

**Robert**

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**To:** vicechair@11thliddems.org  
**Subject:** FW: E-Newsletter: March 5, 2013

**From:** Rep. Zack Hudgins [mailto:RepZackHudgins@updates.leg.wa.gov]



## E-Newsletter: March 5, 2013

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### 11th District Town Hall - Sat., March 16th



**Representative  
Zack Hudgins**

11th Legislative  
District

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Olympia, WA 98504-0600

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### Town Hall Info:

You are invited to join me for a town hall meeting with Sen. Bob Hasegawa and Rep. Steve Bergquist on Saturday, March 16th from 1-2 pm at the King County Regional Communications & Emergency Coordination Center (RCECC) in the Renton Highlands. I hope to talk with many of you about our work so far this legislative session and provide an update on the next biennial budget for the state.

Afterwards, our hosts at the King County Office of Emergency Management have graciously offered to take us on a tour of the facility and provide a glimpse into the vital work our public agencies do to keep us safe. If rock and roll history is also your style, you can also take a moment to visit the grave of Jimi Hendrix in the neighboring Greenwood Cemetery.

Information on the town hall can be found in the sidebar to the left.

**Date/Time/Location:**

**Saturday, March 16th**

1-2 pm, RCECC tour to follow

**King County Regional  
Communications &  
Emergency Coordination  
Center (RCECC)**

3511 NE 2nd Street

Renton, WA 98056

**Directions:**

*Please note: RCECC  
staff warn that GPS devices  
sometime give inaccurate  
directions there.*

*From I-405 Southbound:*

- Take I-405 Exit 4, get into  
the far left lane and turn left  
onto NE 3rd.

- Turn right onto Monroe.

- Turn left onto NE 2nd St.

- Just past KC Dist. Court,  
turn right onto the RCECC  
driveway.

- The building is at the end of  
the driveway. Park in the lot  
on the right.

*From I-405 Northbound:*

- Take I-405 Exit 4 and follow  
the sign for Bronson Way.

- Turn right at the light and  
follow the sign for Sunset Blvd  
NE.

- Turn right onto NE 3rd.

- Turn right onto Monroe.

- Turn left onto NE 2nd St.

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## My Time

My time is being spent in a narrow line of topics. I am on four committees: [Business and Financial Services](#), [Technology and Economic Development](#), and [Appropriations](#), and I am the chair of the [Appropriations Committee on General Government](#).

As the chair of a budget committee, I am spending a lot of time in meetings - not just on our whole State General Fund budget, but specifically on the general government portion of the budget. Our state budget is over \$32 billion with the majority of that going to education funding. The general government portion of that budget covers almost 70 state agencies and over \$3 billion. Over half of that amount is spent on the Department of Corrections.

While I am always looking for better ways to make government work, I am also working through a number of budget challenges. Governor Gregoire had over \$378 million in information technology requests that need to be considered. Our state parks continue to face budget difficulties despite cuts to personnel and the implementation of the Discover Pass. I also have met with the new Governor and many agency heads to talk about the best way to run our many state agencies.

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## Important Legislation

### Toxic-Free Children and Families Act

For years, I have fought to protect kids from harmful toxics. In the past, we banned BPA and PBDEs. This year, we want to ban two forms of TRIS which were removed from kids pajamas in the 1970's, but have recently returned to use:

Here is a link to the bill information: [HB 1294](#)

Here is a link to more information on the topic: [Toxic-Free Kids and Families Act introduced](#)

Here is a video explaining why this is so important: [Video](#)

### Washington State DREAM Act

I want to level the playing field for kids who graduate from our high schools and get into our colleges. Some young people don't have access to college financial aid because of where they were born. This is why I am working with Republicans to pass HB 1817, which will help these kids compete for financial aid.

Here is a link to the bill information: [HB 1817](#)

Here is a link to my CNN/Comcast interview on the bill: [Video](#)

Here are links to recent news media on the bill:

- Just past KC Dist. Court, turn right onto the RCECC driveway.

- The building is at the end of the driveway. Park in the lot on the right.

- Bill would help immigrants pay for school - [Tacoma News Tribune](#) & [Bellingham Herald](#)
- College aid for young immigrants bill advances - Associated Press via [The Daily News](#)

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## In the News

### State Supreme Court issues I-1053 ruling

On February 28, the state Supreme Court issued its long-awaited decision on the constitutionality of I-1053, the initiative requiring a two-thirds vote of the legislature to either raise taxes or close tax loopholes. The court ruled that this “supermajority requirement” is unconstitutional.

The court case began a couple of years ago, borne out of the inability of a simple majority of House legislators to close an outdated tax loophole in our state that only benefitted large, out-of-state banks. They wanted to close this loophole in order to fund classroom size reductions in our public schools instead. But because of the supermajority requirement, a minority of legislators was able defeat the bill in the House, and Wall Street banks triumphed over Washington’s schoolchildren.

The Supreme Court made it clear this week that this is not the way our government is supposed to function. Our state constitution says that a simple majority is required to pass any legislation, and an initiative cannot override the constitution. This ruling clarifies our responsibilities as legislators and protects the people from what the court called “the tyranny of the minority.”

### Sequestration hits home

Senator Patty Murray recently paid a visit to the House Democratic caucus here in Olympia, and she didn’t try to sugarcoat the news about the looming sequester and its impact. The sequester is the automatic cuts to the federal budget that are triggered if Congress does not reach a budget by March 1. Senator Murray expressed her frustration at the lack of progress towards a deal, and was not hopeful that one would be reached before the deadline.

Unfortunately, her fears were correct and the deadline has passed. [Our state now faces cuts](#) that threaten jobs and family security and hurt some of our most vulnerable citizens. For example:

- 160 teacher and aide jobs are at risk as we lose \$11.6 million in funding for primary and secondary education
- 440 low income students in our state won’t receive aid to help them finance the costs of college
- Approximately 29,000 civilian Department of Defense employees throughout our state face furloughs, resulting in millions of dollars in reduced pay for working families
- Approximately 1,000 low income children will lose access to critical early childhood education

Our state, and our country, deserves better than this. Congress must act quickly to undo these damaging cuts before they cause lasting economic damage.

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## Not Important News

### New Look for the New Term

I quit shaving for a few days before session began. The resulting beard proved popular enough with my wife that I decided to keep it into session. Here is my new official House photo (*no comments about the gray, please!*). I think every elected official, staffer, and lobbyist in Olympia has offered an opinion on my beard.



### Marriage Solemnization Bill

A few years ago, I had a bill that would have allowed elected officials to solemnize marriages. I thought I would introduce it again and it got caught up in a bunch of implementation problems.

But, here is a nice article on the bill: [Mayor as minister?](#)

Here is a link to the bill itself: [HB 1589](#)

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## Have you heard our new podcast?

There's a new podcast in the House Democrats audio lineup, and it's called the [House Majority Report](#). It's a weekly, three-to-five minute conversation with a member of the House Democrats' leadership team about current legislative issues. New podcasts are released every Friday on our website, or you can subscribe to it on iTunes (just search for Washington State House Majority Report).

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## Another Pitch for the Town Hall

Once again, I would like to invite you to join your legislators from the 11th District for an open Town Hall on Saturday, March 16th with brief presentations, questions, and a tour of the KC-RCECC.

Date: Saturday, March 16th, 2013

Time: 1-2 pm, RCECC tour to follow

Location: King County Regional Communications & Emergency Coordination Center (RCECC), 3511 NE 2nd Street, Renton, WA 98056.

Directions are in the sidebar to the left and above. See you there!

Rep. Zack Hudgins - 11th Leg. District - (800) 562-6000 - [zack.hudgins@leg.wa.gov](mailto:zack.hudgins@leg.wa.gov)

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This service is provided to you at no charge by [Rep. Zack Hudgins](#).

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This email was sent to [robert@digitalsingularity.com](mailto:robert@digitalsingularity.com) using GovDelivery, on behalf of: Rep. Zack Hudgins · 2404 Chandler Court SW, Olympia, WA 98502-6052 1-360-786-7000

