

We always like to see as many local projects as possible in the state construction budget, but in a supplemental year many don't get full funding. Still, we were able to secure funding for a number of capital projects that will impact our district, including:



- The Asian Pacific Cultural Center
- The Washington Historical Society
- Mental health crisis triage grants
- \$2.9 million for clean-up of toxic sites at the Port of Tacoma
- \$1.5 million for replacement of woodstoves across Pierce County

The supplemental budgets will clean up Tacoma and create good, middle-class jobs.

STAY IN TOUCH

We want to invite you to our two spring conversation hours. Please come join us with your thoughts, questions and concerns. These conversations help us plan our work for the next session.

WHEN: Tues., May 17, 2-4 p.m.

WHERE: Wheelock Library, 3722 N 26th St., Tacoma, WA

WHEN: Tues., May 31, 2-4 p.m.

WHERE: Bay Terrace, 2550 South G Street, Tacoma, WA

Sen. Jeannie Darneille
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Rep. Laurie Jinkins
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Rep. Jake Fey
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The three of us with our legislative assistants, from left to right: Lisa Fisch (Darneille), My-Le Tang (Fey) and Cinthia Illan-Vazquez (Jinkins). These hard-working and dedicated people are usually the first ones you'll talk to when you call our offices or come visit. They're our eyes and ears and make sure we always get your messages.

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Sen. **JEANNIE DARNEILLE**
Rep. **LAURIE JINKINS**
Rep. **JAKE FEY**

PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



Dear friends and neighbors,

This session we worked together as your delegation to advance policies that will help Tacoma families and move our state forward. We worked to lay the foundation for the final part of **fully funding basic education** and to address the teacher shortage crisis. We fought for priorities that matter to you, like **improvements to mental health care**, helping our state's **35,000 homeless youth**, closing the **educational opportunity gap** and improving our juvenile justice system so that we **help at-risk kids** instead of just punish them. Finally, we made targeted new investments in transportation and local construction projects, which will create jobs in our community.

We made progress on many of these issues, though not everything made it past the Republican-controlled Senate to Gov. Inslee's desk. But we fought for a supplemental budget that is representative of our values as a community, and as Democrats.

We are honored to continue to represent you and our community, and we hope that you will keep in touch with your comments and questions.

Our best wishes,

Jeannie Darneille
Sen. Jeannie Darneille

Jake Fey
Rep. Jake Fey

Laurie Jinkins
Rep. Laurie Jinkins



WORKING FOR YOU



This year's supplemental budget moves us forward without compromising our values.

It's not everything we wanted, of course, but that's the reality of divided government — the only path forward is through compromise. It sets the stage for the challenges ahead next session, when the Legislature must face the final hurdle in meeting our obligation to fully-fund education. Local school districts have had to pass levies — local property taxes — to pay for things like teacher salaries. That funding is supposed to come from the state, and we have to replace it with another source. Last year, we proposed asking some of the wealthiest 32,000 Washingtonians to pay their fair share on profits made from the sale of Wall St. stocks, bonds and other lucrative investments. That proposal was a no-go for Senate Republicans, who preferred replacing local property taxes with higher state property taxes. It's a choice we might face again next year.



Still, we were able to make progress. Last year Democrats led the way on K-3 class size reduction, but those investments only go so far without a quality teacher in every classroom, and our state is facing a teacher shortage. Making sure there's a quality teacher in every classroom is part of fully funding education, and again we led the way on smart policies to help us recruit and retain quality teachers through investments in mentoring programs for new educators and increased training for paraeducators.

Every child in Washington has a moral and constitutional right to an equal education.

For too many kids, particularly students of color, the same

educational opportunities aren't there. That's why we passed a bill to help close the education opportunity gap, so all kids have equal opportunities in school and a shot at a better life. Closing the opportunity gap is the most important step to ensure all students can be successful, no matter what zip code they live in.



Although we've made significant investments to fix mental health care, there is much more work ahead.

Patients are still waiting too long for the care they need, there aren't enough beds to meet current demands and our state hospitals are understaffed and underfunded.

Rep. Jinkins worked with the governor and Republican colleagues to create a joint committee that will help fix the problems at our state's mental health facilities, particularly at Western State Hospital in Lakewood. This new bipartisan quality improvement committee requires the Legislature take on a direct role in fixing some of the problems at Western State, like insufficient staffing levels, reducing ward size and increasing training opportunities to help update our mental health treatment and management systems. We need to update 1950's-era practices in favor of a 21st century data-driven approach.

We also passed legislation to increase access to mental health services for children and youth, and supported increased investments in mental health services including additional state hospital staff, mobile crisis teams and crisis triage beds.

We also fought to ensure at-risk youth have the same opportunities to succeed.

Elementary attendance is a main predictor of whether a child will graduate high school, and early intervention is key to keeping at-risk kids on a path towards success. A bill Sen. Darneille worked on will require juvenile courts and schools to establish a coordinated approach to address truancy through community truancy boards and keep kids in school. Rather than sending a truant child to juvenile detention right away, this law prioritizes intervention and prevention. Truancy is often a sign of issues at home, and we are building partnerships between schools, families and communities to address this issue with treatment and care.

There are more than 35,000 homeless students in Washington. It's an emergency, and Democrats secured investments in more emergency residential services and beds throughout the state and provided more resources to local governments to help homeless people transition into permanent housing. We're making targeted investments in services to reduce youth homelessness, like a bill sponsored by Rep. Fey to connect kids and their families to stable housing and educational support. Through a grant program modeled after the nationally-recognized success at Tacoma's McCarver Elementary, school districts will be able to partner with local housing authorities to provide housing support to families in need as long as they keep their kids enrolled in the same school, creating more educational stability for kids. Thousands of children will have a brighter future thanks to this effort.



Supplemental budgets make small but meaningful additions to top-level priorities in transportation, construction and infrastructure.

This year's supplemental transportation budget will improve road safety and fight gridlock in our region. Using new federal funds and better than expected bond revenues, we are investing \$94 million across the state in critical infrastructure maintenance and preservation to keep travel safe and reliable. The budget also freezes tolls this year on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge.



One of our top priorities was to begin addressing the Washington State Patrol's staffing shortages. We count on the Patrol to keep our highways safe, but for years the agency has struggled to recruit and retain officers due to salaries that are too low for the challenges they have to face. Thanks to Rep. Fey's leadership and advocacy, our troopers will get a 10 percent raise this year and an additional salary bump in 2017, so they are paid fairly for their work and can support their families with salaries that are competitive with other law enforcement agencies.