

Contacting your Legislators *What to say (or write)*

You may want to contact your district's Legislators to inform them of your concerns regarding key services to individuals, children and families in Skagit County. If you contact your Legislator, these are the main points (using the example of proposed cuts to state "Readiness to Learn" funding):

- **Tell them who you are and why you care.** Example: "My name is _____ and I live at _____. I am concerned about the cut to _____ because I am familiar with many at-risk children and know how difficult life is for these children and their families when they don't receive these services."
- **Be specific about what you want.** Example: "Please do not allow any cuts to the funding for the Readiness to Learn Program. These budget reductions would result in more juvenile crime and an increase in educational barriers by depriving children and families of needed services."
- **Be specific about the negative impact of these cuts in this community.**
Examples: In Skagit County, these cuts would reduce programming. Nine community volunteers support the literacy services provided by the one full time and two part time employees who teach and coordinate the literacy programming for families that RTL provides.

Without the funding, the service in support of literacy, of those volunteers, has no channel to reach the community. The thirty plus adults and twenty plus children who have learning support each year have no other resource for this support. The children need help with learning; the parents are working hard on their own literacy to be able to provide this help, and are wonderful role models as they study simultaneously three nights a week. The YMCA's summer youth programs are also supported by the Readiness to Learn funding. Youth who have no alternative for the summer will be in latchkey situations and suffer the loss of skills due to lack of access to learning over the summer school break.

When to Contact your legislators

Anytime. But to impact the budget process, it is best to contact them prior to the Legislative session – **as soon as possible.**

Four Ways to Contact Your Legislator:

1. Write letters
2. E-mail from your home.
3. Call your Legislators at their offices. You can call after hours and leave a voicemail message. These messages are tallied and forwarded to the Representatives and Senators.
4. Call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000. The hotline tallies your option and forwards it to your Legislator.

Repeated contacts do not alienate your Legislators. They want and need to hear your opinion. Consider contacting them multiple times.

Legislative addresses and phone numbers

Listed below are the Legislators for Districts 10, 40, and 39. If you are uncertain what district you reside in, you may confirm your district through the following web site: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/> or by calling the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000.

<i>Skagit County and Whatcom County 40th District</i>		
<p>Senator Kevin Ranker PO Box 40440 402 Legislative Bldg. Olympia, WA 98504-0440 (360) 786-7678 Email: ranker.kevin@leg.wa.gov</p>	<p>Rep. Kristine Lytton Legislative contact info not yet available. May contact at (360) 786-7800. Email: lytton.kristine@leg.wa.gov</p>	<p>Rep. Jeff Morris PO Box 40600 430 Legislative Bldg. Olympia, WA 98504-0600 (360) 786-7970 Email: morris.jeff@leg.wa.gov</p>
<i>Skagit County 10th District</i>		
<p>Senator Mary Margaret Haugen P.O. Box 40410 305 John A. Cherberg Building Olympia, WA 98504-0410 (360) 786-7618 Email: haugen.marymargaret@leg.wa.gov</p>	<p>Rep. Norma Smith 417 John L. O'Brien Building PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504-0600 (360) 786-7884 Email: smith.norma@leg.wa.gov</p>	<p>Rep. Barbara Bailey P. O. Box 40600 406 John L. O'Brien Bldg. Olympia, WA 98504-0600 (360) 786-7914 Email: bailey.barbara@leg.wa.gov</p>
<i>Skagit County 39th District</i>		
<p>Senator Val Stevens 105 Irving R. Newhouse Building P.O. Box 40439 Olympia, WA 98504-0439 (360) 786-7676 Email: stevens.val@leg.wa.gov</p>	<p>Rep. Dan Kristiansen P. O. Box 40600 427A Legislative Building Olympia, WA 98504-0600 (360) 786-7967 Email: kristiansen.dan@leg.wa.gov</p>	<p>Rep. Kirk Pearson P. O. Box 40600 132 Legislative Building Olympia, WA 98504-0600 (360) 786-7816 Email: pearson.kirk@leg.wa.gov</p>