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Senate Republican Caucus Chair

Committees: Financial Institutions, Housing and Insurance; Health and Long-Term Care;
Ways and Means; Rules

April 30, 2009

Dear Friends,

The 2009 legislative session came to a stammering close shortly after midnight on Monday, April 27th. The three budgets (operating, capital, and transportation) were all voted on during the last three days, in addition to all the bills necessary to implement those budgets. We toiled through the day and into the wee hours of the morning those final days only to conclude the session with speculation over needing to return for a “special session”.

Special session?

You may have heard that the majority party is considering bringing the Legislature back for a special session to consider three bills that failed to pass during the regular legislative session:

- SHB 1776 Levy Related Provisions;
- SSB 6160 Criminal Justice Sentencing; and
- SHB2188/ESB6183 Illegal Alien Offender Release.

Without these bills, the ending fund balance of the 2009-11 operating budget would be reduced from \$822 million to \$740 - \$750 million.

Reconvening the Legislature for a special session is not only costly to the taxpayers (it costs about \$20,000 a day), but there is also no guarantee that the bills considered will be held to a certain list of measures. A special session is still considered questionable at this time.

Post-session newsletter

As I mentioned to you last week, the Senate, like other agencies, is looking for ways to cut costs and trim our budget. To save money I am forgoing a printed post-session newsletter and will instead be sending you a series of three e-mail messages focusing on a variety of big-picture topics from the session:

- Part I – Overview of the operating, transportation and capital budgets;
- Part II – 12th District legislative overview; and

- Part III – The session’s key bills

I wanted to let you know about this in advance so you can watch for the messages next week.

2009-10 Government Guide corrections

CHELAN COUNTY:

City of Entiat: Mayor, Keith Vradenburg (page 6)

Wenatchee Reclamation Dist.: Director, Alan Witte
Secretary/Manager, Rick Smith (page 9)

DOUGLAS COUNTY:

County Assessor: James Rudd (page 12)

City of East Wenatchee: Council meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month (page 12)

City of Waterville: Board Member Tim Skinner in place of James Brown (page 13)

Cemetery District # 1: Board Member Brian Dennis, phone #: 509-784-1028 (page 13)

GRANT COUNTY:

Electric City Mayor: Birdie Hensley (page 17)

Port District # 6: Commissioner Roger Blackman in place of Gary Ribail (page 19)

District office scheduled to re-open

The district office will be re-opening on Monday, May 4; it is staffed by my executive legislative assistant, Shiloh Burgess. The district office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday by appointment. If you want to schedule a meeting with me, please contact Shiloh at (509) 663-9702 or burgess.shiloh@leg.wa.gov. The district office address is 625 Okanogan Avenue, Suite 301, Wenatchee, WA 98801. If there is anything I can do for you during the interim, please give me a call. I am always happy to help!

All the best,

Linda

LINDA EVANS PARLETTE

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For information about public hearings, proposed new laws, and the progress of bills you are interested in, please visit the Legislature's Information Web site at www.leg.wa.gov.