



REPRESENTATIVE
**Frank
Chopp**



SENATOR
**Jamie
Pedersen**



REPRESENTATIVE
**Nicole
Macri**

43rd District Legislative Report: 2018



Dear neighbors,

With Democrats back in the majority in the state House and Senate, this year's 60-day legislative session was both successful and efficient, delivering a balanced budget and adjourning on schedule for the first time since 2014.

The session got off to a fast start in January as Democrats forged a compromise that led to passage of the \$4.6 billion capital budget, which funds construction, money for Seattle Public Schools to expand capacity, and building and renovation at the University of Washington and other higher education institutions.

Passing the capital budget was just one of the highlights of the 2018 session. Short though it was, we did have many successes for the people in our district – and in our state.

- Investing an additional \$1 billion into our K-12 schools, resolving the McCleary litigation and amply funding our schools.
- Providing \$400 million in property tax relief across the state in 2019.
- Reducing gun violence, including a ban on bump stocks, and increased protections for domestic-violence victims.
- Increasing access to affordable housing and ensuring a steady source of funding for homelessness programs.
- Funding the State Need Grant fully over the next four years, giving roughly 22,000 more students access to higher education financial aid.
- Updating Washington's Equal Pay Act to close the wage gap between women and men.
- Investing \$300 million over the next four years for mental and behavioral health care to fulfill the state's legal and moral obligations at our state hospitals and in our communities.
- Expanding voting rights and access to democracy on several fronts, including the DISCLOSE Act, the Washington Voting Rights Act, same-day voter registration, automatic voter registration, and pre-registration.
- Adopting a first-in-the nation net-neutrality law preventing internet service providers from slowing or reducing internet service.
- Strengthening health care coverage for all, including addressing needs such as disease screening and contraception access.

This update provides you information on these issues and many others. But if you have questions about any things we missed, please don't hesitate to contact us!

It's an honor and a privilege to serve as your representatives.

Sincerely,

Rep. Frank Chopp

Sen. Jamie Pedersen

Rep. Nicole Macri



Rep. Frank Chopp

Speaker of the House
House Rules Committee (Chair)

Landmark legislation. Historic investments. Finished on time.

Within the 60-day session, we focused our efforts, broke log jams and made progress on a broad set of issues important to the people of our state. A few highlights:

Education

- ✓ Provided billions in new funding for our public schools, fulfilling our constitutional duty to basic education and the McCleary court case.
- ✓ Increased significantly our State Need Grants to college and university students.
- ✓ Expanded educational opportunities for new Americans and the Dreamers.

Health care

- ✓ Expanded our Apple Health program for 1.6 million people across Washington.
- ✓ Required all health insurance plans to cover, without co-pay, preventive services like disease screening and contraception measures.
- ✓ Expanded funding for mental health, including a new mental health institute at the University of Washington to expand the workforce for treatment and care.
- ✓ Began implementation of our historic paid family leave program to provide support to those who need to care for a family member.

Housing

- ✓ Made possible the free transfer of public lands for the public purpose of low-income housing.
- ✓ Allocated over \$100 million for low-income housing, including innovative models to move homeless people from tents on the sidewalks to villages of cottage homes.
- ✓ Initiated a new project at Broadway and Pine on Capitol Hill to provide housing, education, protection, and services for homeless youth.
- ✓ Banned discrimination against renters based on source on income.

Democracy

- ✓ Enacted the Voting Rights Act to promote equality in representation.
- ✓ Expanded automatic and same day voter registration.
- ✓ Mandated public disclosure of hidden money in elections.



Justice

- ✓ Passed the Equal Pay Opportunity Act to promote equal pay for women.
- ✓ Enacted several laws reforming our juvenile justice system and legal financial obligations.
- ✓ Banned “conversion therapy,” a discredited attempt to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity.

We accomplished a lot. There is still much more to do:

Including special-education funding, homes for people with mental illness, and carbon-free energy to name just a few.



My perspective about public records:

There’s been a lot of heated talk about the Public Records Act, and what documents should or shouldn’t be available to the public. Regardless of what other legislators are doing, I am working to follow the Thurston County Superior Court ruling earlier this year, that we as individual legislators are subject to state public disclosure rules, even though the ruling has been stayed pending appeal.

Sen. Jamie Pedersen

COMMITTEES: Senate Law & Justice Committee (Chair),
Early Learning & K-12 Education, Ways & Means, Rules



Reducing gun violence

Reducing violence associated with firearms is among my top priorities in Olympia. Although much work remains, the Legislature passed more gun safety laws this year than in the previous 11 years combined. Nearly 1,000 people came down to Olympia to attend public hearings in the Senate Law & Justice Committee on these issues, by far the most for any hearing in the Legislature this year. Here are the bills that passed this session:

- A ban on bump stocks, the device used in the Las Vegas massacre to give a semi-automatic rifle the rapid-fire capability of a machine gun. (ESB 5992)
- Adding domestic violence harassment to the list of conditions that prevent people from being able to buy a firearm. (ESB 6298)
- Legislation to allow anyone struggling with mental illness to place themselves on a firearms do-not-purchase list. (ESSB 5553)
- Reforms to the concealed pistol license process to make sure that licenses are taken away from people with stalking and other protective orders and are not returned to holders without a new background check. (EHB 2519)

Visitation by grandparents and other relatives

Since a United States Supreme Court decision in 2000 striking down Washington's law, our state has been the only state in the country with no way for grandparents or others who have been denied access to children by their parents to seek court review of that denial. I have been working on this issue for 10 years and am very proud that the Legislature passed ESB 5598 this session. While giving a strong presumption that decisions by fit parents are correct and in the best interest of their children, it will create a process by which relatives who have an ongoing and substantial relationship with a child can petition a court to seek visitation.

Protecting the LGBTQ community

For the last three years, I have chaired a drafting committee of the national Uniform Law Commission to update the Uniform Parentage Act in light of the United States Supreme Court's marriage equality decision. The new Parentage Act will help protect same-sex couples and their families around the country. I am proud that Washington became the first state to enact this law.

Another important measure this year banned so-called "conversion therapy" in Washington state, a harmful and discredited practice which attempts to change an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression, often through verbal or physical torture.



Rep. Nicole Macri

COMMITTEES: Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs (Vice Chair), Health Care & Wellness (Vice Chair), Capital Budget



Making housing affordable, reducing homelessness

Homelessness is at crisis levels in communities across Washington, as more people struggle to pay their rents or mortgages. I have spent the bulk of my adult life working on affordable housing and homelessness, and am gratified to

say that in terms of progress on these issues, 2018 was the most successful session in recent memory.

The Legislature passed my HB 1570, which Gov. Inslee called “one of the best things that came out of the Legislature this year.” The document-recording fee has been an effective tool in the fight against homelessness, but it was set to drop by 62% in 2023. HB 1570 increases the surcharge and makes it permanent, providing \$27 million in new resources annually.

Additionally:

- My HB 2667 expands eligibility for the Housing and Essential Needs program to people who receive Aged, Blind, Disabled support from the state.



- HB 2382 makes surplus public lands accessible for affordable housing.
- HB 2578 prohibits landlords from discriminating based on source of income – a practice that disproportionately affects people of color, low-income people, single-parent families, veterans, people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups.

Advancing gender equity

We passed major legislation to safeguard women’s rights:

- HB 1506, the Equal Pay Opportunity Act, helps close the wage gap by offering protections for workers paid less or afforded lesser advancement opportunities on the basis of gender.
- SB 5996 and SB 6471 work together to strengthen protections against sexual harassment in the workplace.
- SB 6219, the Reproductive Parity Act, ensures women can make healthcare choices that are best for them and their families.
- HB 1523 requires all health plans sold in Washington to cover the preventive services required by federal law in the Affordable Care Act, including disease screening and contraception.

Protecting LGBTQ youth

The discredited practice of “conversion therapy” has been associated with increased risks of suicide and depression among LGBTQ young people. I was the prime sponsor of the House version of SB 5722. With the passage of this bill, Washington joins a growing number of states banning this harmful practice.



Expanding access to democracy

We created a number of new laws to ensure Washingtonians are fully engaged in our democracy. Some highlights:

- HB 1513, Voter Pre-registration, aims to get people civically engaged early as 16 years old, making them more likely to vote at 18.
- HB 2592 provides automatic voter registration when citizens obtain enhanced driver’s licenses or identification cards.
- SB 6021 authorizes same-day voter registration, ensuring that every eligible voter can participate.
- SB 6002 is the long-sought Washington Voting Rights Act. This landmark law will ensure fair representation in local governments.

Unfinished business

I’m looking forward to continuing our work on many important issues including progressive reform to our tax code, speeding up delivery of light rail and fending off attempts to weaken Sound Transit, taking action to address climate change, and working to lower health care costs and ensure that healthcare providers are able to deliver information, referrals, and services that are in the best interests of their patients.

Supplemental budget provides progress

- **\$44.7 billion operating budget** for 2017-19 primarily funds public schools (\$22.7 billion), health and human services (\$13.9 billion), and higher education (\$3.9 billion). Our biggest investment in the 2018 supplemental operating budget was nearly \$1 billion of additional funding to support the 1.1 million students in public schools. We hope and expect that this money – including roughly \$48 million in additional funding for Seattle Public Schools – will finally resolve the McCleary litigation and bring the state into compliance with its constitutional obligation to provide ample funding for public schools. We also passed legislation to change the formula for allocating special education money to school districts. Although this will increase state spending for special education by \$97 million over the next four years, we know that we have a lot more work to do in the next biennial budget. The supplemental budget also sets us on a path to fund the State Need Grant fully over the next four years. This is the state's principal financial aid program for higher education, which helps more than 60,000 students attend college each year. A third major investment is nearly \$300 million for mental and behavioral health care. These new resources will help increase access to care, including for the growing number of people living with untreated mental illnesses and substance use problems who experience homelessness.



- The **\$9.5 billion transportation budget** for 2017-19 funds construction and maintenance of roads and bridges around the state, as well as the Washington State Patrol and the ferry system. Our district is home to two of the largest current projects in the budget: the SR 99 tunnel under downtown and South Lake



Union and the replacement of the SR 520 floating bridge. Although there was very little money for new investments in the 2018 supplemental transportation budget, we worked to secure three items of note for our district.

- First, extensions of noise walls along I-5 in the Eastlake neighborhood will be completed four years earlier. Construction will begin in the next biennium and should be completed by 2023.
- Second, the supplemental budget includes \$500,000 for grants to residents most affected by construction noise on SR 520 in Montlake. This could help with window retrofits, insulation, or other measures to make construction over the next few years more bearable.
- Finally, the supplemental budget includes language directing the Department of Transportation to do everything that it can to preserve the Montlake Market. The market is a both a grocery store and an important neighborhood asset. The department will also be required to engage in regular outreach and dialogue with the community on this issue.

The **\$4.6 billion capital budget** for 2017-19 includes funding for the renovation and expansion of the Country Doctor Community Health Center on



Capitol Hill and completion of the new Burke Museum project on the University of Washington campus. It also included \$10 million to pay for construction of a new wing at West Woodland Elementary School to relieve overcrowding and eliminate portables. For many years, Seattle legislators have worked together to secure funding for Seattle Public Schools in the capital budget. This year's supplemental capital budget will add \$7.9 million to build additional classroom space at Frantz Coe Elementary School on Queen Anne. The supplemental budget also provides an additional \$1 million to help complete the renovation of our historic Town Hall on First Hill.

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Get an inside view of the legislature as a page or intern

If you are between the ages of 14 and 16 next January, why not consider being a page for a week in Olympia? Being a page is a great opportunity to participate in the legislative process and learn more about our state government.

While all 14-16 year olds are eligible for the page program, many students in the past have been unable to take part in this unique program due to financial restraints. There is now a scholarship available to help offset the costs of living in Olympia for the week.

You can find out more information about the page program and the application process by visiting <http://leg.wa.gov/House/Pages/HousePageProgram.aspx> or contacting our offices.

A legislative internship offers college juniors and seniors the opportunity to get paid work experience and get a close-up view of the legislative process. Interns work in Olympia for the legislative session, working directly with legislators and staff.

The internship is a great way to begin a career in public service or just find out more about how your government works.

You can find more information about the internship program and how the application process by visiting <http://leg.wa.gov/Internships/Pages/default.aspx> or contacting our offices.

