

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.

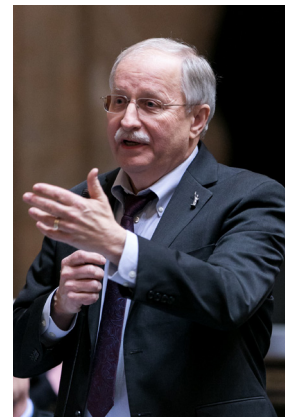


Justice

- ✓ 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.