

Rep. Brandon Vick

18th District

109 SW 1st Street, Ste. 262
Battle Ground, WA 98604

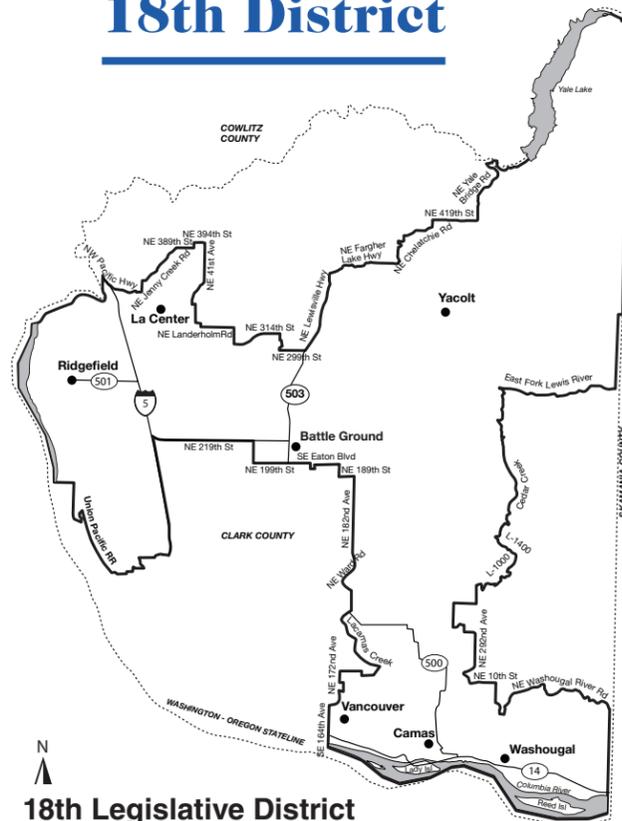
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18th District projects funded in capital budget

With the Hirst agreement, we were able to pass a strong, bipartisan capital budget. We also passed the supplemental capital budget at the end of the session. Projects in the capital budgets include:

- Clark College North County satellite building;
- Ridgefield police station expansion;
- Paradise Point water supply system in Ridgefield;
- Ridgefield Outdoor Recreation Complex;
- Washougal Steamboat Landing dock replacement;
- Columbia River Trail in Washougal;
- Harmony Sports Complex safety improvements; and the
- Yacolt railroad building and museum project.

18th District



18th Legislative District

Rep. Brandon Vick

18th District

Position 1-Vancouver



Keeping in Touch

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- Committees:**
- Appropriations
 - Business and Financial Services
Ranking Republican Member
 - Commerce and Gaming
Asst. Ranking Republican Member



Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The last two years in Olympia have been successful from the standpoint we have stopped major tax increases on Washingtonians. Our state revenue is strong, but we know economies are cyclical. I am very concerned about the level of spending coming out of Olympia. There will inevitably be a downturn in our future and we must begin to prepare for this as a Legislature.

I have heard from many of you who are concerned about the rapid growth in government spending, as well as the escalation of your own property taxes. I have introduced legislation to tackle this problem, and I am excited to share more with you as we enter the 2019 session.

In this legislative report, I will touch on our state's spending and revenue, as well as taxes – property, carbon/energy and a capital gains income tax. I will also share some of the successes I have had in getting legislation through the legislative process the last couple of years.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the Legislature please do not hesitate to contact me. I also encourage you to contact me if you need any assistance with a state government issue. My door is always open.

It is an honor to serve the 18th Legislative District!

Sincerely,

Rep. Brandon Vick

Right to Try



In the 2017 session, the companion bill to my "Right to Try" **House Bill 1242** made it through the Legislature. The new law allows patients who are suffering from a serious or immediate life-threatening disease to request a pharmaceutical manufacturer to make an investigational product available to the patient. The patient's treating physician must recommend treatment with the investigational product after informing the patient of FDA-approved treatment options. This legislation represents several years of hard work, and I am very excited that "Right to Try" is now an option for terminally ill patients.

State Representative Brandon Vick

Crowdfunding

I was successful in passing legislation, **House Bill 1593**, to increase access to capital for small businesses and startup companies. It expands on our state's crowdfunding law, which is a great tool to get businesses started or launch new products. Crowdfunding has become important for many businesses, as it can be a boost to build their company or lay the foundation for a project. I am happy to see this tool available in order to help the average person to help bring their next big idea to fruition.

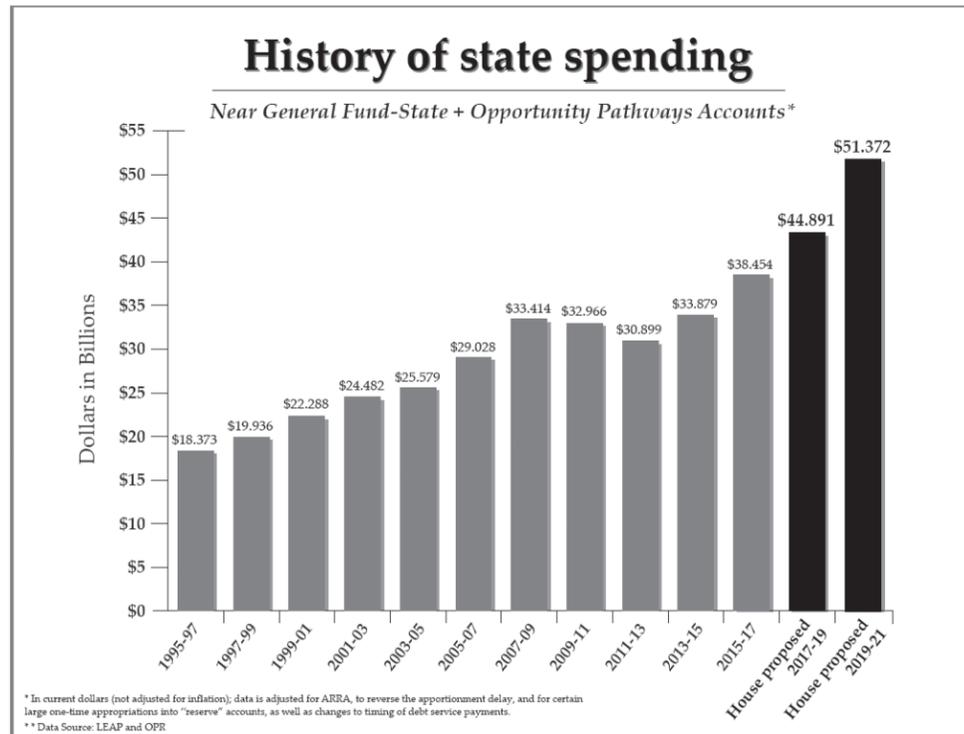


Streamlining business regulations

Improving our business climate in Washington continues to be a top priority for me. Not always an easy task in Olympia. However, I was able to get legislation passed that simplifies insurance transactions and aligns insurance industry standards with other types of commercial transactions. This simplifies the insurance transaction process by establishing an electronic signature is equivalent to a digital signature. Our laws need to keep up with technology. I also passed legislation that streamlines the financial transactions between the spirits and wine industry and restaurants, and other laws that help promote business license reciprocity between states and countries.

Operating budget

I voted against the operating budget this session. It added another \$1.2 billion in a supplemental year, while diverting more than \$700 million from the Budget Stabilization Account or rainy day fund. Voters overwhelmingly voted to create the rainy day fund in order to prevent financial disasters. This budget puts us at risk when the next downturn comes around. The budget also increases spending by about 16 percent over the last biennium and leaves our four-year ending balance at only \$103 million. That is a very small amount when you are talking about a \$44.6 billion operating budget. For historical context, the operating budget was approximately \$31 billion in the 2011-13 biennium.



18th District Legislative Report

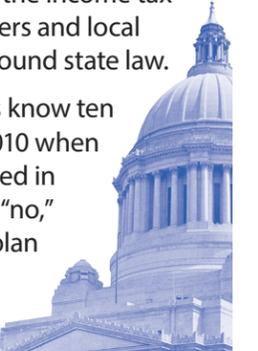
No new taxes!

The legislative session featured a number of proposals to implement new taxes or increase existing ones. The governor's carbon tax proposal was very concerning. His initial plan would have meant a 4-5 percent increase in electricity bills, 10 percent increase on natural gas, and anywhere from a 6-9 percent increase on fuel prices, or approximately 18 cents more a gallon (increasing year after year). This would have hit the low- and middle-income families the hardest. We were able to stop that proposal along with the other tax proposal that will not go away – a capital gains income tax.

Last year, I introduced legislation that would prevent local governments from implementing an income tax. Our state law clearly reads "a county, city, or city-county shall not levy a tax on net income."

My **House Bill 2212** would have prevented local governments from ignoring current law and stopping local governments from taxing individual or household personal income. It did not get a public hearing, but it continues to be a reminder it is necessary to strengthen the 'no local income tax' statute and put an end to the income tax discussion. It is still needed as lawmakers and local entities continue to try to find ways around state law.

The citizens of Washington have let us know ten times since 1933, the latest being in 2010 when the proposed income tax measure failed in all 39 counties with 64 percent voting "no," they do not support an income tax. I plan to introduce my legislation again next session.



Property tax relief coming in 2019

Changes in state education funding, the McCleary fix, local taxing decisions and a sharp increase in property values are driving the increases we are seeing to our property taxes. I certainly feel the pain I believe many of constituents are experiencing. I introduced property tax relief legislation during the session to address the skyrocketing increases.

My **House Bill 3000** would have reduced the assessed value rate to \$2.365 from the McCleary fix rate of \$2.81. The bill would have applied retroactively for state property taxes levied for collection in 2018. Taxpayers who had already paid all or a portion of their property taxes would have received a refund for the difference between what they paid and what they would have paid had this bill been in effect January 1, 2018. Unfortunately, the bill did not receive a public hearing.

The Legislature did pass property tax relief, but it does not go into effect until 2019. It is a one-time property tax cut of \$.30/\$1,000 of assessed value in 2019. House Republicans introduced two other bills to reduce property taxes in 2018 and neither were given a public hearing.

Estimated Local School and State Levy Rates

School District	CY 2018	CY 2019
Battle Ground	6.37	4.09
Camas	5.85	4.09
Evergreen	6.09	4.09
Green Mountain	5.73	4.09
Hockinson	6.31	4.09
LaCenter	5.48	4.09
Ridgefield	5.15	4.09
Vancouver	5.53	4.09
Washougal	5.18	4.09

*rates are estimates

Hirst solution

We had two big wins early in the session. Hirst is the most significant property rights issue that has come before the Legislature since I began representing the 18th District in Olympia. Having no solution would have been a big hit to our real estate and construction industries – critical areas of our economy.

The Hirst solution grandfathers in existing wells and removes the mandate the state Supreme Court imposed on counties to find

legal, available water. This would have been an enormous mandate, particularly for counties with limited resources and funds.

The legislation also addresses the uncertainty and ambiguity surrounding the court's decision. It directs the Department of Ecology to create concise charts for county planners so we know what is being required under water law.

