

# 2022 SESSION REPORT TO THE 5TH DISTRICT

**Dear friends and neighbors,**

May 2022

The fast-paced 2022 legislative short session ended on March 10. Although we had some long days, we're so proud of what we were able to accomplish this year — especially the historic investments we made to put money directly back into our local communities.

Our top priority during this 60-day session was to ensure that Washington residents receive the support they need at a time when they need it most. Even as we begin to see signs of a more familiar tomorrow, we know that many Washington families and small businesses are still recovering from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. We believe the steps we took this year will help get our state back on track.

Over the last few months, we took great strides to support our local small businesses, expand access to affordable housing, improve public safety, and create family-wage jobs throughout the state. But none of it would be possible without the continued engagement of all of you in the community.

We may not be able to include everything we did this session in this newsletter, but never hesitate to reach out to our offices directly if you have questions.

Thank you for giving us the honor of serving you in the state House of Representatives.



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**Committees:**

- Capital Budget (Vice Chair)
- Children, Youth & Families
- Education

## REPRESENTATIVE **Bill Ramos**



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**Committees:**

- Transportation (Vice Chair)
- Public Safety
- Rural Dev., Agriculture, & Nat. Resources

# 2022 SESSION REPORT

## SUPPORTING FAMILIES, JOBS & ECONOMIC GROWTH

With some help from one-time additional federal pandemic relief, paired with state revenue, we had the unique opportunity to prioritize funding to meet the many challenges Washington families are facing every day.

- **Small businesses and economic recovery:** Business and Occupation tax credits, \$100 million for restaurants and hospitality businesses, \$75 million for disaster response, and \$25 million for arts programs.
- **K-12 education:** \$808 million for investments in student transportation; nutrition, outdoor education, teacher salaries; and counselors, nurses, psychologists, and social workers.
- **Homelessness and housing:** \$818 million including utility and rental assistance, landlord cost mitigation, homeless service and shelter providers, and a record transfer to the capital budget for rapid housing acquisition and other housing needs.
- **Behavioral health:** \$277 million to invest in substance use and mental health providers, recovery and treatment; housing and employment; and funding for crisis, outreach and diversion programs.
- **Public safety, legal aid, and corrections:** \$215 million to strengthen our response to domestic terrorism, fund the Office of Independent Investigations, domestic violence and sexual assault response, and civil legal aid.
- **Natural resources:** \$620 million to increase funding for wildfire suppression and recovery, salmon habitat and rehabilitation, recreational lands maintenance, solar incentives, and invasive species control.



I was proud to see several pieces of legislation I introduced approved by the Legislature and signed into law this session, including:

**HB 1834** allows students to take excused absences from school to protect their mental health, the same way they would for a physical illness or injury. Mental health is every bit as important as physical health, and giving students the time they need to care for themselves is the right thing to do.

**HB 1890** sets the framework for a comprehensive statewide response to our worsening youth behavioral health crisis. As Co-Chair of the Children & Youth Behavioral Health Work Group, my top priority this session was to ensure Washington families have access to the care they need when and where they need it.

**HB 1779** protects patients and healthcare workers from the dangers of surgical smoke. Installing smoke evacuation systems in our operating rooms and surgical centers can help keep everyone safe from hazardous & toxic compounds that may be released into the air during medical procedures.

## CAPITAL BUDGET — Putting Families First

This year, we were able to make significant building investments in our communities with broad bipartisan support.

**We were proud to secure funding for important community projects here in the 5th LD, including:**

- Snoqualmie Valley Senior Center affordable housing project
- Black Diamond community skate park
- Lake Wilderness Lodge emergency generator

### Additional Highlights:

- **Housing and shelter:** \$439 million for investments in rapid housing acquisition, permanent supportive housing, support for homeless youth, and preservation of existing mobile and manufactured housing.
- **Early learning, public schools, and higher education:** \$101 million for seismic upgrades at public schools, early learning facility projects, and historically distressed public school grants.
- **Broadband:** \$100 million for the State Broadband Office, and broadband projects in unserved and underserved areas.
- **Essential infrastructure:** \$308 million for the Public Works Board (PWB), clean water, the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB), and infrastructure projects around the state.
- **Natural Resources:** \$271 million for water pollution control facilities, salmon recovery, state parks projects, and the Voluntary Stewardship Program.



# 2022 SESSION REPORT

## MOVE AHEAD WASHINGTON

Move Ahead Washington is a transformational \$16 billion, 16-year package that creates a sustainable, achievable future for our transportation sector with historic investments, including:

- **\$3 billion** to fix our existing infrastructure.
- **\$5.4 billion** toward electrification, expanding affordable, accessible options and reducing our carbon footprint.
- **\$3.1 billion** to expand reliable transit service.
- **\$50 million** to create bike and pedestrian routes and increase opportunities for good jobs in the transportation sector.

### Projects in and around our district:

- **\$640 million** for the final phase of widening Highway 18 from Issaquah-Hobart Road to the Raging River as a divided, four-lane road.
- **\$5 million** for a pedestrian bridge to cross over SR 169 near Rock Creek Elementary School and the Farmers Market.
- **\$6.9 million** to make the “Bellevue Gap,” a 3.6-mile segment of the MTS Greenway Trail safer for bicyclists.
- **\$380 million** for corridor improvements along I-405/SR 167 to improve the flow and safety of traffic for working families.
- **\$178 million** to widen I-90 from Snoqualmie Pass to Easton into a safer six-lane freeway designed to last at least 50 years.
- **\$18 million** to provide a safe, well-lit walkable path on the Eastrail Multi-Use Corridor through Bellevue.
- **\$6 million** to extend Eastrail from Milepost 5 to the South Coulon Park/Southport entrance.



We built our work this session on addressing the concerns of every Washington community.

**HB 1785** ensures Washington State Patrol (WSP) trooper and sergeant salaries remain competitive with other law enforcement agencies. **Increasing competitive pay** strengthens recruitment and retention efforts, incentivizing fewer troopers to leave for better pay in other agencies. This bill sends a message to our troopers

that we appreciate their work as first responders, and it fairly compensates the Washingtonians who make a career of serving and protecting our communities.

**HB 2057** implements an inclusive recruitment, retention, and **diversity, equity and inclusion plan for WSP**. To keep our communities safe and to reduce the deadly over-policing of people of color, WSP's hiring processes need significant change so that this agency reflects the ever-growing diversity of Washington.

**HB 1706** will bring relief, literally, to truck drivers by requiring port terminal operators to provide **sufficient restrooms in appropriate locations**. The people who keep our economy moving and deliver the goods we all depend on deserve more access to restrooms and running water.



The governor also signed my bill (**HB 1790**) to replace temporary permits with **temporary license plates** following the application for the registration of a vehicle. These temporary plates will be composed of durable material and be displayed in the same manner as a license plate where they are visible to the public and to law enforcement.



## KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

We passed two bills this session to clarify last year's policing reform measures to provide more support and certainty to those who protect and serve our communities.

**HB 1735** Law enforcement officers are often called to assist crisis responders and mental and behavioral health specialists with involuntary treatments and other community caretaking functions. This bill clarifies that officers can use force, subject to the reasonable care standard, in behavioral health, child welfare and other related circumstances.

**HB 2037** We worked closely with our police departments to better define physical force and authorize officers to use physical force, subject to the reasonable care standard, to stop someone from fleeing a temporary investigative detention.





## 2022 SESSION REPORT TO THE 5TH DISTRICT

**Rep. Lisa Callan & Rep. Bill Ramos**

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### DISTRICT TOWN HALL MEETING

Join us on Saturday, April 30,  
from 10 to 11 a.m.

Tahoma High School - East Entrance  
23499 SE Tahoma Way  
Maple Valley, WA 98038

## 2022 SESSION REPORT

### COMMUNITY PRIORITIES



#### **Cracking Down on Catalytic Converter Theft**

Stolen catalytic converters not only cost families hundreds or thousands of dollars in replacing parts, but it can also have a significant impact on residents who rely on their car to get them to work, school, or to pick up groceries. We passed [HB 1815](#) to regulate the purchase of catalytic converters, prohibit cash payments for these transactions, and require proof of ownership to help close markets for these stolen parts.

#### **Supporting Small Businesses**

Many small businesses are still reeling from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, we approved additional B&O tax credits to help our local businesses get back on their feet. We also raised the threshold for filing B&O taxes to help keep our smallest businesses open, competitive, and resilient.

#### **Affordable Housing & Homelessness**

All Washington residents deserve access to affordable, permanent, and secure housing. This session, we dedicated hundreds of millions to rapidly acquire affordable housing, provide utility and rental assistance to Washington families, promote permanent supportive housing, and prevent homelessness for foster youth and young adults.