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SEN. LYNDA WILSON 17th Legislative District

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- Joint Legislative
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- Joint Committee on
Veterans' and Military
Affairs

Please use the contact information on this card to share questions and concerns with me.

The Senate majority is tightly restricting the public's access to the 2022 legislative session, so while I appreciate personal visits, it will be simpler to reach me by phone or in writing when I'm at the Capitol.

I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas, a happy holiday season, and a safe and prosperous New Year!

2022 SESSION BEGINS JANUARY 10

Besides adjusting the three 2-year budgets (operating, capital [construction], transportation) passed in 2021, I'm hoping the 2022 legislative session will focus specifically on:

Tax relief: While the pandemic has hurt small family businesses, other sectors (like real estate) have helped improve state government's budget outlook **by around \$10 billion!** That's easily enough to fund my bipartisan proposal (SB 5463) to exempt the first \$250,000 of a home's assessed value from state property taxes. Legislators could also reduce the state sales tax or manufacturing taxes without jeopardizing services.

Olympia also should repeal the costly new payroll tax that takes effect Jan. 1, because the long-term care program it supports has too many problems.

Bottom line – there is absolutely no justification for new or higher taxes. It's time for tax relief that lets people keep more of their money!

Support for public safety: The rush to “reform” law enforcement has left people less safe. Controversial new limits on police conduct, equipment and tactics are causing officers to suspend vehicle pursuits, and searches for crime suspects. These policy mistakes need to be reconsidered. Washington now has the fewest law-enforcement officers per capita in the nation, right as violent crime in our state is at a 25-year high, and the majority has just decriminalized hard drugs. People tell me they want more officers, not fewer. I'm sponsoring legislation to make that happen.

Emergency-powers reform: I don't understand the opposition to my legislation (SB 5039) to reform the 1969 law on emergency powers. The legislative branch already decides whether some of the governor's emergency orders should last beyond 30 days; my bill would simply allow that for **all** emergency orders, such as those prohibiting activities (like in-person school). When the 2022 session begins, the people of Washington will have been under a state of emergency for more than 680 days. That isn't how the law was meant to work.

New look for our 17th District: Every 10 years, following the U.S. Census, the boundaries of legislative and congressional districts in our state are adjusted to equalize the populations. The new boundaries will apply in time for the 2022 general election. The new 17th will comprise part of Clark County and all of Skamania County – a dramatic change.