

37TH DISTRICT DEMOCRATS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – PRESENTATION NOTES

(John Stafford; April 8, 2019)

1. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

- Sharon Tomiko Santos: comments incorporated in update (underlined)
- Summary: 2,500 bills in 5 minutes; merely a brief summary

2. THE 2019 SESSION

- Full Session: 3 Budgets and 105 days
 - About 85 days in – Session Ends April 28
 - Next Year: Short Session (Modify budgets; 60 days)
- Democratic majorities in both chambers
 - House: 57-41
 - Senate: 27-22

3. THREE BUDGETS

- Operating Budget
 - Inslee proposal = \$54.4 billion
 - House Democrats proposal = \$52.8 billion
 - \$1.4 billion in new taxes
 - Senate Democratic proposal = \$52.2 billion
 - \$520 million in new taxes
- Capital Gains Proposals
 - Inslee = 9%/25,000 and 50,000/exemptions
 - House = 9.9%/100,000 and 200,000/exemptions
 - Senate = 8.9%/250,000+/exemptions
 - But to be passed as separate bill
 - Unclear if it will pass
 - Note: If Capital Gains Tax passes in Legislature, it will be challenged in Court
- Sharon Tomiko Santos: Concern about revenue
 - House budget calls for more funding than Senate
 - Funding necessary for priorities
 - e.g., special education funding
 - Possibility of Special Session to Discuss Revenue
- Transportation Budget
 - Amount = Roughly \$10 billion proposal (both chambers)

- Working out differences between two chambers
 - Status = New ferry boats; remove barriers to salmon migration; I-5 bridge over Columbia; I-405 improvements; etc.
- Capital Budget
 - Working out differences between the two chambers
 - Sharon Tomiko Santos: Concern about Capital Budget
 - Ethiopian Community Center and 100 Senior Housing Units
 - In House Budget but not Senate Budget
 - Can call Committee Members to support inclusion of funding for Ethiopian Community Center in budget

4. K-12 LOCAL LEVIES

- Recall: McCleary = Levy swap, to have state pay for basic education
 - Part of motivation = equity
- Proposal (SB 5313 from Lisa Wellman)
 - From \$1.50 per \$1,000 in assessed property value or \$1,500 per student; whichever is lower
 - To \$2.50 per \$1,000 in assessed property value or \$2,500 to \$3,000 per student (depending on enrollment size of the school district)
 - Local districts argue that more money is needed for special education; but others argue that this is not necessary given that the state is working to address special education independently
- Two Concerning Amendments (SB 5313)
 - Guy Palumbo (D) – Allows charter school funding from local levies
 - Mark Mullet (D) – Teacher salary increase claw-back
 - Sharon Tomiko Santos calls amendments “poison pills”
- Three Camps:
 - Don’t support the proposal (Seattle Times)
 - Support it without the amendments (Sharon Santos)
 - Support it with amendments (Mullet and Palumbo)

5. K-12 EDUCATION – OTHER

- Special education: Sharon Tomiko Santos Comments
 - This biennium = \$800 million increase
 - Next biennium = More

- Sharon Tomiko Santos: Concern about capital gains tax – if it doesn't pass, there could be negative ramifications for special education funding
- New special education inclusion model to be piloted in 8-10 districts
- Sharon Tomiko Santos: Three Priority K-12 Bills
 - Educator Shortage
 - School and Student Safety
 - Multiple Pathways to Demonstrate High School Proficiency
- No passage of bill to increase standards for testing for lead in school districts' drinking water (HB 1860)
- Bill to require fact-based and science-based comprehensive sex education in public schools (SB 5395 – Senator Rebecca Saldana sponsor; and HB 1407 – Sharon Tomiko Santos Sponsor)
 - SB 5395 has passed Senate

6. HIGHER EDUCATION

- Workforce Education Investment Act (HB 2158) – Discussed in today's Seattle Times
 - Increase college financial aid
 - Salary increases for Community College Faculty who teach high-demand classes (e.g., nursing)
 - Community College – streamlined pathways
 - These programs to be paid for by surcharge on B&O tax (e.g., on Microsoft and other large employers)

7. STATE PRIMARY

- Three issues
 - Legislature voted to move primary from May to March
 - Roughly 15th earliest state to hold primary
 - State Democratic Party voted to utilize primary to determine number of delegates
 - Small caucuses will be used to select individual delegates
 - Kim Wyman (Secretary of State) is looking into possibility of establishing a joint primary date with other West Coast States, and establishing a regional primary

8. CLIMATE CHANGE

- A new approach this year from Governor Inslee
 - No focus on carbon tax (failed several times at the ballot)
 - Focus on series of smaller measures
- Eliminate coal by 2025
- Electrifying the Grid by 2045 (HB 5116) – Passed by Senate
 - Rebecca Saldana Sponsor
- Clean Fuels (HB 1110) – Passed by House
 - Joe Fitzgibbon Sponsor
- Clean Buildings Act (HB 1257; SB 5293): Retrofits for 6% of commercial buildings – Passed by House
- Banning Super-pollutant Hydro-fluorocarbons
- Electric vehicle incentives
- Solar Incentives

9. Orca Recovery

- Inslee budget calls for \$1.1 billion in new spending and multiple bills
 - Three-year moratorium on whale-watching
 - Increased dam spill to allow greater fish passage
 - Culvert repairs
 - Investigate dam-breaching on lower Snake River
 - Oil spill prevention – passed House

10. I-1000 (Affirmative Action)

- To repeal ban on the use of affirmative action in Washington State
 - I-200 (1998)
- “The use of affirmative action that does not constitute preferential treatment.”
- Sharon Tomiko Santos: There is a hearing on Thursday, 4/18/19 at 8:00 to 8:30 am

11. Police Use of Deadly Force bill to amend I-940

- Amended (HB 1064)

12. Mental Health

- From large, centralized model (Western State Hospital in Lakewood and Eastern State Hospital in Spokane) to a smaller, decentralized, community-based facility model
 - Western State lost accreditation
 - Also: New Teaching Hospital for Mental Health at the UW

13. Health Care – Public Option

- Called “Cascade Care”
- Senate passed bill to study how to create universal health care in state

14. Vaccines

- Eliminate philosophical objections to mandatory child vaccination (HB 1638; SB 5841)
 - Passed House
 - Sharon Santos sponsor

15. Gun Control

- Measures to make semi-automatic rifles illegal and to ban high-capacity magazines failed
- Bump-stock weapon buyback program established

16. Marijuana and Tobacco Regulation

- Less regulation of marijuana
 - Legalize out-of-state ownership
 - Allow larger businesses -- 7 shops
 - Senator Rebecca Saldana sponsor
- Tobacco and vapor products legal age use: from 18 to 21 (HB 1074) – Passed both chambers

17. Homelessness

- Extend pay or vacate notification period from 3 to 14 days
- Requiring landlords to notify tenants 120 days in advance of demolition plans
- Trio of GOP lawmakers (Hans Zeiger; Shelly Short; Randi Becker): 20 Proposals (November)
 - Make it easier to build tiny houses in rural areas

- Property tax break for seniors and disabled veterans and freeze property valuations on their homes
- Allow counties to opt out of the Growth Management Act

18. Public Records Act

- Jamie Pederson (D 43rd) – Public Records Act -- Failed
 - Define exemptions and protocols
 - Criticized by Seattle Times

19. Presidential Tax Returns (SB 5078)

- Patti Kuderer and Senator Rebecca Saldana, Sponsors
- Requires candidates for president and vice president to release tax returns for five years prior to appearing on ballot

20. Other

- Sexual Harrassment: Office that would be Independent of Legislature to investigate complaints – did not pass
- Sanctuary Cities: More robust Sanctuary Cities protocols (Lisa Wellman)
- Foster Care: More funding, to reduce, for example, out-of-state and hotel placements
 - Requested by Ross Hunter, Department of Children, Youth and Families)
 - Don't jail foster care runaways (SB 5290) – Passed Senate
 - Senator Rebecca Saldana sponsor
- Seattle Density: Bills to prevent cities from managing parking, etc. to eliminate barriers to density (SB 5812; HBs 1797 and 1923) – to allow density
 - Criticized by the Seattle Times
- Fiscal Responsibility bills (Drew Stokesbury) to reduce/manage state spending
 - HB 2149 = Zero-based budgeting
 - HB 2150 = Sunset new spending programs after 10 years
 - HB 2151 = Dynamic scoring
 - HB 2152 = Balance budgets over 6 year period
- Plastic bag ban (HB 1205)
 - Has not passed
- Ballot drop boxes for all requesting tribes

- Daylight Savings: Make permanent
- Gun Control: Expand extreme risk protection orders for gun purchases to youths to reduce school shootings
- Worker Rights: Banning non-compete clauses (raised from \$100,000 to \$180,000 via Amazon lobbying efforts)
- Data privacy – the right to know what data companies are collection on you (SB 5376; Reuven Carlyle)
- Behavioral Health: Family based care model for opioid addiction
 - Inslee budget = \$30 million
- Funding for sexual assault kit testing at Washington State Patrol
- Safe Consumption Spaces
 - U.S. District Attorney for Western Washington, Moran