

19th District Update & Disaster Relief Guide

From Your Legislators



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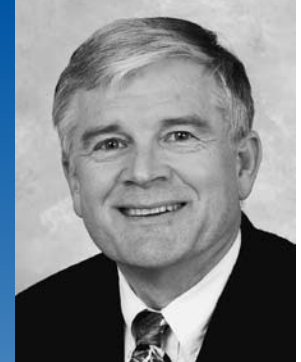
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Dear Neighbors,

Many families, communities and businesses suffered the effects of the storms, floods and wind damage last month. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. We are committed to getting relief where it's needed in the 19th District, including money proposed in Gov. Gregoire's budget for housing, small business recovery and other assistance. In this newsletter are some ways that families can find help and begin the long task of rebuilding and restoring their lives. Please call our legislative offices if you need other assistance.

We also outline our work for the session in this newsletter. If you would like to get involved, give us a call, e-mail, or just stop on by our offices.

Sincerely,

Sen. Brian Hatfield

Rep. Brian Blake

Rep. Dean Takko

Toll-free Legislative Hotline:

1-800-562-6000 • TTY: 1-800-635-9993

Legislative information on the

Internet: www.leg.wa.gov

Disaster Relief Guide



Contacts and Information

General information on the Washington disaster recovery: visit www.fema.gov or www.wadisasternews.com

Federal Disaster Phone Numbers:

1-800-621-FEMA (3362)

1-800-462-7585 (speech and hearing impaired)

1-800 745-0243 (FEMA Technical Helpdesk)

Recommended relief organizations:
<http://www.emd.wa.gov/>.

Other Federal Agencies

Housing Resources Help Line
866-233-7643

U.S. Small Business Administration
800-659-2955

National Flood Insurance Program
800-427-4661 (TTY* 800-427-5593)

Local Farm Service Agency
360-748-0083

Internal Revenue Service
800-829-1040 (TTY* 800-829-4059)

Social Security Administration
800-772-1213

Department of Veterans Affairs
800-827-1000

State Agencies

Attorney General's Consumer Hotline
800-551-4636

Washington Insurance Commissioner
800-562-6900

Disaster Unemployment
877-416-7274

Crisis Counseling Hotline
800-850-8775

Disaster Legal Services
866-519-7099

Storm-related community resources and services 2-1-1

Assistance Available

Assistance appeals. Although the deadline for disaster relief application to FEMA was Feb. 7, you may be able to appeal either a denial or an award amount. Call FEMA, or visit their websites to learn about the appeal process.

Whether you contact FEMA online or over the phone please have the following information ready:

- Your Social Security number
- Current and pre-disaster address
- A telephone number where you can be contacted
- Insurance information
- Total household annual income
- A routing and account number from your bank (only necessary if you want to have disaster assistance funds transferred directly into your bank account)
- A description of your losses that were caused by the disaster

Even if you have insurance, there may be assistance available if your insurance settlement is delayed, insufficient or other facts. You may also qualify for housing needs assistance or other assistance. If you applied for assistance, contact FEMA to learn more.

Farm/Agricultural Damages: If you had damages to your crops, livestock, farm equipment, barns, dairy, or other parts of your farm, you should contact your local Farm Services Agency office (360-748-0083) to inquire about the USDA's disaster assistance program.

Free crisis counseling for Washington families in Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific and Thurston counties suffering stress, anxiety or depression as a result of the severe storms, wind, mudslides, landslides, and floods. Hotline number is 1-800-850-8775 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. seven days a week.

Property Taxes: Any real or personal property that has been damaged or destroyed is eligible for a reduction of assessed value that would result in lower property taxes and possible refunds. Property owners may apply for relief on forms available at county assessor offices or download the form online at <http://dor.wa.gov>. An application must be filed within three years of the date of destruction or reduction in value.

Washington State Department of Revenue 1-800-647-7706.

Grays Harbor County Assessor's Office (360) 249-4121

Pacific County Assessor's Office (360) 875-9301.

Wahkiakum County Assessor's Office. (360) 795.3791.

Cowlitz County Assessor's Office (360) 577-3010



Sen. Brian Hatfield

2008 Priorities

Disaster Response Account

Like you, I was stunned and saddened to see the December storms ravage what hard working families labored for generations to build. The losses have been staggering both financially and emotionally, but I believe we will emerge stronger than ever in 2008. I am pushing for policy changes to improve levies and repair damaged infrastructure. Governor Gregoire is asking for \$10 million in housing assistance for victims and another \$15 million in new appropriations to the Disaster Response Account. At the federal



level, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Small Business Administration are extending grants and loans to help our citizens recover. Grays Harbor, Pacific and Wahkiakum Counties have all qualified for FEMA assistance for public infrastructure and individual assistance. This is a good start.

Cowlitz County Judges

I was glad to have the opportunity to sponsor Senate Bill 6252, which was requested by Cowlitz County. This bill is intended to create a new District Court judge position. This is an important step in easing pressure on the county's courts.

Property Taxes

I am also working on economic reforms to help taxpayers. I am co-sponsoring legislation which will allow counties to pass an ordinance that will allow taxpayers to pay their taxes on a monthly basis, Senate Bill 6234.

State Parks

Improving our state parks will be another priority, in anticipation of the Bicentennial of State Parks in 2013. I am working hard to pass Senate Bill 5043, also known as the "Penny for Parks" bill. If passed by the Legislature and then approved by the voters, this will dedicate as much as \$9 million a year of the state property tax levy to help state parks after recent cuts in funding.

On a personal note I would like to thank you for your cards, letters and well wishes. It has not been an easy time for my family. What has sustained me is my deep faith in God and the love I have received from all of you. In addition, I would like to thank my hardworking staff for their dedication. My Legislative Assistant Vickie Winters, Session Aide Barb Westrick and Intern, Katie Southwick.

Rep. Dean Takko

Bills for 2008

Eluding police. I'll keep fighting for stiffer sentencing of criminals who try to elude law-enforcement officers in car chases.

When these criminals run from the police, they put the rest of us at risk, including kids on their way to school, folks out shopping, and pedestrians minding their own business on the sidewalk. The current penalty for a first-time offender is



30 days in jail. I say let's bring that up to a year behind bars. My point is that offenders need to know they will pay a high price for endangering other people. Now's the time to get tougher on scofflaws who snub the wheels of justice.

Uninsured motorists. I will keep working for legislation aimed at reducing the number of uninsured motorists in our state. My bill would require that vehicle owners who fail to provide proof of insurance must pay a \$50 fine, and provide proof of financial responsibility the next time they register their vehicle. Right now, it is estimated that between 17 percent and 20 percent of Washington drivers are uninsured. According to a recent study, the number of uninsured motorists in Illinois went from 17 and a half percent down to four and a half percent with the introduction of a similar law in that state.

Infrastructure task force. I was a member of a committee over the interim that looked at how our state determines which capital projects should be pursued and funded. The idea is to get the very best bang for taxpayer dollars in school-building, public utilities, highway projects, and other essential parts of our infrastructure.

Local-government bills. I know we'll have a slate of relatively small but nonetheless timely measures involving city, county and other local-government concerns. We need to streamline the regulatory process, and make it more efficient and "user-friendly" for local people and businesses.

Committees for 2008

Local Government. I was proud to be elected vice chair of the House Local Government Committee for the 2008 Legislature. The Local Government Committee reviews matters that involve the operations and financing of counties, cities, and special districts other than school districts.

Technology, Energy & Communications.

The House Technology, Energy & Communications Committee considers deployment, regulation, and access to technology and electronic communications. We also review energy availability, production, and conservation, and related infrastructure issues.

Transportation. The House Transportation Committee considers the transportation budget, revenue sources for transportation funding.

Rep. Brian Blake

2008 Priorities

Agriculture and natural resources. As the newly elected chair of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, I will work on creative and constructive solutions to pressing natural resources concerns.

Specifically, I'll follow up on the economic viability of farms, through Critical Areas Ordinance reform.



Protecting outdoor sports access to public lands. I have introduced a bill to open up more state lands to hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. As

a lifelong fisherman and hunter, I believe people in Washington deserve access to public lands for recreation.

Protecting transportation projects.

State Route 6, Highway 12 and other critical roads need to be maintained and expanded. All three of us will work on keeping those projects on track. I will also work to fund the Cathlamet ferry.

Build on past successes in job development and environmental cleanup.

- Thanks to a fruit and vegetable processing tax exemption, Ocean Spray is expanding to locally process cranberries.
- The new Grays Harbor Sustainable Industries Innovation Partnership Zone will continue our region's rapid growth in bioenergy and cutting-edge research.
- We are winning the fight against spartina on Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor. We need to continue the good work.
- Cowlitz River dredging will increase commerce and accessibility. We funded it in the last budget and need to continue.

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