



**In this edition:**

- **John Burbank:** Efficiency isn't best way to evaluate government
- **Transform Washington's budget** from the comfort of your living room
- **Party foul:** Will these three Congress members from WA keep voting against family economic security and recovery?
- **Hot off the Blog:** How do Washington State's taxes stack up?
- **EOI needs two volunteers** (or just one really smart one)

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**Efficiency isn't best way to evaluate government**

~John Burbank, Executive Director



As the recession continues bumping along, tax receipts are continuing to fall behind what's needed to sustain public investments in education, health care and public safety. The most recent state forecast projects a \$3 billion revenue shortfall over the next two years.

The governor has responded with a call for "transforming Washington's budget." As this "transforming" process heats up, we'll no doubt hear a lot about making government more "efficient," like the private sector. And that should raise a big red flag, because an economist would tell you that efficiency isn't really what you want to measure when it comes to governing well.

How's that, you say? We want government to be inefficient? Well, not exactly. | [Read more](#)

**Transform Washington's budget from the comfort of your living room**

Tuesday in Tacoma marked the first of four stops on the Governor's Transforming Washington's Budget (TWB) tour, stopping also in Everett, Vancouver and Spokane in the coming weeks.



*The turnout at the Tacoma meeting, estimated at 450 people*

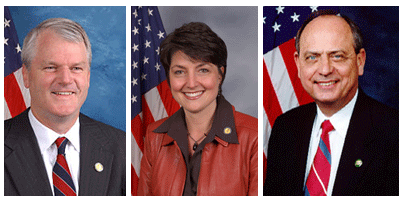
About 450 people attended the Tacoma event, [offering their suggestions](#) for fixing the upcoming state budget shortfall.

In case you haven't heard about the TWB tour, it's [being billed](#) as a chance for Washingtonians to learn about the state's current budget challenges and give feedback about how to fix them. Opportunities for such engagement in the budgeting process are limited, so we highly recommend attending one or more of the meetings!

- July 21 (TONIGHT) - **Everett**, 7-9 PM, Everett Community College, Parks Building, Multi Purpose Room, 2000 Tower Street
- July 27 - **Vancouver**, 7-9 PM, WSU-Vancouver, Administration Building Room 110, 14204 NE Salmon Creek Avenue, Vancouver
- July 29 - **Spokane**, 5-7 PM, Spokane City Hall, City Council Chambers, 808 W. Spokane Falls Boulevard

If you can't attend but still want to weigh in, you've got an option: [Go online](#) to submit your best ideas and/or vote yea or nay on others' proposals. Here are some [ideas to get you started](#).

**Party foul: Will these three Congress members from WA keep voting against family economic security and recovery?**



*From left: Rep. Brian Baird (D-3), Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-5), and Doc Hastings (R-4)*

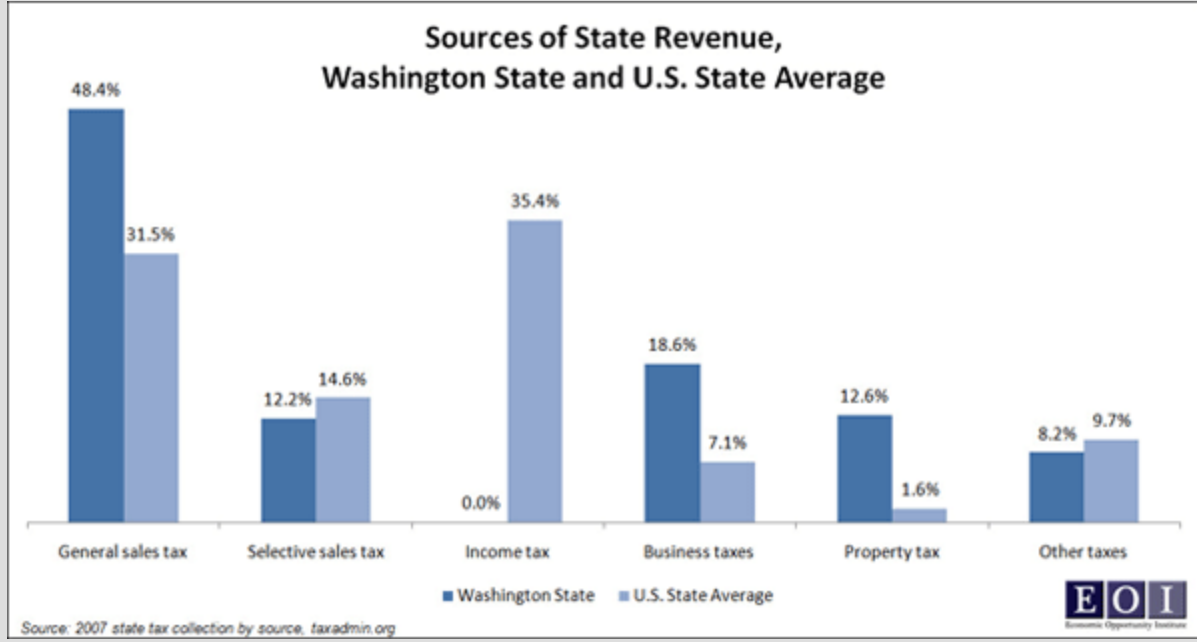
If [one's company and two's a crowd](#), what does that make Washington Reps. Brian Baird (D-3), Doc Hastings (R-4), and Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-5), all three of whom have so far voted against extending unemployment insurance for thousands of their constituents?

A party, of course! Well, maybe not just any party.

Most people on unemployment are living right on the brink. So I think we can rule out the possibility of a constituent potluck - after all, the 'no' votes from these three helped in the delay a federal UI benefit extension to 18,600 Washingtonians. | [Read more](#)

**Hot off the Blog: How do Washington State's taxes stack up?**

Washington is one of seven states that currently has no personal income tax. But our state is more of an outlier than even that number would suggest - because of those seven states, six have an alternative source of revenue -- [which Washington lacks](#).



**Read more:** [How do Washington State's taxes stack up?](#)

*Related:* [Initiative 1098: John Burbank on KOUW's 'The Conversation'](#)

**EOI needs two volunteers (or just one really smart one)**



Are you good with graphic design and/or javascript? Looking to build your portfolio? Excited about volunteering some time for a good cause? Then consider helping me with with some of EOI's graphic design and scripting needs!

1) **Graphic design:** We would like to add some energy and style to EOI fact sheets -- making them easier to read. Just [send me an email](#) with some samples of your work, and I'll be in touch.

2) **Javascript expert:** Well, you don't have to be an expert -- but you would have to know your way around javascript. I've started a few projects, so [send me an email](#) to indicate your interest and we'll go from there!

Thanks,

Alex Stone  
Communication Manager, EOI  
[Contact Alex](#)