



38th DISTRICT
LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

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38th DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE REVIEW
2022



REPRESENTATIVE
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COMMITTEES

- Commerce & Gaming (Vice Chair)
- Children, Youth & Families
- Transportation

Dear neighbors,,

This newsletter is a quick look at major things that happened during the 2022 session in Olympia and how they will affect all our families and neighborhoods here in the 38th District.

Inside, you'll find updates about the new state budget, the construction budget, transportation, and other issues.

There isn't enough room to write about every bill and issue. If you have specific questions, please get in touch with my office and we'll find out the answer.

Thank you to everyone who wrote, emailed, or called this session. It has been an honor and a privilege serving as your representative.

Emily Wicks

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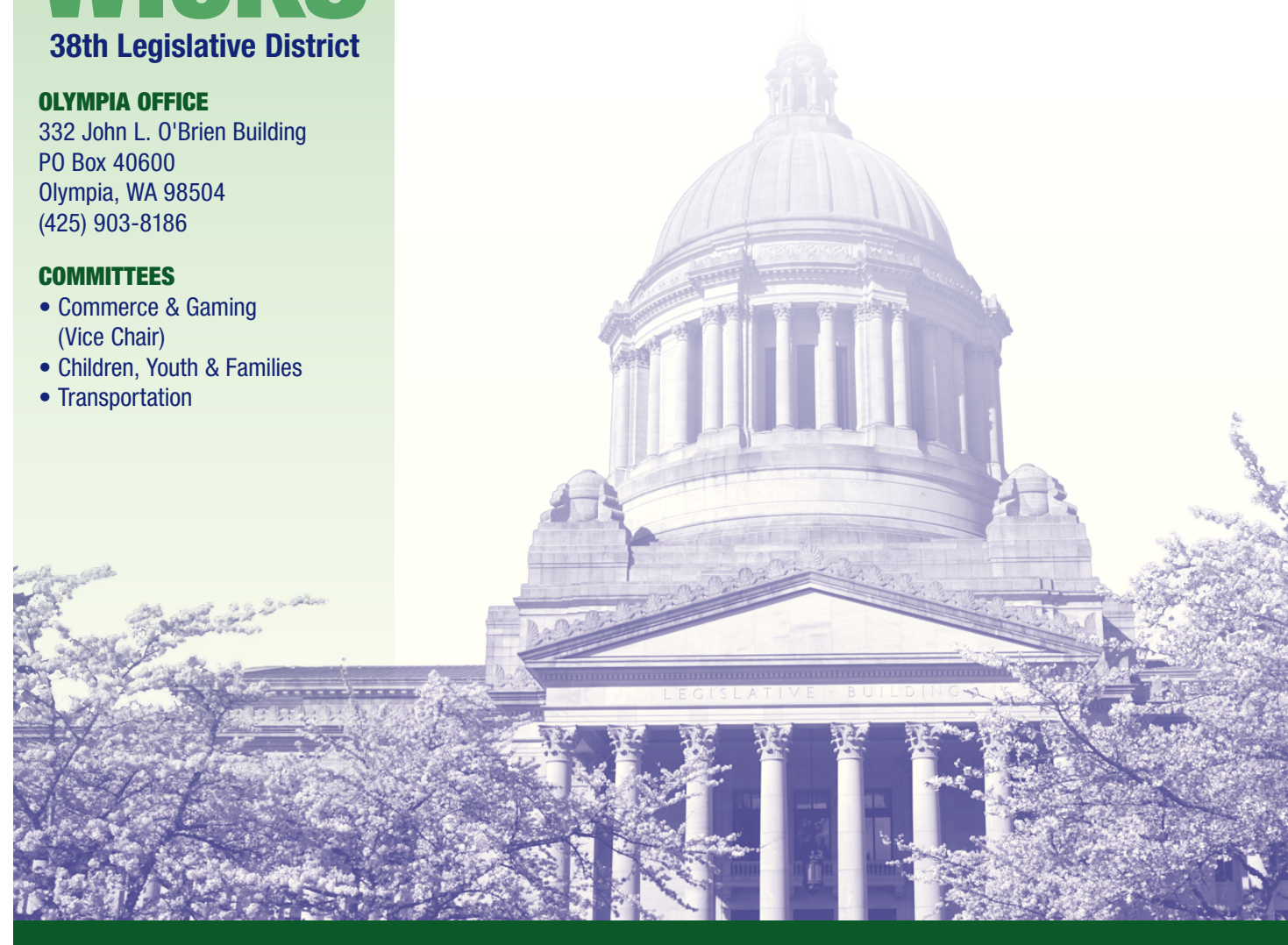
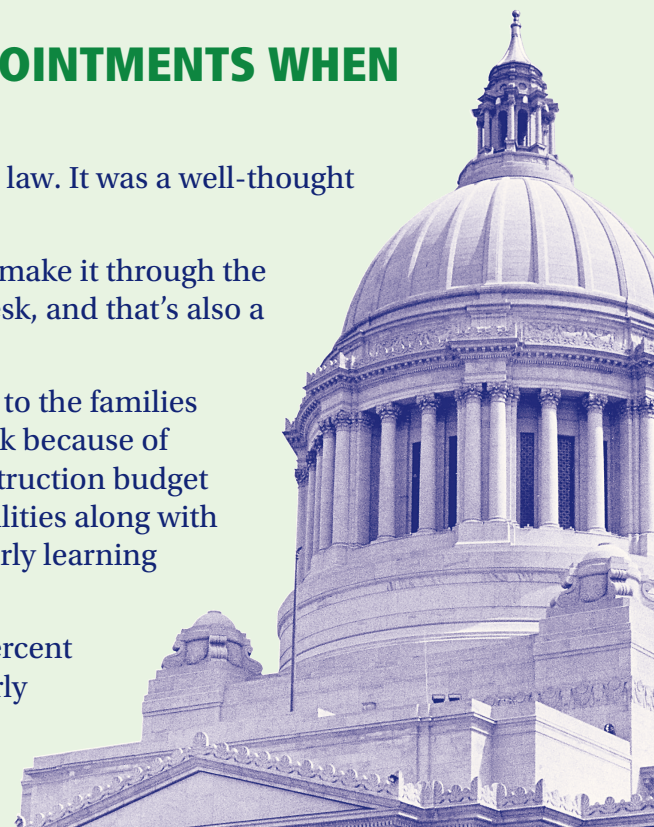
EACH SESSION, THERE ARE DISAPPOINTMENTS WHEN GOOD BILLS DON'T PASS.

It's too bad that the sales tax holiday didn't make it into law. It was a well-thought piece of legislation.

A number of housing bills passed the House but didn't make it through the Senate and the full process to land on the governor's desk, and that's also a shame. There is much more work to do on housing.

There are also little victories that may not seem so little to the families they affect. So many working moms and dads can't work because of the shortage in childcare slots right now. The new construction budget puts serious funding toward building early learning facilities along with outdoor school, and the operating budget also funds early learning and childcare improvements.

Our economy and families won't be operating at 100 percent until we've addressed this shortage in childcare and early learning. I'm hopeful that we've turned the corner on this problem.



A STATE BUDGET THAT PUTS PEOPLE FIRST



The new state budget we passed includes help for small businesses across the state and right here in the 38th District. Funding highlights:

- \$100 million to help our hardest hit restaurants and hospitality businesses
- \$25 million for arts, heritage, and cultural organizations
- \$15 million in tax incentives for television and movie productions shooting in Washington state
- \$130 million in reduced Business & Occupation taxes, with many small businesses paying zero
- \$35 million for small businesses disaster response assistance

There is also a new small businesses innovation and competitiveness fund that will operate out of local chambers of commerce and Main Street associations.

Finally, the budget funds mentorship for businesses owners who are women and people of color.

We also passed specific legislation to help create jobs, including tax incentives for data centers (**House Bill 1846**).

I fought for one-time pandemic funding relief to help Planned Parenthood and am happy to report that that funding was included in the final state budget that passed the House and Senate.

MOVE AHEAD WASHINGTON

In our state’s history, we typically pass a transportation package every ten years or so, fund it via the gas tax, and use most of that funding for highways.

Not this year.

We passed a \$17 billion, 16-year package that puts real funding toward mass transit, ferries, and active transportation (bicycle and pedestrian).

It includes funding for three big local projects:

- I-5 / SR-529 project
- Groves Street project in Marysville
- The Everett Pedestrian Bridge

There is also specific local funding for Cascade Elementary through Safe Routes to School along with a non-driver study that will be incredibly helpful for seniors and our disabled friends and neighbors along with others who don’t drive.



BUILDING HOPE AND PROGRESS

I’m happy to say we passed a new \$1.5 billion state construction budget makes significant investments in housing, economic development, early learning, and broadband internet.

This budget was made possible by \$650 million in one-time funding from the state operating budget, \$305 million in bond revenue and \$329 million from the Biden administration’s Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act funds.



Major investments include:

- \$439 million for housing, including \$15 million for homeless youth shelters
- \$111 million for behavioral health centers
- \$224 million for early learning, public schools, and higher education
- \$16 million for infrastructure at ports
- \$100 million to boost access to broadband internet
- \$101 million for clean energy projects

More information about the capital budget can be found at leap.leg.wa.gov, and projects can be mapped at the county or legislative district level at fiscal.wa.gov

The budget agreement was offered as a striking amendment to **Senate Bill 5651**. It passed the House 98-0 and the Senate 49-0.



Major projects here in the 38th include:

- \$1 million for the Evergreen Recovery Centers Residential Treatment Facility for Mothers with Children, including a Neonatal Unit & Expanded Therapeutic Daycare
- \$300,000 for the 988-service expansion center in Everett that serves people across Washington state
- \$800,000 for the Interfaith Family Shelter Building Acquisition in Everett
- \$2 million for terminal and warehouse upgrades at the Port of Everett

