



SENATOR

Rosemary McAuliffe

1st Legislative District • Washington State



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Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe

represents the 1st Legislative District, covering parts of Snohomish County, including Bothell, Mountlake Terrace, Maltby and Brier. In her fourth term in the Senate, she is chair of the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee and serves on the Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee and the Higher Education & Workforce Development Committees.

Greetings,

We are in challenging times with the downturn in the economy. During the 2009 Legislative session, I focused on education, higher education, creating jobs and transportation. In particular, I worked to lessen impacts on our K-12 education system as we made deep cuts to balance the state's budget. But there is no denying that the state budget reduced services to education, health care and our elderly and disabled communities.

Each of us knows a friend, family member or associate who has lost their job in the last year or two. And in the environment we're now in, it's not easy to find new work. Still, many more worry every day about being laid off. I supported steps this year to increase temporary benefits to laid-off workers and to help them with job retraining. We took steps to support hard-working families, redefine basic education and support business in Washington state.

Inside, you can find out more about significant legislation we took to ensure fairness in the foreclosure process and to help families deal with growing monthly expenses.

Take a moment to read about progress for our local area, what's happening in Olympia and in our state's education system.

Please keep in touch through the phone, my web site or by e-mail.

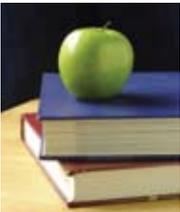
Sincerely,

Rosemary McAuliffe



Senator Rosemary McAuliffe

EDUCATION:



As a parent of six grown children and thirteen grandchildren, and current chair of the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee, the education of our children is my passion. Admittedly, this year was a difficult one, between the economic crisis and a critical need to take major steps to reform our state's school system.

Our schools must keep pace with our changing world so that our children are ready and able to compete in the global economy. The last time the state redefined "Basic Education" was in 1977, when we were using computers

less powerful than many of today's basic cell phones. We can't allow today's economic climate to stifle education reform and hinder an entire generation of students. We simply can't.

I sponsored Senate Bill 5627 in 2007, which created a Basic Education Task Force to rebuild our constitutionally-mandated Basic Education system so that every child has the opportunity to have individualized learning to realize their potential. Our school system must prepare our students for their career or college of their choice; we do this by involving parents and the community, empowering teachers and effectively assessing our school system.

EDUCATION REFORM:

Work in 2007 led to major legislation this year, House Bill 2261, to redefine and implement a new state definition of Basic Education by 2018. It also charts a long-term strategy for reform. Besides laying out new ways of funding our schools, the legislation increases classroom hours and gives students the ability to graduate with 24 credits from high school and includes programs for gifted students. This legislation was not without controversy.

It was a bittersweet victory, yet I supported it and helped to develop it because I strongly believe we need to reform our schools. To do this we need a strong foundation in place.

As we move forward, I am pleased to have been appointed by the governor to the Quality Education Council, which directs the oversight and funding of the education reform movement laid out in House Bill 2261. This work is for our children.

Despite the fact that the state budget has fallen deeply into the red during this recession, I was at the table as we looked at the state education budget. Even though some districts are facing very tough times, we wrote a budget that will largely insulate our public schools from the worst of the financial pain. We also used a significant amount of federal stimulus dollars to cushion our schools during these tough times. This money is one-time money, so we must start real work now to identify and fix structural problems in how we pay for educating our children.

We also lessened the impact on students by minimizing cuts to programs that serve the neediest, like Readiness to Learn and Navigation 101. These programs provide support to some of our most struggling students to give them life skills. And even during these tough economic

times, I'm happy to report that a bill that I brought forward expanding career and technical education passed this session. Senate Bill 5676 gives students in middle school some of the same opportunities as those in high school to get started – and get excited – about math, science or engineering careers. In many of these fields, students must start early. This bill gives them more opportunity to do that.

Even with the efforts we've taken to minimize cuts to education, there is no denying the impact that will be felt. The reduction of Initiative 728's support to struggling students and the freeze of I-732's cost-of-living adjustments will make it harder to keep great teachers in the classroom. Cuts to extra-curricular activities, from sports to music, will also be a reality. For many students, these are pivotal programs that keep them engaged and in school.



I welcome your feedback. If you have questions, concerns or thoughts about our public education system, please contact me. Education is the state's paramount duty, a duty all of us should be committed to. Contact information for my office is located on the front page of the newsletter.

JOBS NOW: ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

Last month, Gov. Gregoire signed the state \$7.5 billion transportation budget approved by the Senate and House. This funding, which comes from sources separate from the operating budget, can only be used for roads and transportation, will mean about 400 new projects around the state and generate as many as 49,000 jobs.

For 2009-2011 alone, almost \$135 million will be invested in projects for our local 1st Legislative District. Ranging from continued funding to finish the UW Bothell Interchange project and significant widening of I-405 throughout the Eastside, much of the funding comes from voter-approved gas taxes. Federal stimulus funding will also be used for ramps from I-405 at 195th to SR 527.

Upgrading Main St., the Wayne curve and Bothell Crossroads

The City of Bothell received a grant in 2007 called the Local Infrastructure Financing Tool. Bothell, as one of only nine cities in Washington to receive this from the state, is allowed to create a special improvement district and put sales taxes generated by a new economic development projects to use in enhancing neighborhood and downtown infrastructure. This funding can only be used on projects that support development in the Bothell area. The boundaries of the new financing district include Main Street, parts of Bothell Way, and the area surrounding Cascadia/UW.



FAMILY SECURITY: JOBS & THE MIDDLE CLASS

Strong and stable families are the foundation of our communities. We took a number of steps to help working people this session.

The Legislature left Olympia at the end of April with a balanced budget and no general tax increases, helping to keep family expenses down. We also increased weekly unemployment benefits by \$45 to quickly help those who have lost their jobs. Those increases are already being sent out in unemployment checks.

For small business owners, we've created a Business & Occupation tax credit for businesses with 10 employees or less. This will allow employers to receive a \$2,000 or \$4,000 B&O tax credit for each new family wage job they create.

Foreclosure Relief

The Legislature passed a bill this year that provides homeowners on the brink of losing their homes a 30-day extension in the foreclosure process for homes bought between 2003 and 2007, and calls for lenders to make reasonable efforts to work out ways to avoid foreclosure. If you're facing foreclosure, contact my office or go to the state's Department of Financial Institutions Web site at www.dfi.wa.gov.



INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY:

Each year, the state invests funding from the capital construction budget. This year, I'm pleased that we were able to secure \$27 million in funding for the Lake Washington Technical College Allied Health Building. Like transportation project funding, these funds are separate from the day-to-day state operating budget. Other job-creating investments for our area include:

- \$9 million for the Northeast King County Skills Center at Lake Washington Technical College
- Continued funding for the Global Arts Building at Cascadia Community College
- \$5 million for the Science Building at UW Bothell



THE ENVIRONMENT:

Our state must continue to take the lead in protecting our environment, because in our beautiful and diverse state we have so much to lose. From the ocean to our many rivers, Puget Sound, the mountains and clean air, we have unique challenges here. During this past legislative session, we required state agencies to reduce their own climate impacts and required the state to purchase cars that have minimum miles-per-gallon and emission levels. We also made progress in two other areas: we ensured that the Neah Bay oil spill prevention tug will remain on duty and be funded by cruise ships, oil tankers and cargo vessels. Finally, we began a bold weatherization effort that will retrofit up to 20,000 homes and businesses across the state to cut energy costs and create jobs at a time we need them.



Sen. McAuliffe test drove a hydrogen fuel cell car at the “Ride and Drive the Future” event at UW Bothell in June. A part of a national tour, the event was sponsored by King County and the City of Bothell. Bothell was one of only four stops in Washington.

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