



March 19, 2007

## **House Capital Budget**

# **Building a Better Washington**

***Building a better Washington by investing in critical infrastructure and community projects such as schools, parks and housing.***

## **House Capital Budget Highlights**



## **Targeted Investments**

The 2007-09 Capital Budget represents \$4.23 billion for targeted investments that will provide a tangible benefit to Washington's residents. By focusing on critical infrastructure, school and community projects, these investments support much-needed facilities construction and maintenance while also providing family-wage jobs.

## **Project Highlights**

### **School Construction**

The 2007-09 Capital Budget plans for the future with record levels of funding in K-12 construction. That represents an increase of over \$200 million from the 2005-07 biennium.

- \$879 million for K-12 school construction assistance grants.
- \$74.4 million for vocational skills centers projects.
- \$4 million for Small Repair Grants for school districts that have not passed construction levies but still have emergency repair needs, such as electrical or plumbing issues.

### **Higher Education**

Our state's higher education facilities are in demand as our population grows and enrollments increase at colleges and universities. To meet this demand, the House Capital Budget calls for \$1.08 billion for projects such as:

- A Biotechnology/ Life Sciences Building at Washington State University's Pullman campus (\$58 million)
- Renovation of the University of Washington's Savery Hall (\$55 million)
- Dean Hall renovation, Central Washington University (\$23.2 million)
- Community and technical college construction and preservation (\$528 million)

### **Housing**

The Housing Trust Fund provides loans and grants for construction, acquisition and rehabilitation of low-income housing. Types of projects funded by this program include assisted living facilities, emergency shelters, group homes, transitional housing and farm worker housing.

- \$140 million is allocated for the Trust Fund in the 2007-09 biennium.

## Natural Resources

Washington state's natural beauty affords many opportunities for recreational enjoyment. Habitat preservation for our state's abundant and diverse wildlife is also a priority, as is preservation of our waterways. For the 2007-09 biennium Parks, Fish and Wildlife, and environmental projects will be receiving substantial increases in Capital Budget funds.

- \$267 million for habitat and recreation lands. This includes \$100 million for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and \$114 million for the Trust Land Transfer Program.
- \$220.4 million for Puget Sound cleanup and preservation and Salmon Recovery projects
- \$206 million for Clean Water projects to increase the quality and quantity of water in our state.

## Community Development Fund

The Community Development Fund was created by the Legislature to assist economically-distressed communities in rural and urban Washington with capital investments. These investments expand economic development and job opportunities, and help revitalize business and residential districts.

- \$22.4 million for the 2007-09 biennium.

## Public Safety

An important part of our quality of life is keeping our communities safe. Although the 2007-09 Capital budget includes funds earmarked for correctional facilities expansion projects, this is just one piece of what makes Washington a safe place to live.

- \$20.3 million for Department of Corrections expansions at Coyote Ridge Correctional Center in Connell and Mission Creek Correctional Center in Belfair. Both projects are to be completed in the 2007-09 biennium.
- \$2.3 million for pre-design and design of possible future expansion at the Washington Corrections Center and McNeil Island Corrections Center.
- \$6.2 million to complete a statewide school mapping project for use by first responders in case of emergency.
- \$5.3 million in projects and updates at the WA State Patrol Fire Training Academy.

## Meeting Critical Needs

Additionally, several projects in the Capital Budget respond to extreme need or emergencies in communities. These include:

- Replacing asbestos cement pipelines in Tieton's water distribution system
- Rebuilding the Ferndale Boys and Girls Club that burned down on New Year's Day
- Continuing development of the Seattle Children's Play Garden for children with serious physical, mental and developmental disabilities.

## Accountability

A business in the private sector better be regularly updating its operations or it'll go under, and yes, government should be run the same way. We need to get better mileage out of our tax dollars. This budget proposal contains several accountability measures.

- The people of Washington own and lease a lot of buildings. We will establish sound decisions on whether to buy, sell, or lease based on a thorough economic analysis of *your* public property.
- A joint committee will look at public infrastructure programs and funds to see where we can integrate, consolidate, and standardize processes and infrastructure programs by the end of 2007.