

Rep. Rolfes Moves up to State Senate

On July 20 the Kitsap County Commission appointed State Rep. Christine Rolfes (D-Bainbridge Island) to fill the remaining 18-month term of Democratic State Senator Phil Rockefeller, who resigned his state senate seat in early July to accept an appointment to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. Governor Gregoire appointed Rockefeller to serve as one of Washington's two members on the Council, which develops and maintains a regional power plan and a fish and wildlife program in the Columbia River basin to balance environmental and energy needs.

Rolfes has been a strong supporter of conservation and recreational fishing during her time in the State House where she served on the Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee. She was particularly active in derelict fishing gear removal efforts. She also led a legislative effort in support of the Fish and Wildlife Commission's Puget Sound Dungeness crab policy decision. While she has not received committee assignments in the Senate we are confident she will continue to be a strong leader in the legislature.

The Kitsap County Commission will next turn their focus to selecting a candidate to appoint to Rolfes' open house seat. Kitsap County democratic officials will provide three names for the Commission to chose from. Rolfes will stand for reelection to the 23rd

District state
senate seat in November of 2012.

Scramble Begins for Open Congressional Seat

1st District Democratic Congressman Jay Inslee's announcement that he would seek to replace Christine Gregoire as Governor has already set off a scramble for Inslee's open Congressional seat. The 1st Congressional District includes Kirkland, Redmond, North Kitsap County and the north Seattle suburbs.

21st District State Representative Marko Liiias (D-Mukilteo) has announced that he is seeking the seat. Liiias served as member of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee during the 2008/2009 Sessions and is a strong supporter of recreational angling and conservation. Rep. Liiias was also a member of the "Stand Up 10" group of legislators who supported the Commission's crab policy.

45th District State Representative Roger Goodman (D-Kirkland) has also launched a campaign for Inslee's seat in Congress. Goodman is no stranger to D.C. having served as Chief of Staff to powerful former Congressman Rick Boucher (D-VA). State Senator Steve Hobbs (D-Lake Stevens), who currently represents the 44th Legislative District, has also launched a bid for the seat. Hobbs is also a member of the Washington Army National Guard and served in Iraq and Kosovo.

2010 GOP candidate James Watkins is the only current candidate on the Republican side.