



Senator Tim Sheldon
35th Legislative District

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2010 Session Review

Dear Neighbors –

Throughout this year's 60-day regular session and the 30 day special session, I continued working for a more efficient state government.

During the regular and special session, the Senate took over 625 recorded votes. I was present and voted on every bill. Over my 20 years in Olympia I've seen many legislators miss various votes (often the controversial ones) or even leave on vacation. I am very proud of my perfect voting record in 2010. Representing you is a great privilege.

Below are the results of our survey from earlier this year. Citizens responded and definitely influenced my votes heavily. Clearly, the recession has affected the 35th district in a profound way.

As always, feel free to contact my office at any time if there's anything we can help you with relating to state government.

Sincerely,

Tim Sheldon
State Senator, 35th Legislative District

35th District Survey Results

The Economy

1. Given our state's \$2.6 billion budget deficit, how do you think we should solve the budget gap?

Solve the Budget Gap	%
All cuts	47.75%
New revenues	6.72%
A balance of cuts and new revenues	45.53%

2. If new revenues are passed, what do you think they should be?

New Revenues	%
Property tax	3.39%
Sales tax	21.47%
A targeted sales tax (i.e. on alcohol, tobacco, candy, etc.)	61.42%
An income tax	13.72%

3. If we make more cuts, in what area should they be?

More Cuts	%
Higher Education	9.95%
Social Services	14.62%
K-12 Education	3.94%
Corrections	10.73%
General Government	60.76%

4. Have you or someone in your family been laid off or had your hours cut due to the economic downturn?

Laid off or Hours cut	%
Yes	39.66%
No	60.34%

Transportation

For new major construction projects, tolling will play a bigger role.

5. Would you be open to using "Good to Go" wireless transponders to pay for new projects in our state?

Tolling – Wireless transponders	%
Yes	66.19%
No	33.81%

Government Consolidation

One other cost cutting measure would be to consolidate our state's Departments of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Fish and Wildlife, and share resources between them.

6. Would you support a consolidation and share resources between similar agencies?

Consolidation and Share resources	%
Yes	84.47%
No	15.53%

Here's my voting record on some major issues for 2010

Overturning Initiative 960 – SB 6130	I voted NO	Vote: 26-22
<i>I-960, which required a two-thirds vote for tax increases, was approved in 2007 by over 55% of the 35th district voters. I felt that I should not overturn your decision to hold tax increases to a higher standard, especially during a deep recession.</i>		
Raising Taxes – SB 6143	I voted NO	Vote: 25-21
<i>I don't think the middle of a recession is a time to raise taxes. This bill raises taxes for businesses and consumers, and is the wrong way to solve our state's budget problems. Reforming the state's liquor monopoly would have saved over \$350 million.</i>		
2009 Supplemental Operating Budget – SB 6444	I voted NO	Vote: 25-21
<p><i>Our spending should have been prioritized and curtailed before the legislature increased spending again. The \$31 billion supplemental operating budget closed the budget shortfall with:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="display: inline-block; width: 45%;"><i>• \$757 million in new tax increases</i> <li style="display: inline-block; width: 45%;"><i>• \$755 million in spending reductions</i> <li style="display: inline-block; width: 45%;"><i>• \$618 million in anticipated federal funds</i> <li style="display: inline-block; width: 45%;"><i>• \$229 million taken from the state's Rainy Day reserves</i> <li style="display: inline-block; width: 45%;"><i>• \$690 million in state fund transfers</i> <p><i>The 2010 operating budget still spent more than \$200 million more than the 2009 budget.</i></p>		
2010 Capital Budget – ESHB 2836	I voted YES	Vote: 33-13
<i>This is our annual construction budget, which creates jobs and provides crucial investments in our state's schools and infrastructure, including \$4.8 million for the Belfair sewer project and \$2.6 million in pre-design funds for expanding the Washington Corrections Center to increase capacity as other facilities are closed for budget savings. Also included are funds for energy saving retrofits that will save in energy expenses and extend the life of our schools.</i>		
2010 Transportation Budget – SB 6381	I voted YES	Vote: 41-3
<i>The budget will create 18,000 jobs primarily in road and bridge construction.</i>		
Withholding bail for dangerous offenders – HJR 4220	I voted YES	Vote: 48-0
<i>Our state constitution guarantees bail for those accused of serious felonies. However, a two-strike offender like Maurice Clemmons who assassinated four Lakewood Police officers should have never been able to make bail. You will be able to decide this serious issue by voting on a Constitutional amendment in November to give judges greater discretion in setting bail and protecting the public.</i>		
B&O Tax Credit for Small Businesses – SB 5899	I voted YES	Vote: 46-0
<i>Creates a tax credit of up to \$4,000 per job for businesses of 20 or fewer employees that create family-wage jobs. As many as 5,000 jobs could be created. This will help small businesses stay in business, keep existing jobs, and help get unemployed Washingtonians back to work.</i>		
"Race to the Top" Education Bill – SB 6696	I voted YES	Vote: 41-5
<i>We continued the path towards reforming schools with a bill that deals with accountability, teacher evaluation, parental and community involvement, educator preparation and state standards.</i>		
Helping Veteran-owned businesses – SB 5041	I voted YES	Vote: 48-0
<i>After long deployments and travel around the world, veterans returning home from service often find it difficult to re-establish the connections necessary to help their businesses thrive. This will require the state to develop a directory of veteran-owned businesses and also encouraging state agencies to increase the number of contracts awarded to those businesses.</i>		
Local Campaign Contribution limits – SB 6344	I voted YES	Vote: 39-9
<i>For too long special interests have had free reign over local campaigns because a loophole in our laws allowed them to donate an unlimited amount of money to candidates in most city and county elections. Now we've streamlined our campaign laws and standardized contribution limits.</i>		
Making initiatives more difficult – SB 6449 & SB 6665	Bills died in committee	
<i>Several bills came forward this year that would have severely altered the way our initiative process works. I worked hard to see all new restrictions fail in the legislature, keeping the voice of the people very much alive in the legislative process.</i>		
Safe baby bottles – SB 6248	I voted YES	Vote: 36-9
<i>Recent research has shown that a chemical called BPA, often found in baby bottles, can have harmful side effects. We are banning the sale of bottles containing this harmful substance and keeping families safe.</i>		
Nursing Home Rate Increase – SB 6872	I voted NO	Vote: 30-14
<i>This bill will increase rates for nursing home operators and patients. Now is not the right time to raise rates on seniors and families on fixed incomes.</i>		

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