



June 2016

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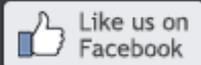
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Summer is finally here! I want to take this opportunity to update you on just a few of the items that we have worked on this spring. If you have specific concerns or questions, please give me a call or send me an email. I appreciate the opportunity to represent you on the County Council and pledge to help you however I can.



Sincerely,

Brian Sullivan

Snohomish County Council, District 2

-Happy

Medicine Take Back Program Passes Health District

Recently the Snohomish County Health Board passed a drug take-back program. This is an important step to insure that unused medications - left out for access by minors or forgotten in medicine cabinets - don't pollute our waterways or become pathways to addiction.

[Herald: Drug take-back to begin in spring](#)

As chair of the Health Board this year, I worked with our Sheriff Ty Trenary, public health professionals and others to help develop this

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proposal and ensure its passage. That's why I'm particularly pleased it passed unanimously. Snohomish County is among very few counties and jurisdictions who have lead on this issue and made medicine take-back programs a priority.

This program will build on the success we've already seen. In 2014, for example, police stations around the county collected 8,000 lbs. of prescription drugs. Now - we will go further and require big pharmaceutical companies to provide collection options for consumers to dispose of unwanted or unused drugs.

You can learn more about the ordinance from the Health District, or contact my office for more information.

[Health District Pharmaceutical Stewardship Program](#)

Fighting the Heroin Epidemic - Initiative to fund public safety coming to your ballot

Last month the county council voted to refer an initiative to fund public safety to the ballot for a vote. I've written about this before, and many are aware - but Snohomish County and Everett in particular are being hard hit by the heroin epidemic, chronic homelessness and people with mental health problems - all are impacting our budget at a rate faster than we can make up with our reliance on sales taxes.

This budget imbalance simply won't go away through efficiencies and cuts, even though we have dramatically cut the size and scope of county government since the great recession. Our sheriff deputies, our prosecutor, our courts, and the jail simply cannot keep up with the caseload of work.

Perhaps more importantly - we need to begin to address the root causes of this crisis if we are to make real change. Many of the people committing crimes are homeless, mentally ill, or drug addicted - we must do better than the extremely expensive revolving door of jail and

back to the street.

Should this measure be approved, it will cost 2 cents for every \$10 purchase - and would fund:

- 35 additional sheriff deputies
- additional social workers for the Human Service Department. These Social workers will work directly with sheriff deputies to address root causes like drug abuse, mental illness and homelessness - and divert from jail where possible
- Hire 7 additional deputy prosecutors

This is still a work in progress, and as we continue to address this problem, I welcome your input and concerns.

Securing funding for our community

In the past several months and in our county budget, I've worked to help secure funding for important projects in our district and around the county. To recap:

- \$1 million in housing funds - I worked with the county council and city of Everett to secure funding in the county budget to go towards homeless housing.
- \$750,000 in money for capital improvements to parks. I secured this funding for capital improvements using REET dollars that helped organizations like the Boys and Girls Club build or improve ball fields for recreation
- Local Public Works Assistance Fund: I worked to create a county-wide program that helps local communities finance infrastructure projects. Last year we granted \$230,000 from this program to replace an aging waterline. The next call for projects will be issue this summer, I anticipate we will be able to build on this success
- County matching funding for transportation projects: I will continue to work to ensure the county is working to fund road projects, but also provides matching funds for our bike trails and transit projects in our district.

I hope you found this eNewsletter to be informative and useful. You can make it even more valuable by suggesting topics and issues for future newsletters.