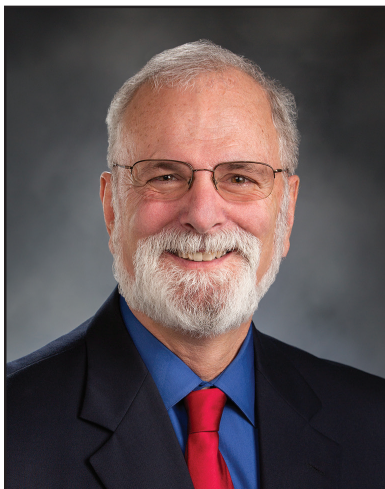


Senator Phil Fortunato



Sen. Phil Fortunato

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Senate Committees:

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

Need help working with your government?

Contact my Legislative Assistant Alexander Bohler for help:
(360) 786-7660
Alexander.Bohler@leg.wa.gov

If you are receiving the e-version of this newsletter, you can opt out of receiving updates here.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Did you get a 14 percent raise in the last 2 years? Thanks to economic growth, the state collected 14 percent more in the current two year budget period than it did in the previous biennium. In the next two years, the state is projected to collect even more—\$3 billion more—a seven percent increase.

My colleagues in the other party who control the House insist that this is not enough. They want \$8 billion in new taxes including an income tax on capital gains and a permanent 20 percent increase in B&O taxes, which would make it harder for businesses to hire more people or give you a raise. Yet they don't want to go on record voting for these taxes. They want credit for giving you all kinds of goodies, but do not want to show you the bill you'll be stuck with if you take them.

They know you do not want new taxes. The Senate brought these Democrat tax proposals up for a vote on the Senate floor. Both sides of the aisle rejected them unanimously. Yet as I write this, we are in a special session (legislative overtime) because House Democrat leadership insists on negotiating as though they have the votes to pass their new taxes.

For some politicians, there will never be enough money. As your state senator, I am not in Olympia to represent the tax **raisers**; I am in Olympia to represent tax**pay**ers.

In the Senate, we passed a budget that lives within our means and reforms education funding. Schools would receive a minimum of \$12,500 per pupil, per year. High local levy rates paying for basic education would be replaced with a statewide flat rate. **This would result in big property tax cuts for the 31st Legislative District.** Our plan would also expand local access to mental health care and incentivize both foster care and adoption.

Because I stand for election this year, Senate rules require that this be the last newsletter you will receive from me until after November. Unfortunately, this means it will be hard for me to share information with you when the special session ends. I hope you choose to email me and opt in to receiving our e-newsletters. You can also sign up for further updates by visiting my legislative website SenatorPhilFortunato.com.

It is my honor to serve you in Olympia.

Sincerely,



New Videos: Fortunato fights for immediate car tab tax relief



I am fighting for immediate relief from Sound Transit's car tab taxes. In the Senate, we passed legislation to make big cuts to car tab taxes and end Sound Transit's falsely inflated car valuations. By the time you receive this newsletter, it is my hope that the House will have passed the tax relief legislation we sent them. Unfortunately, the other party leadership in the House has been more focused on protecting Sound Transit from taxpayer anger than seeking taxpayer relief.

I am not here to represent Sound Transit or any other government agency—I'm here to be a voice for the taxpayers. I will continue fighting for you until we get real car tab tax relief.

To help keep you informed about the big issues in Olympia—like car tab taxes—I've launched a series of legislative videos. They are quick to watch, easy to share, and can help you stay informed even if you're always on the go.

Topics of videos launched so far:

- How I'm fighting to cut **Sound Transit's inflated car tab taxes** and how Sound Transit supporters' first offer of relief 'compromise' included taking money from a fund dedicated to homeless and foster kids—no joke!
- What is revealed by Sound Transit's fear of my bill to allow a vote of the people when cost overruns balloon to 100 percent
- Why we need to preserve our **rights to fish and hunt** before we wake up and learn we've lost the ability to share these traditions with our children and grandchildren
- My effort to ban income taxes in the state of Washington

I hope you will go to my webpage, senatorphilfortunato.com, watch the videos and share them with your family, friends and neighbors.



Sen. Fortunato greets the ladies of the Daffodil Court.

2017 Government Guide is now available

We have updated the 31st Legislative District government guide to make it easy for you to contact your federal, state and local officials. It's a one-stop tool that gives you the phone numbers, emails and information you need for everything from schools and senior centers to members of Congress and the President.

You can access the online version of the guide anytime on my webpage at **SenatorPhilFortunato.com** or you can call my office for a physical copy while supplies last.

Did You Know?

Young men 18 to 25 must register for the Selective Service at www.sss.gov. Failing to register before your 26th birthday can result in denial of federal employment. You may also be denied federally-backed student grants and loans. When you turn 26, it is too late. Spend 45 seconds today at www.sss.gov and save yourself 45 years of headaches. It's the law!



Is your family prepared for an emergency?

Cascadia Rising is a project designed to train and test the coordination and integration of government at all levels as well as community organizations and private sector resources in the event of a 9.0 magnitude earthquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ). The possibility of the “big one” is very real, with magnitude 8.0-9.0 quakes along the CSZ every 200 to 500 years. The last major quake along the CSZ occurred 300 years ago.

Each of us needs to take personal responsibility for family readiness in the event of a natural or other disaster. You can learn more at www.ready.gov or check out SenatorPhilFortunato.com for more tips.

How does the Senate budget plan compare to the House plan? Hint: TAXES

No matter how you slice it, House Democrats are proposing massive tax increases.

The House Democrat plan for a 20 percent increase on B & O taxes would mean increased taxes for:

- Doctors
- Veterinarians
- Assisted living facilities for the elderly
- Drug and alcohol treatment centers
- Kidney Dialysis Centers
- Single family housing construction
- And a whole lot more.

House Democrat Budget Plan: \$8 Billion Dollars in Tax Hikes

- Income tax on capital gains
- 20% increase in B & O tax
- Property taxes (lifts 1 percent local cap)
- Eliminates tax exemptions
- Graduated Real Estate Excise Tax
- Internet sales tax

Is it any wonder they refuse to vote on their own plan?

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

The Republican-led Majority Coalition Caucus budget in the Senate would reform our school funding to a per pupil system with a minimum \$12,500 dollars attached to every student and even more for students with special needs or circumstances. Every home owner in the 31st Legislative District would see a property tax reduction ranging from a \$453 cut in Sumner to an \$837 cut in Carbonado. EIGHTY-THREE percent of citizens statewide would see a tax rate reduction under the Senate plan.

For the few districts that do not, there is a mechanism within the plan to reduce the rate even further in the years ahead.

Our plan is to use the revenue we currently have, prioritize and live within our means. There is a lot of nonsense being spewed, but the truth boils down to this: They want tax increases, we do not.

I did not come to Olympia to raise your taxes. I came to Olympia to represent the taxpayers.

2017 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

Senator Phil Fortunato

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Keep informed of the issues that impact you!
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SENATOR PHIL FORTUNATO • 31ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT • 2017 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW



King County has a larger population than Pierce and Snohomish counties combined. Increasingly, the rural and suburban people of King County are feeling more distant from a county government that seems to take its cue from Seattle.

I have proposed legislation, SB 5932, that would clearly outline the steps necessary for new counties to be formed. It does not mandate any new county be created, but it establishes the process for those who might seek to create one.

My hope is that Seattle would ultimately become King County and the rest of us could be something else. As a smaller King County, Seattle could still do its crazy stuff—\$25 minimum wages, free needles or campgrounds for drug abusers on public property—but they'd have to use their own money. The rest of us could decide for ourselves what we want to do and rural voters would have better representation.

This could also reduce the outsized influence Seattle has on the rest of the state and the region.

Stay informed on income taxes, car tab taxes and all the big issues in Olympia!
[Sign up for my e-newsletter at SenatorPhilFortunato.com!](http://SenatorPhilFortunato.com)