

As an organization, ABATE of Washington have been rather successful over the past couple decades getting legislation passed and made into law. From; handlebar height, the “helmet is a helmet”, red light bill, blue dot tail light, motorcycle anti-profiling, enhancing the penalties/charges for injuring a ‘vulnerable user’ (motorcyclist), motorcycle parking, ABATE of Washington has had ongoing success in many small ways in the state legislature. However, ABATE’s efforts to bring the option of lane-sharing to Washington state has met with opposition and political game-playing by state agencies and legislators. Currently, the only way to reduce this opposition is to change the balance of power in Olympia.

To change that balance, would mean that the majority party would need to be changed in either the House, the Senate, or both following the results of this August’s primary election, and then in November’s general election. The primary election is key, as it will decide who is on the ballot in November. As citizens of Washington, and members of ABATE, we should become well informed as to who is running in the legislative districts each of us live in. Do your research and find out which of the candidates for office supports motorcycle issues, and who is willing to work to get good motorcycle legislation passed into law. If we can get more motorcycle aware legislators, regardless of party, we can change the balance of power in the legislature. By increasing the number of legislators that ride, or at least understand the different needs of motorcycles and motorcyclists compared to cagers, we can have a part in changing the balance of power in the legislature. The entire House of Representatives, and half of the Senate are up for election this year. This includes Senator Marko Liias, the Senator from the 21st Legislative District that single handedly played personal political games to stop ABATE’s lane-sharing bill from even making it out of the Senate Transportation Committee.

It will be up to the membership of ABATE of Washington to spread the word among the motorcycling community and its supporters about which politicians have supported the motorcycle community of Washington, and which ones have allowed their own personal bias to oppose virtually every motorcycle supported bill that came before them. If we as citizens do nothing to vote out those who have continually opposed our efforts and stopped our progress towards maintaining and even expanding our freedom to choose the best options to protect ourselves and our motorcycles as we ride, then we deserve what we receive to deal with in the legislature in Olympia.

Keep the Faith, and I’ll catch you on the road sometime...

Brian Lange

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ABATE of Washington