



# MUTTERINGS...



Keeping Benton County Voters Informed

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## A TALE OF THREE BUDGETS

From the Washington House Republicans Daily Digest Bulletin

### Supplemental Operating Budget ([link](#))

The House Democrats rolled out their supplemental operating budget, including \$119.5 million in new tax increases.

This budget was heard in the House Appropriations Committee on Monday, voted out of that committee on Tuesday, and passed off the House floor yesterday on a narrow 50-47 vote -- with one Democrat excused from voting. Our concerns with this proposal include new tax increases, an over reliance on the Budget Stabilization Account and the use of an accounting gimmick to balance the four-year outlook. We offered 35 amendments during the debate, but only nine were accepted.

The good news is the Senate Majority Coalition Caucus has proposed a more balanced, fiscally responsible alternative. It does not rely on new tax increases and does not raid the Budget Stabilization Account.

House Democrats have once again rolled out tax-increase proposals, which have failed several times in the past, in an effort to increase state spending. This year's version includes six proposals that would raise taxes by \$397.9 million over the ongoing and next two-year budget cycle. While their supplemental operating budget is built on these new tax collections, House Democrats refuse to actually vote on the legislation that would authorize them.

### House supplemental transportation budget, I-405 problems

The supplemental transportation budget also passed off the House floor yesterday, but with a more bipartisan 84-13 vote.

There are a lot of things to like about this budget, including funding for: the recruitment, retention and increased compensation for the Washington State Patrol; structurally deficient bridges; and Republican-sponsored bills. There are also some problems with this plan, including funding for a controversial road user charge pilot program.

The House supplemental transportation budget also includes funding for the I-405 changes proposed by the governor recently. Unfortunately, the governor's plan doesn't address the root problem for I-405.

### House Supplemental Capital Budget ([link](#))

The bipartisan House supplemental capitol budget was unveiled at a news conference on Wednesday. Also known as the construction budget, state representatives laid out plans to build K-3 classrooms, improve our state's mental health system, help homeless youth, and fund the Public Works Trust Fund. This budget is expected to reach the House floor early next week.



## NOBODY CARES!!!!

Perhaps you understood this process, but since I didn't, I called our county Auditor's election office and ask them, "What is the process you use to verify the citizenship of a voter?" I was given the standard registration form information which explains that a person must sign their form certifying that they are a citizen and give either their drivers' license number which would reflect their residence or the last four digits of their social security number.

"Does anyone verify any of this information as being correct," I asked.

"We do nothing in this office to verify these forms, they are simply sent to the State Auditor's office and put on the books." was the answer.

So, I called the Secretary of State and asked again, "What is done to verify that all voters are citizens?"

I was told that each voter must sign the registration form verifying they are a citizen and put down their address with proper identification numbers. No one checks on the identification number because there is no master list of who is a citizen to check against. But, it is a felony to register to vote if you are not a citizen, said as if that might be a deterrent to lying.

"Who would know if you are a citizen or not?" I ask.

"If you know your neighbor is not a citizen then you can report it to your County Auditor and then they will remove their name from the list of voters."

I asked if that is all they do, simply remove their name from the list of voters.

"We don't prosecute, that would be up to a prosecutor."

So there you have the facts about why it doesn't really matter who registers to vote in Washington State.

In summary, I would like to emphasize that there is no official in Washington State who verifies even an iota of the information on the voters registration form.

*Karen Batzakis, February 27, 2016*



## BATTLE OF THE BATHROOMS



*There are no plans for legislative action towards making our restrooms safe!*

*If a man could have half his wishes, he would double his trouble.—Benjamin Franklin*



# CONSUMERS AGAINST HIGH DRUG PRICES

The extortionist cost of generic drugs is rendering Americans insolvent.

Regulation of drug prices is not the solution.

The problem of generic drug price gouging will disappear if the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act is amended to allow greater competition in the generic marketplace.

If enacted, generic prices will plummet to levels so low that consumers won't even worry about the percentage their insurance company will pay.

When generic drug prices drop this much, it will push down many name brand prices because there are often generic substitutes that work almost as well as newer branded drugs.

## The Charade of "Health" Insurance

Premium costs for so-called health insurance are at an all-time high.

Yet most American consumers cannot afford to fall ill even if they have health insurance.

That's because the insurance deductibles, co-pays and exclusions result in enormous out-of-pocket expenses that are today's leading cause of personal bankruptcies.

## Active Ingredients Cost Virtually Nothing

What you pay for prescription drugs has nothing to do with the cost of the active ingredient.

Pharmaceutical companies pretend they need to recoup research expenses, but their annual financial reports contradict this. [Lobbying costs for legislators and fees and fines paid to FDA also contradict this pretense. - editor]

For generic drugs, there are no substantive research costs to recover. Instead, pharmaceutical companies are engaged in heinous schemes to artificially create high drug prices.

## Consumers Against High Drug Prices

It is time for citizens to shed their apathy and rise up against the politicians and bureaucrats that enable drug companies to economically rape the American consumer.

Consumers Against High Drug Prices seek to mobilize millions of American citizens into a cohesive army that will force Congress to change the law so that a free market can emerge to obliterate the high cost of prescription drugs.

The FDA and pharmaceutical giants hope that Americans will remain lethargic to this issue and allow the economic plunder to continue.

Please stand up for your rights by enrolling with Consumers Against High Drug Prices. By signing up, you will be kept informed about proposed legislation. Signing up will automatically generate an email to your Congressional representatives in support of a free market approach to tearing down high drug prices.

It costs nothing to sign up, so register today to stay up-to-date on this critical issue. When you enroll, a comprehensive letter will automatically be forwarded to your Representative and two Senators to implement common sense free market reform to eliminate generic drug price gouging.

<http://www.lifeextension.com/lpages/consumer/index>

## Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch Announces



# The Launch of the Strong Cities Network at the United Nations General Assembly

New York, NY United States Tuesday, September 29, 2015

[the following comments are extracted from Attorney General Lynch's address. For the complete address, please see the link at the top]

"...as we work to create a future of **sustainable** peace, development and opportunity...It's a pleasure to join such a distinguished group of world leaders on this historic occasion and it's a privilege to represent the Obama Administration and the United States as we inaugurate this innovative, collaborative and critically important **global** effort.

It is clear that the challenge of building resilience against violent extremism – a challenge that spans vast oceans and borders while impacting our most tightly-knit cities and towns – requires a response that is both wide-ranging and highly focused. National governments have a crucial role to play in ensuring the safety and security of the nations they serve – and here in the United States, it is our highest priority. Neither the Justice Department I lead nor the administration in which I serve will ever back down from our commitment and our responsibility to safeguard our citizens and defend our homeland. But as a lifelong prosecutor and as a former United States Attorney here in New York, I have also seen firsthand how local authorities can serve as the front lines of our defense against violent extremism. As residents and experts in their communities, local leaders are often best positioned to pinpoint sources of unrest and discord; best equipped to identify signs of potential danger; and best able to recognize and accommodate community cultures, traditions, sensitivities and customs. By creating a series of partnerships that draws on the knowledge and expertise of our local officials, we can create a more effective response to this virulent threat.

But through the Strong Cities Network that we have unveiled today, we are making the first systematic effort in history to bring together cities around the world to share experiences, to pool resources and to forge partnerships in order to build local cohesion and resilience on a global scale. Today we tell every city, every town and every community that has lost the flower of its youth to a sea of hatred – you are not alone. We stand together and we stand with you.

This is a truly groundbreaking endeavor. By connecting municipal leaders, **facilitating information-sharing and providing training and other assistance** where appropriate, the Strong Cities Network will help to fashion a **global response** to a global issue, without losing sight of its inherently local roots." [editor added emphasis]

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**PROVERBS** Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, but such as keep the law contend with them...*for our troubled times* [the wicked]. Proverbs 28:4

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## Political Humor

Is it just me, or does anyone else find it amazing that our government can track a cow born in Canada almost three years ago, right to the stall where she sleeps in the state of Washington? Also they track her calves to their stalls. But they are unable to locate 11 million illegal aliens wandering around our country.

I think the solution is to give every illegal alien a cow.

[The Internet Joke Database]