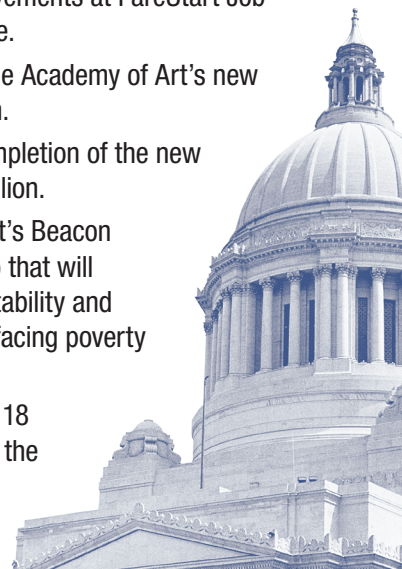


INVESTMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Several improvements in our district were funded in this year's operating and capital budgets. Here are a few of the projects we are excited to see in our community.

- **\$1 million** to support YouthCare's Constellation Center to provide services for young people to build future paths forward in a stable environment.
- **\$75,000** for the Youth Clinic at New Horizons to support health care for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.
- **\$200,000** for new outside lighting and digital poster boxes at Benaroya Hall.
- **\$300,000** for building improvements at FareStart Job Training and Social Enterprise.
- **\$100,000** to support the Gage Academy of Art's new building on South Lake Union.
- **\$400,000** to support the completion of the new Seattle Aquarium Ocean Pavilion.
- **\$300,000** to Uplift Northwest's Beacon of Hope for a community hub that will offer dignified pathways to stability and economic mobility for those facing poverty and homelessness.
- **\$250,000** for the Water Way 18 dock replacement to support the Sea Scouts and other youth maritime training programs.



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON HIGHLIGHTS

- **\$60 million** for UW Medical Center and Harborview Medical Center to support their critical safety net care and medical training missions for the state.
- **\$20 million** for the Center for Behavioral Health and Learning, the new behavioral health teaching facility at UW Medical Center-Northwest.
- **\$5 million** to design the modernization and renovation of the Bagley Hall, home to the Department of Chemistry.
- **\$38.9 million** for energy renewal and decarbonization projects, including centralized chilled water capacity improvements in Seattle, gas boiler replacements at UW Bothell and UW Tacoma, HVAC systems renewal at UWMC-Montlake, and central utility planning at UWMC-Northwest.
- **\$5 million** for Harborview Medical Center for siting and design costs for the Behavioral Health Institute building and Pioneer Square primary care clinic.
- **\$2.58 million** to renovate the UW soccer practice field for the 2026 World Cup.

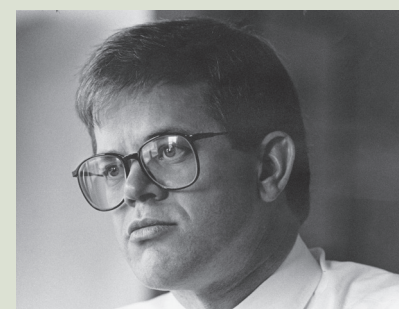


Photo credit: MOHAI, Seattle Post-Intelligencer Collection, photo by Robert DeGiulio

HONORING CAL ANDERSON

We were shocked and saddened last year when a capitol campus grounds crew in Olympia accidentally removed a tree planted to honor Cal Anderson, who represented the 43rd district in the House and Senate and was the first openly gay person to hold office in Washington. Cal served with distinction from 1987 until his death from complications of AIDS in 1995. Although a new tree was planted, future construction will require its removal. To make sure that Cal is properly honored, the legislature approved funding to design and eventually build a permanent tribute on the capitol campus. We are proud to know that Cal will receive the recognition he deserves and that his legacy will be shared for years to come.

PROTECTING LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY SAFE SPACES

One bill that drew a lot of attention this year is SB 6105, which creates safer working conditions in adult entertainment establishments. After the Liquor and Cannabis Board and Seattle Police Department conducted raids on LGBTQ+ bars and nightclubs on Capitol Hill earlier this year, we acted quickly to amend this bill to repeal the "lewd conduct" enforcement regulation from the books. We are glad to have addressed this situation quickly so that we can end practices that left many in our community feeling hurt and targeted in spaces where they should feel safe. The bill also strengthens workers' rights and creates a more equitable pay structure for adult entertainers, leading to a safer work environment. As attacks on LGBTQ+ people escalate nationwide, we must continue to fight for policies to promote greater health, safety, and dignity for everyone in our community.

43rd DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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ADVANCING LGBTQ+ RIGHTS

This year's legislative session produced several laws to improve life for our state's LGBTQ+ community. We are proud to live and serve in a community and state that are beacons of hope and safety to LGBTQ+ individuals and families from across the nation. Here are a few of the key bills passed this session:

- **HB 1905** expands workplace rights and protections in the Washington Equal Pay and Advancement Opportunities Act to include protected classes beyond gender, such as age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship or immigration status.
- **SB 5793** expands the definition of "family member" in Washington's Paid Sick Leave Law.
- **HB 2014** expands veterans' eligibility for state benefits and services, including for any veteran who was separated solely as a result of anti-LGBTQ policies.
- **SB 5917** establishes criminal penalties for bias-motivated defacement of private or public property.
- **SB 5427** establishes a hate crimes hotline to provide support to victims.
- **SB 6006** provides support for victims of human trafficking and sexual abuse.
- **HB 1954** harmonizes language related to reproductive health care services and gender-affirming treatment.
- **SB 6127** increases access to human immunodeficiency virus post-exposure prophylaxis drugs or therapies.



SENATOR
Jamie Pedersen



REPRESENTATIVE
Frank Chopp



REPRESENTATIVE
Nicole Macri

43rd District Legislative Report



Dear friends and neighbors,

The Legislature adjourned in March after a 60-day session with remarkable progress on many fronts, including new investments in public schools, affordable housing, behavioral health, and clean energy. We took steps to improve public safety, address the fentanyl epidemic, and reduce gun violence. We also passed several important new laws to protect workers, advance civil rights, protect our environment, and strengthen our economy.

The 43rd Legislative District is home to some of the most engaged and politically active people in the state. Your voice and advocacy have helped secure policy and budget victories in Olympia that will improve life here in Seattle and across the state. This newsletter will highlight several important new laws and community improvements we can expect to see in the coming months and years.

Thank you,

Jamie Pedersen
Sen. Jamie Pedersen

Frank Chopp
Rep. Frank Chopp

Nicole Macri
Rep. Nicole Macri

Thank you, Frank Chopp!

We wanted to take a moment to share a brief thank you to Rep. Frank Chopp, who is retiring from the Washington State Legislature this year. Frank has been among the most effective and influential leaders in the history of our state, serving for 30 years. He started when Democrats were deep in the minority (62-36) and led his caucus back to the majority, serving for decades as Speaker of the House. For the last few years, freed of his leadership duties, Frank focused tirelessly on housing and behavioral health. He has been an instrumental part of the legislature's efforts in expanding healthcare to children through the Apple Health for Kids program, integrating behavioral health and healthcare systems and building out new facilities such as the UW Behavioral Health Hospital, and in making housing available to everyone in Washington state. We will continue his work, and his legacy will not be forgotten. Frank, thank you for your service and commitment to the people of Washington.

— Jamie & Nicole



REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE

Reducing gun violence has been one of my top priorities in the Legislature since the Sandy Hook shooting more than a decade ago. Since Democrats regained control of our state Senate in 2018, we've made steady progress on common-sense gun safety measures. In 2024, we made meaningful progress with several important bills:

- **HB 1903** requires gun owners to report stolen guns to law enforcement within 24 hours or face a potential fine of up to \$1,000. We will join 15 other states in adopting a law that has been shown to reduce both illegal firearm access and the number of illegal firearms recovered at crime scenes.
- **HB 2118** requires gun dealers in Washington to ensure their inventory is kept safe and secure, to keep standardized records, to make timely reports of loss and theft, to preserve video recordings of transactions, and to carry liability insurance.
- **SB 5444** bans open carry of firearms in public libraries, zoos, aquariums, and transit stations.
- **HB 2021** authorizes the Washington State Patrol to destroy firearms they have seized so dangerous weapons are not recirculated back into communities.

I'm proud of the continuing work our state is doing to reduce gun violence. I am already looking forward to next year's legislative session as we work together to make our state a safer place to live.



SUPPORTING K-12 EDUCATION

One of the largest increases in K-12 education funding this session was a \$72 million investment to pay for more paraeducators. This change to our funding model will unlock dollars that schools can use to increase staffing, prevent layoffs, or raise salaries for critical support staff. We also increased the special education "cap" from 15% to 16%. Over the last two years, the state has increased special education funding by nearly \$450 million, but we have more work to do. The Legislature also boosted investments in school construction and modernization, supplies, and free school meals.

To help understand the recent enrollment declines in Seattle schools, I successfully advocated for funding for Seattle Public Schools to conduct a study on why families have

left the district and how they may be attracted back. The report is due by the end of the 2024-25 school year and should give us useful information as we address recent enrollment declines and resulting budget shortfalls.

Below are additional key pieces of legislation passed this year to improve K-12 education.

- **SB 5462** will require school districts to adopt curricula that tell the histories, contributions, and perspectives of LGBTQ+ Washingtonians and other marginalized communities.
- **HB 2331** will prohibit school boards from banning books from classrooms and libraries through discriminatory practices and will improve the review process for books coming into or being removed from a school's library system.
- **HB 1956** will require all middle and high schools to educate students on the dangers of opioids, particularly the synthetic opioid fentanyl.
- **SB 5804** will require all schools to have opioid overdose treatment (NARCAN) available if needed.

ADDRESSING THE HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS CRISIS



The housing affordability and stability crisis is affecting every corner of Washington. While there is no single solution, the Legislature has worked to increase the housing supply, stabilize rent and housing costs, and support those that are still unable to afford housing.

This session, we passed bills to legalize co-living (**HB 1998**), speed up construction of affordable workforce housing (**HB 1892**), and task the state building code council with recommending changes to make it easier to build triplexes, quads, and other multiplex housing options (**HB 2071**).

These efforts build on recent successes in housing policy, including the landmark Covenant Homeownership Act that provides down payment and closing cost assistance to Washingtonians historically denied access to homeownership because of discriminatory laws and real estate covenants.

INVESTING IN AFFORDABLE HOMES



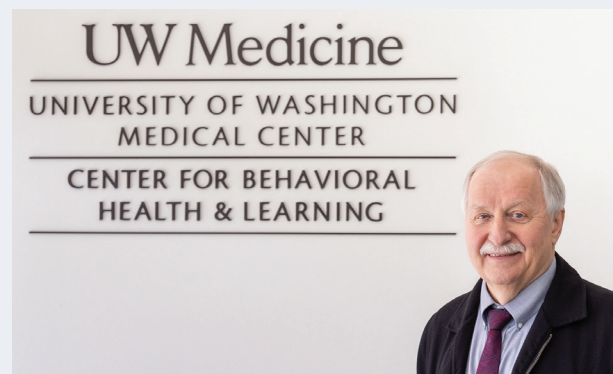
The supplemental operating budget includes an additional \$230 million to support local homelessness services and housing programs, while the supplemental capital budget builds upon record-breaking investments made

in 2023 by allocating an additional \$127.5 million for the state Housing Trust Fund. Non-profit housing projects across the state will see a major increase in funding to acquire, construct or renovate homes for people in need, including Apple Health and Homes. In 2022, I championed this new dynamic approach (**HB 1866**) to helping the homeless: if you are chronically homeless, and have a medical condition (mental illness, substance use disorder, or a major physical disability), then you deserve to have a home as part of your medical treatment!

HOME AND HOPE UPDATE

A catalyst for creating housing, childcare centers, and community facilities on surplus or underutilized public land, the Home and Hope effort is securing sites and promoting legislation to develop projects for low-income people in need. Non-profit ownership and operation ensure that rents are controlled and permanently affordable. There are several projects under construction, with 7,000 new homes at 30 sites currently in development, including 250 units at the Pacific Tower campus on Beacon Hill.

INVESTING IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



As families and communities continue to need increased behavioral health support, we are expanding our commitment to ensure that people have access to care when and where they need it. This includes investing \$230 million in the supplemental operating budget to increase behavioral health bed capacity.

I'm also excited to share that the brand-new Behavioral Health Teaching Hospital, to be operated by the University of Washington, at Northwest Hospital will be coming online in June! This new facility originated through legislation I championed in 2019 to help address two of the most critical issues within our behavioral health care system: treatment capacity and the workforce shortage. Not only will this new facility increase available behavioral health beds, it also allows for first-in-the-nation integrated training to help meet the critical workforce shortage.

I am proud to continue the fight for housing justice, affordable and accessible health care, supporting our LGBTQ+ community, and protecting the environment.

AFFORDABLE & ACCESSIBLE CARE

- ✓ Democrats continued our efforts to protect access to care, including passing **HB 2115**, shielding providers from harassment by allowing health care clinics to put the clinic name on a prescription label, rather than the prescriber's.
- ✓ I introduced **HB 1508** to give our Health Care Cost Transparency Board more teeth to meet their goals.
- ✓ We passed legislation to cap the cost of inhalers and epi-pens at \$35 for a 30-day supply and two epi-pens, similar to our previous laws to cap the cost of insulin at \$35 per month (**HB 1979**).
- ✓ As Vice Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, I ensured supplemental budget investments to support workforce in health care, behavioral health, long term care, and developmental disabilities. This year's budget funds \$245 million for increased inpatient behavioral health bed capacity, rates for providers of long-term civil commitments, and personal care for those with exceptional needs. We also invested \$20 million for medical providers and \$60 million to support the UW hospital system. This builds on last year's \$1.1 billion in provider rate increases, additional bed capacity, and youth behavioral health programs.



PREVENTING & RESPONDING TO DRUG OVERDOSES

- ✓ In communities across the state, we have seen the devastating impacts of substance use disorder. To confront this deadly epidemic, I worked to fund \$215 million for opioid use disorder treatment and prevention as well as statewide, college, and high school prevention and awareness campaigns, increased access to Naloxone, and mobile opioid treatment services.
- ✓ Additionally, we passed bills to further address this epidemic. **SB 6228** ensures at least 14 days of inpatient treatment coverage for all health plans. **HB 1929** creates housing opportunities for young adults discharged from treatment without any supports, which reduces the risk of them falling into homelessness.
- ✓ We also passed over \$80 million in funding for Capital Budget projects to help build or expand treatment centers across the state, working in tandem with our Tribal partners to improve access to treatment and recovery.



PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT



- ✓ **HB 1368** advances the adoption of zero-emission school buses through a grant program prioritizing districts in communities disproportionately affected by pollution. Addressing environmental hazards and the effects of climate change continues to be a top priority and phasing out diesel buses with clean alternatives will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.
- ✓ **HB 2156** protects consumers buying solar panels by requiring licenses and certifications to ensure work is completed according to the contract, and that those rules are enforced under the Consumer Protection Act.
- ✓ **HB 1185** phases out lights containing mercury. These compact fluorescent lights are potentially hazardous to your health and are challenging to recycle. Under this new law, these types of lights will slowly be phased out and a stewardship program to help recycle these lights will continue for the next decade.