



Washington State Budget & Legislative Process

Legislative Information Session
December 4, 2008

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Is it really as bad as they say? Yes.

Activity	Budget	% of Total
Educate (K12)	13,651,747	
Medicate (Health Care)	4,926,459	
Incarcerate (Corrections)	2,212,477	
Subtotal	20,790,683	62%
Remaining	12,864,536	38%
% of Shortfall Remaining @ \$6B Deficit	47%	



It hasn't even started, but when will it end?

- ❖ August 2008, agencies start submitting budget requests to the Office of Financial Management (OFM)
- ❖ Fall 2008, OFM reviews requests and provides recommendations to Governor
- ❖ Mid-December 2008, Governor's budget released
- ❖ January 12, 2009, legislative session begins!
- ❖ April 26, 2009, legislative session (regular) ends!!!
- ❖ Or does it? If not, special sessions may be called, each lasting up to 30 days



Legislative session – between the bookends

- ❖ March 4, first policy committee cut-off (house of origin)
- ❖ March 9, first fiscal committee cut-off (house of origin)
- ❖ March 18, last day to consider bills in house of origin (5pm deadline)
- ❖ April 3, second policy committee cut-off (opposite house)
- ❖ April 6, second fiscal committee cut-off (opposite house)
- ❖ April 17, last day to consider bills from the opposite house (5pm deadline) – *except* initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, matters necessary to implement budgets, amendments, differences, and business related to the interim or closing session



Now what?

- When a bill passes *during session and more than five days before adjournment*, the Governor has five days to act on it
- When a bill passes in the final days of session, the Governor has 20 days to act on it after Sine Die
- Gubernatorial action may come in a variety of forms:
 - Passing the bill as-is
 - Vetoing the bill in total
 - Vetoing part of the bill – only whole sections are allowed
- Governor vetoes may be overturned with a 2/3rd vote in both houses

Who are these people?

House

- 62 Ds (63%) and 37 Rs
- Speaker Frank Chopp is from the 43rd District
 - Seattle - Capitol Hill, University District, Madison Park, Washington Park, Broadmoor, Montlake, Wallingford, Madison Valley and parts of Fremont, Ravenna, Denny Regrade and downtown Seattle



Who are those people?

Senate

- 31 Ds (63%) and 18 Rs
- Majority Leader Lisa Brown is from the 3rd District
 - Spokane – Gonzaga, downtown Spokane, lower South Hill, part of North Side





How can you help?

- Provide timely, accurate information on email when requested
- Use this format:
 - Your name and contact information
 - Bill number and title
 - Brief summary on what the bill does (no more than 3 sentences)
 - Pros & Cons of the bill
 - Whether we support, oppose or are neutral on the bill
 - Suggestions for changes, if necessary
 - Be specific! Suggested amendments or language changes are best
 - Best person(s) from UW to speak to the bill in committee
 - Talking points
 - Brevity is key!



Words to the wise...

- ❖ No bill is ever really dead until Sine Die
- ❖ People matter – keep an eye on the sponsor
- ❖ Committee activity is important but never forget the floor
- ❖ If presenting to the Legislature, know your audience
- ❖ Respect the legislative process



For Budget and Policy Bill Assistance...

Please direct bill and budget inquiries to:

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