

Sigmon Public Affairs
Weekly Legislative Report
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Attached is my Weekly Legislative Report. Also, I had a conversation with Travis, aide to the Senate Ways and Means Committee, on Tuesday about the E911 Account and the budget negotiations. He told me that he was not aware of any conversations that would sweep revenue from the E911 Account. It looks like it is going to be a very busy week on the hill. The Senate Republicans come in on Monday and the Senate Democrats on Tuesday. We could be a final budget by Wednesday!

Special Session Report

Third Special Session Update

Governor Inslee called the legislature back in for a third special session on Wednesday. With 8 days remaining before the end of the fiscal year, the Governor urged lawmakers to pass a two year budget by June 30th in order to avoid a partial shutdown in government services.

The rumor on the streets is that the 5 corners (House and Senate caucuses and the Governor) have at least agreed on a spending plan (dollar amount), now they need to come to an agreement on how to fund it (new revenue). The options still on the table appear to be a sales tax on internet sales, bottled water tax and a bump in the real estate excise tax. They are looking at other property tax / levy options to fund K-12. Proposals like the capital gains tax and the carbon emissions tax have been taken off the table.

The legislature did receive some good news this week when the June 20th. Revenue Forecast showed higher than expected revenues coming into the state coffers. Revenue is expected to be up an extra \$87 million in the 2017-2019 biennium and about \$200 million overall for the next four years. Still not much help considering they are looking at a \$43 billion plus operating budget for 2017-2019!

Next week will be a busy week for lawmakers...There is still a great deal of work for them to do in a very short period of time if they want to wrap things up by the 30th!

Keith Flewelling, Executive Director

Thurston 9-1-1 Communications

2703 Pacific Ave SE, Suite A

Olympia, WA 98501

360.704.2732 office

360.481.0281 cell

Keith.Flewelling@TCOMM911.org