

# 33rd Legislative District 2022 SESSION REPORT



Representative  
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*Speaker Pro Tempore*

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#### Committees:

[Civil Rights & Judiciary](#)  
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[Rules](#)  
[Public Safety](#)

Dear neighbors,

Thank you for the honor and privilege to serve our community in Olympia. I am so grateful to everyone who wrote, emailed, or called with your input and feedback.

These are uncertain times and many families and businesses have been struggling due to impacts of the pandemic, health/behavioral health issues, inflation and rising prices, and feeling safe in our community. Addressing these issues was my top priority.

During this short session, we made key investments to support families and businesses from expanding affordable housing, foreclosure prevention, new investments in behavioral health services including upcoming 988 behavioral health crisis and suicide prevention line and adding more counselors and nurses in our schools. More than 125,000 small businesses in our state will no longer pay B&O taxes. We made investments in green energy and created more apprenticeships, including summer pre-apprenticeships for youth in our community.

There isn't enough room to write about every bill and issue, so if you have specific questions, please get in touch with my office and we'll do our best to get you the answers you need.

Tina Orwall

#### COMING SOON!

Starting July 16, 2022, you'll be able to call the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** by dialing **988 on any phone**. In the meantime, continue using the hotline 1-800-273-8255 (TALK)



Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, America was suffering historically high overdose and suicide rates, as well as other behavioral health challenges. In 2020 Congress approved 988 and then it was up to each state to establish a fully-funded crisis response system supporting 988 when it goes live on July 2022.

#### WASHINGTON STEPPED UP TO THE PLATE!

I was proud to sponsor [HB 1477](#) last year to prepare our state for the **988 behavioral health crisis and suicide prevention line**, and to create a crisis system that is responsive and healing.

Following up on last year's work, this session I introduced [HB 1703](#) to modernize the 911 emergency system and help counties develop regional approaches to handling emergency calls. My bill helps organize our state's efforts to coordinate 911 calls with the new 988 behavioral health emergency system that will be implemented this summer. Having a strong partnership between 911, 988, EMS, police and behavioral health systems will be critical to its success.

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## The Supplemental Budgets

### OPERATING BUDGET

In 2021, we passed a budget to support people hit hardest during the pandemic, and this year we're strengthening efforts to help every community recover with smart, strategic investments, including:

- **Homelessness and housing: \$318 million** for utility and rental assistance, landlord cost mitigation, foreclosure prevention, homeless service and shelter providers, and a record transfer of \$500 million to bolster the Housing Trust Fund.
- **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.
- **Behavioral health: \$277 million** to invest in substance use and mental health providers, recovery and treatment; housing and employment; and funding for 988/crisis, outreach and crisis centers.
- **Small businesses and economic recovery**, including expanded Business and Occupation tax credits, **\$100 million** for restaurants and hospitality businesses, **\$75 million** for disaster response, and **\$25 million** for arts programs.

### CAPITAL BUDGET

Washington's Capital Budget, also known as the construction budget, generally provides funding for buildings and physical infrastructure projects throughout the state. This year, we were able to make investments in affordable housing & shelter for families (**\$439M**), broadband grants (**\$100M**), schools (**\$224M**), behavioral health (**\$111M**), clean energy (**\$101M**) and much more.

Three local projects were also funded in this budget:

- **\$450K** for **Open Doors for Multicultural Families in Kent**
- **\$309K** to help advance **green street planning in Des Moines**, which will help make 223rd Street more accessible for pedestrians.
- **\$2.4M** for the **Boulevard Park sanitary sewer extension** in Burien.



For more information on the Operating, Capital, and Transportation budgets, go to [leap.leg.wa.gov](https://leap.leg.wa.gov)

### TRANSPORTATION BUDGET

The \$11.7 billion supplemental budget invests in finishing projects already started and strengthening our transit network. But this year we also passed a huge \$17 billion transportation package called **Move Ahead Washington**, that focuses on preserving our existing infrastructure, reducing carbon emissions, investing in biofuels and siting for a new airport, and expanding safe, accessible, and affordable options to get around, including free rides for kids under 18.

Locally, we got funding for these projects:

- **\$3.5 million** for design, right-of-way acquisition and construction of the Barnes Creek Trail South Segment between S. 240th Street – 16th Ave S to 20th Ave S.
- **\$2 million** for interurban trail improvements including 212th Street, Meeker Street, James Street, 259th Street, Smith Street, and 262nd.
- **\$6 million** for easement acquisition with BNSF and construction of the southern-most segment of the Eastrail.
- **\$20 million** for the 224th corridor completion.



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## FAIR OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL STUDENTS

All students deserve a fair opportunity to learn and grow. These are some of the policies we passed this session that prioritize student well-being, as well as expanding accessibility and cultural competency:

**HB 1153**—This measure increases language access and family engagement in public schools. Students and families who need interpretation, both spoken and sign language, deserve the same opportunities as their peers in a language they can understand. I worked on this issue for the past five years and sponsored this legislation because parental involvement is critical for students' success and without language access, many families are unfairly left out.



**HB 1878**—Hungry kids struggle to learn, so I signed up as one of the sponsors of this measure to expand free school meals to more than 92,000 students by requiring all eligible schools to participate in the Community Eligibility Program. This is an important step on our path to ending childhood hunger in Washington.

**HB 2078**—As a mother of two, I know that when kids spend time learning outdoors, they learn the value and history of the land they stand on, as well as their responsibility to be good stewards of nature. I co-sponsored this bill to get students away from screens and into nature so they can stay healthy and thrive in school.



## SUPPORTING THOSE WHO FIGHT FOR OUR FREEDOMS

As you know, I have been a member of the Joint Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs since 2011, and in 2016 was appointed as co-chair of the NCSL Task Force on Military and Veterans Affairs. These are priority issues for me, and I am committed to working on measures that serve and support those who are currently, or have in the past, served and supported our nation.

**HB 1181** - Military service members, veterans, and their families are 52 percent more likely to take their own lives than civilians. I sponsored this measure to strengthen programs that help prevent suicide among Washington's veterans and military members. My bill strongly encourages health care providers to ask more questions of patients, extends the Suicide-Safe Homes Task Force, creates a suicide prevention community-based services veteran peer service grant program, and creates an online database that serves members and veterans with mental health and suicide prevention resources.



**HB 1642** - Our National Guard members have answered the call to serve our state, and we should ensure that they're able to fully utilize the benefits they've earned in that service. By changing how we implement the Washington National Guard Postsecondary Education Grant program we can ensure that students won't receive smaller grants because of other financial aid they've received. We also expanded the financial aid available to our National Guard members to include education beyond or in addition to a bachelor's degree.

**SB 5874** - Military veterans, active military members and their families move more frequently and have a harder time qualifying for in-state tuition. This bill expands residency status for all active duty, veteran, and dependent students who are eligible for educational benefits. It also expands military dependents' residency status to include spouses, state-registered domestic partners, and dependents of military members including National Guard and reservists.



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## PUBLIC SAFETY

Last year the Legislature passed a comprehensive package of police reforms to set clear expectations for officers' behavior, a baseline for acceptable use of force, tactics, and equipment, and ensure accountability and transparency. This session, we passed two bills to make these reforms clearer:

### POLICE USE OF FORCE FOR COMMUNITY CARETAKING CALLS: [HB 1735](#)

Some in law enforcement contended that last year's police accountability laws prevented them from assisting designated crisis responders and mental and behavioral health specialists with involuntary treatments and other community caretaking functions. I and some of my colleagues in the Public Safety Committee attended community meetings to get a broad picture of the problem and then carefully crafted a bill to clarify that officers can use force, subject to the reasonable care standard, in behavioral health, child welfare and other related circumstances.

### CLARIFYING POLICE USE OF FORCE POLICY: [HB 2037](#)

Since the implementation of last year's reforms, the complexities and nuances of police practices and applicable laws have posed some implementation challenges. Police have said that limiting the use of force has allowed people to

flee the scene of a potential crime and that not having a definition of physical force creates too much ambiguity. This measure defines physical force and authorizes officers to use physical force, subject to the reasonable care standard, to stop someone from fleeing a temporary investigative detention.

### CRACKING DOWN ON CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT: [HB 1815](#)

Catalytic converter theft not only costs families hundreds or thousands of dollars in replacement parts, it also has a significant impact on residents who rely on their car to get them to work, school, doctor visits, picking up groceries, etc. We passed this bill 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.

