

2010

# Legislative Preview

Senator  
**Paull Shin**

**Update for the 21st Legislative District**

Dear Neighbors,

My family and I have lived in Edmonds for nearly 42 years first as a graduate student, then as a small business owner, professor and now as your legislator. I've seen our community grow and prosper and come together to face the challenges of our day. However, I have never seen things as bad as they are now. So many people are out of work and while economists say things are getting better, I haven't seen any recovery yet. We need to come together as friends and neighbors to join hands and find a way out of the recession. We need to create jobs, and I believe the quickest way we can do this is to educate more of our students and expand trade with our partners abroad.

The 2010 legislative session began Jan. 11 and is scheduled to last just 60 days. Our biennial "short session" was designed for lawmakers to make any necessary changes to the 2-year operating, capital and transportation budgets so that the state can maintain a balance budget. When we create our budget, we use a complex formula that estimates tax revenues based on economic activity. However, the economy has continued to fall beyond our expectations and we are now faced with another deficit. As required by our state's constitution, Governor Gregoire released a balanced budget proposal based upon projected revenue for the rest of the current biennium. This proposal suggests serious cuts that will devastate the most vulnerable of our neighbors, especially students and seniors. The governor stated deep distress about damaging effects the proposed budget would make. I share her distress and won't let this happen.

I want constituents to feel as informed as possible so I dedicated this newsletter to updates on the current budget environment and my thoughts on a solution. I also included a comment card which I welcome you to detach and send back to my office. Every solution starts with an idea and I would like to hear yours. For example, we know we have to make cuts to state programs. I am constantly hearing about the programs people don't want cut, but in order for one program to be saved, something else has to go. What do you recommend?

I look forward to hearing from you, please stay in touch.

Sincerely,



Sen. Paull Shin  
21st Legislative District



## Please Keep In Touch

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Olympia, WA 98504-0421  
360.786.7640  
shin.paull@leg.wa.gov  
www.senatedemocrats.wa.gov/  
senators/shin

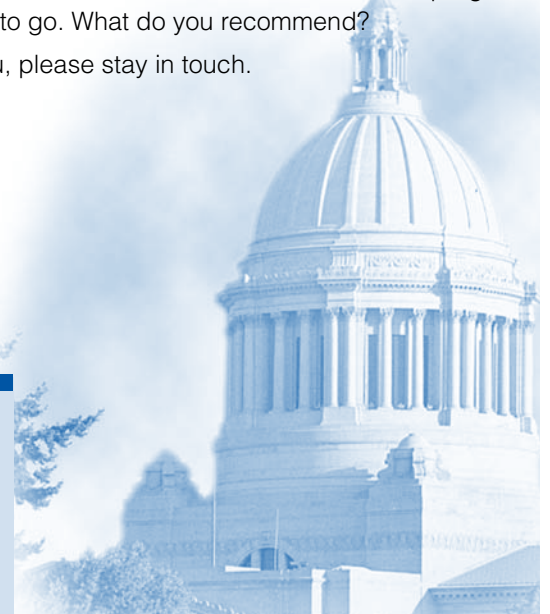
## Senate Committees

- Agriculture & Rural Economic Development
- Economic Development Trade & Innovation (Vice Chair)
- Higher Education & Workforce Development
- International Relations Subcommittee (Chair)
- Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Trade Policy (Chair)

## Join Us For These Town Hall Meetings

Edmonds Woodway High School  
Saturday, February 20  
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Mukilteo City Hall  
Saturday, February 20  
1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.





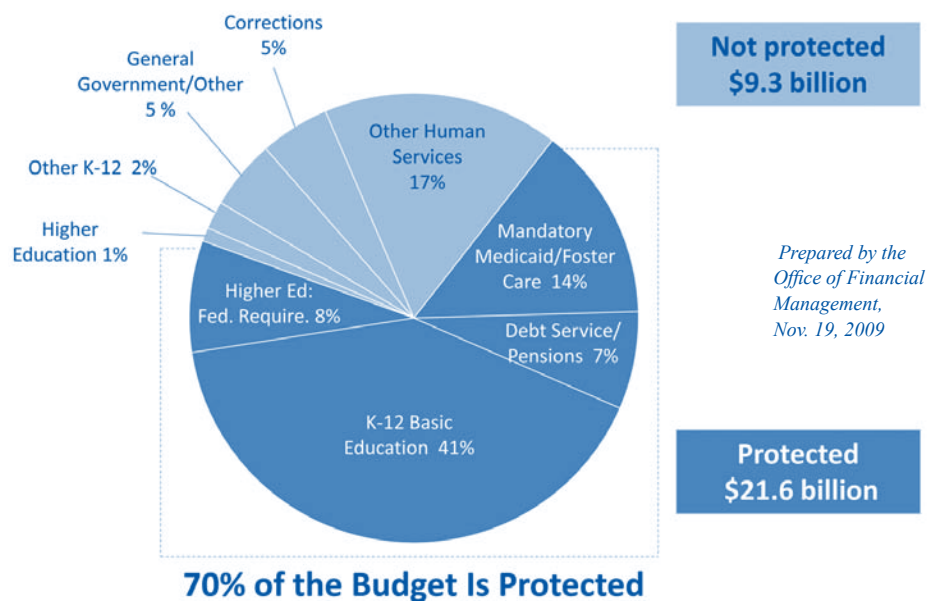
program that provides cash assistance and medical benefits to those who are unemployed due to injury or illness.

Also eliminated was levy equalization money that supports poor, rural school districts.

The governor's plan made deep cuts to financial aid programs for college students, would lay off 1,500 state workers, and would close or downsize nine state institutions, including prisons. Our state's colleges and universities would lose another \$89 million in funding under the governor's proposal. Most health programs for the needy that are not required by the federal would be suspended. That includes adult dental, vision, hospice and maternity care.

As bad as all this sounds, it's important to remember that things could get worse even as we continue to observe signs our economy is turning around. Projected tax collections could still fall in the coming months.

## Majority of \$31 Billion Budget is Protected: Tied to state constitutional or federal requirements



And in 2011 the federal stimulus money that helped us sustain some programs will go away. If anything is clear, it's that this is not a one-year budget problem. That's why it's so important as the

Legislature begins to weigh the merits of one priority versus another that it's done in a thoughtful way with an eye to the future.

## Working Our Way Out of the Budget Crisis

The Governor's proposed budget lays out the potential harm that can happen if we don't act. But the Legislature will consider her proposal and create a budget with the primary goal of helping the economy. As we adjust the budget, we will be looking for the quickest way to recover from the economic recession. We will maintain basic services while balancing our budget, but our primary focus will be jobs. We need to help businesses sell goods abroad and train students for tomorrow's economy. We need to also get back to the basics of economics and

work with the federal government to mitigate the consequences of the banking and housing fiascos. If we can do this together, I'm confident we can look forward to a prosperous 2010. If you have ideas as to how we can move forward, please let me know.

Governor Gregoire's current budget proposal takes the first step by allocating funds to the Worker Retraining Program at the community and technical colleges.

Worker Retraining can help pay for training expenses for individuals

who lost their jobs due to the economy and for those receiving Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Many industries have literally collapsed and we need to provide opportunities for employees to re-tool themselves. This program provides the opportunity to reinvent themselves and possibly even discover a more fulfilling career. To learn more about this program please contact the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges at [www.sbctc.ctc.edu/](http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/) or call 360.704.4400.

# Local Funding Supports Aerospace Jobs

To help jumpstart the economy, the Legislature allocated \$1.5 million in our 2009-2011 budget for projects that retain or create family-wage jobs. Grants are distributed to Innovative Partnership Zones (IPZs) on a competitive basis to projects that show the most potential for building on proven success stories.

The Aerospace Convergence Zone in Snohomish County received \$250,000 from this pool of funds to develop the Washington Aerospace Training and Research Center at Paine Field. The

center will support training and research in the aerospace industry by providing just-in-time training for aerospace workers and ensuring that new technologies are brought to market.

In 2007, I co-sponsored the bill promoting IPZs, so it is wonderful to see the work come full circle with funding.

The IPZ program encourages collaboration to advance innovation and economic development. The \$250,000 will help stimulate the growth of the aerospace industry and the local



economy. I believe we need to look for more opportunities like this, where a small investment from the state can help local businesses train their employees and sell more goods.

SPS#09-7544 SP, 1-2010

## Please stay in touch!

Your comments and concerns are always appreciated. Please take a moment to tell me what's on your mind. Then detach this section and insert into an envelope and mail to us at P.O. Box 40421, Olympia, WA, 98504-0482.

Dear Senator,

Four horizontal lines for writing a message.

~ Optional ~

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

PRSRT STD  
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Olympia, WA  
Permit #133

Edmonds Woodway High School  
Saturday, February 20, 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 a.m.  
Mukiteo City Hall • Saturday, February 20  
1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Washington State Legislature  
**Senator Paull Shin**  
PO Box 40421 • Olympia, WA 98504-0421

