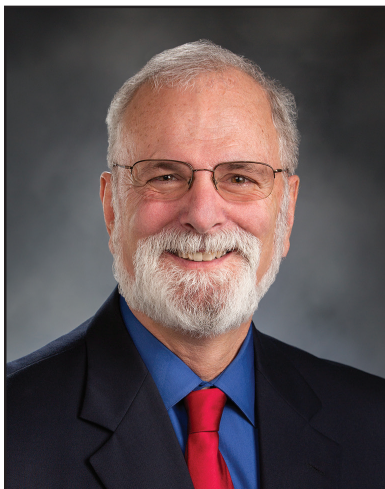


Senator Phil Fortunato



Sen. Phil Fortunato Majority Coalition Caucus

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Senate Committees:

- Transportation
- Financial Institutions & Insurance
- Natural Resources & Parks

Need help working with your government?

Contact my Legislative Assistant
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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Many people in Washington do not realize our state constitution does NOT prohibit an income tax. The fact is if the Legislature ever wanted to pass an income tax, it could.

That is why one of my first actions as your state senator was to propose a state constitutional amendment to ban an income tax. Unfortunately, while every member of the Republican-led Majority Coalition Caucus voted in favor of my amendment, nearly all of our colleagues across the aisle refused. They said it was not necessary because “no one was talking about an income tax.”

Shortly thereafter, the House Democrat budget proposed... an income tax!

I will not let that happen.

I am not in Olympia to give government what it wants, I am in Olympia to give the taxpayers what they want—someone to represent their voice in Olympia.

I am honored to serve as your state senator for the 31st Legislative District and to carry on the tradition of former Senator Pam Roach, who strove to put the taxpayers first, not government.

Help me keep you informed. Sign up for my regular updates at www.senatorphilfortunato.com. If you hear of something that is a concern to you, please let me know by contacting my office at any time.

Sincerely,

Senator Phil Fortunato, 31st Legislative District

2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Protect the Taxpayer: Everybody always has a reason for wanting to spend your money; I am here to give them a reason not to.

Stop Sound Transit's car tab rip-off: They are knowingly inflating the value of our vehicles when they calculate our taxes so they can charge us more! That must stop!

Fund public education wisely: The One Washington Education Equality Act (EEA) reforms our system so that it is fairer and schools are funded on a per pupil basis.

Protect our gun rights: Our Second Amendment rights need to be protected. I am the sponsor of legislation to boost funding for hunter and firearm safety through an optional NRA special license plate.

Keep hunting and fishing traditions: Hunting and fishing in the Pacific Northwest are honored traditions that have bonded generations of families together. That is why I have cosponsored SJR 8206, a constitutional amendment to protect our right to hunt and fish.

Defeat any and all income taxes: If I call a cat a mouse, it's still a cat. Some in Olympia think that if they call their new income tax a “capital gains tax” we won't see it for what it is. They are wrong. That is why I sponsored SJR 8204, a state constitutional amendment to outlaw any form of an income tax in Washington.

Fortunato hosts Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus Shootout

Inside any state capitol, you will find a large number of people who make policy and influence opinion on firearms, but have no actual experience with guns. Olympia is no exception. This is why the annual Washington Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus Shootout was born.

The goal of the shootout is for participants to walk away less afraid of guns and with an appreciation for shooting and the Second Amendment.

The shootout is often the first experience with firearms for participants. Attendees are taught to shoot a variety of guns and are invited to participate in target competitions.

At the event, I was especially honored to present former senator, now Pierce County Councilwoman Pam Roach with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Washington Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus. I have always respected her dedication to protecting the people's rights in the 31st Legislative District and throughout the state. It was fitting that the Sportsmen's Caucus recognize her unmatched legislative commitment. I intend to carry on her devotion to the cause of our Second Amendment rights as your state senator.



Former Sen. Roach receives a "Lifetime Achievement Award" presented by the Washington Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus. The plaque reads "for her selfless dedication and service."

What would the Senate Education Equality Act do?

The Senate Education Equality Act (SB 5607) would reform the way our schools are funded. It would equalize levy rates statewide with a flat, low rate. Highlights include:

- \$12,500 minimum funding per pupil per year
- Additional per pupil funding for students with other challenges like homelessness
- Doubles state funding for career and technical education
- Doubles funding for highly capable students
- Includes my bill to provide up to \$10,000 in housing allowances for teachers in high-cost areas
- Grants greater flexibility to districts
- Pays higher starting salaries for teachers



Sen. Fortunato answers questions from student visitors.

How would the Senate plan for education change funding for our schools?

Compared to current levels of funding, the Senate plan would provide the school districts of our 31st Legislative District with significant funding increases:

- **Auburn** – \$1,110 increase per pupil, \$19,372,000 overall
- **Carbonado** – \$2,740 increase per pupil, \$496,000 overall
- **Dieringer** – \$3,080 increase per pupil, \$4,548,000 overall
- **Enumclaw** – \$1,190 increase per pupil, \$5,331,000 overall
- **Sumner** – \$1,560 increase per pupil, \$15,666,000 overall
- **White River** – \$1,670 increase per pupil, \$6,292,000 overall



Senior property tax exemptions & prescription drug programs

Do rising property taxes make you feel like you are renting your home from the government?

You may be eligible for a property tax deferral or an outright exemption from property taxes.

I have put together a packet of information to make it easier for you to find out what kind of relief is available. It also includes a brief history of the programs so you can see how they have changed over the years.

For prescription drugs, if you're getting stuck between Medicare or Medicaid enrollment periods, the packet I've put together offers information on state and private programs that may be able to help you.

I am your advocate in Olympia. Contact my office today for more information on senior property tax relief and prescription drug programs for which you or a loved one may qualify.

Senate education plan would mean big tax cuts for the 31st Legislative District

Compared to current taxes, the average homeowner's tax cut under the Senate Education Equality Act would be:

- **Auburn** – \$593 tax cut
- **Carbonado** – \$837 tax cut
- **Dieringer** – \$811 tax cut
- **Enumclaw** – \$492 tax cut
- **Sumner** – \$453 tax cut
- **White River** – \$484 tax cut



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Sound Transit's car tab rip-off

More than sixty percent of our district voted no on Sound Transit 3. Yet, because of King and Snohomish Counties, we're stuck with "taxation without transportation." Even worse, Sound Transit is jacking up the cost of our car tab taxes by inflating the value of our cars when taxes are calculated.



I am fighting to get Sound Transit under control and **lower our car tab taxes**. Here's how:

- **SB 5893** – I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation. It passed the Senate and awaits action in the House. It would prohibit the Department of Licensing from collecting car tab taxes for Sound Transit unless the transit authority does two things: 1) Drop the MVET tax to 5/10ths of one percent of the value of a car and; 2) Value cars fairly based on the Kelley Blue Book or National Automobile Dealers Association method to reflect actual market value.
- **SB 5892** – This is my bill that originally would have allowed voters a chance to affirm or cancel projects that are more than 20 percent over budget after two years. Keep in mind, due to the contingencies built into Sound Transit's budgets, 20 percent over budget is, in reality, closer to 45 percent!

Because Sound Transit's allies balked at the bill, to ensure it would pass, I amended the re-vote to kick in at 100 percent. It is going to be difficult for anyone to vote against that.
- **SB 5001** – I co-sponsored this legislation that would create direct elections for Sound Transit board members instead of allowing the King County Executive to fill a controlling majority of the positions with political cronies. The RTA board will spend \$54 billion without any accountability. Shouldn't the people have a say?