-thou attitudes, who think they can decide which laws to keep and which ones to discard. That is simply wrong. I think it's fitting that the Supreme Court justices work in a building called "the temple," as they sometimes act as if they are a power higher than the other two branches of state government.

Thursday's passage of the law reinstating the people's will on I-747 is a clear victory for the people and a reaffirmation of the balance of power in the state. The Legislature was a counterforce against the excesses of the judiciary, which is exactly how the system is supposed to work. The Legislature truly is the voice of the people.

It was a great night for the Senate, the House of Representatives and for the taxpayers across Washington State. It was a victory for the people and the constitution, and **I'm proud that the wisdom of our forefathers brought us these ideas of balancing the power so that no one branch of government would be able to completely trump the others.**

Last chance to sign up for my e-mail updates!

I wanted to remind you that this is the **LAST OPPORTUNITY** to sign up to receive these e-mail updates! Due to the election year restrictions, I won't be able to send you these e-mail updates from my Legislative e-mail address after today. However, when there are hot issues being debated in the Legislature, I feel it is my duty to keep you informed of what's going on and how it will affect you. That's why I'd like to continue sending you updates from my personal e-mail address during session, which runs from January 14th to March 13th.

If you are interested in continuing to receive these updates, you will need to send me an e-mail at mcarrell@hotmail.com and I'll add you to my distribution list. Just click on my e-mail address to open a new e-mail to me, tell me that you want to sign up for my e-mail list, and then click "send" to send me your e-mail address.

These restrictions apply to all state legislators, both senators and representatives. The state is very careful to not use public resources for campaign purposes. **So after today, I will only be sending out these updates from my home e-mail address.** Thanks again for your understanding, and I'm looking forward to keeping you up-to-date throughout the session.

Also due to election year restrictions, much of the material on my Legislative web site (www.senatorepublicans.wa.gov/carrell) will disappear after June 30th, and I will only be able to send out two mailings beginning December 1 of this year. **You should expect the first mailing, a "government guide" with lots of helpful information and phone numbers, around February.** I recommend you keep it near your phone or with your phone book. The second mailing will be my end-of-session newsletter, and you can expect that around May.

In Closing

With the 2008 legislative session beginning January 14th, what issues do you think should be addressed? I always appreciate your input, and it is my job to serve your needs, so please don't hesitate to contact me via my office or at home. It is a privilege to represent you in the Washington State Senate, and if you know of anyone who would also like to receive these e-mail updates, please feel free to have them get in touch with my office, either by phone or e-mail, to be added to the list. **Remember...if you would like to continue receiving these updates, please send me an e-mail at mcarrell@hotmail.com.**

- 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**
- Legislative E-mail address: Carrell.Mike@leg.wa.gov
- **Home E-mail address:** mcarrell@hotmail.com

Sincerely,



Mike Carrell
28th District State Senator