

24TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT SESSION REPORT 2024



May, 2024

Dear neighbors,

We're happy to tell you we finished on-time and passed a balanced state budget that did not raise taxes.

Thank you to all who wrote, emailed, called our offices, or made the drive to Olympia during session. And many thanks as well to those of you who joined our telephone town hall in March, making it a big success. If you missed it, the recording is posted on our websites so you can listen to it anytime.

We often hear that people are concerned about how divided our parties are, but the truth is that we work in partnership across the aisle most of the time. We have the stats: of the 373 bills we passed, 80 percent had strong bipartisan support, with **236 bills receiving unanimous YES votes** from Democrats and Republicans, such as these bills we sponsored, which passed with the full support of both chambers:

Supplemental Capital Budget (HB 2089 / SB 5949 by Tharinger)—Invests \$1.3 billion in new construction projects, shattering the record for a short session.

Forestland Purchases (House Bill 1818 by Tharinger & Chapman)—This reform removes a financial barrier for local or state governments to buy forestland or timberland from a private landowner.

While this report is focused on the budgets, rest assured that if you have questions about a bill, a new law, or an issue, please contact our offices and we'll do our best to find you the answer.

Likewise, if you have ideas, concerns or just want to give us feedback, don't hesitate to get in touch. We hope to hear from you soon—or see you in person now that session is over!

Thank you again for giving us the honor and privilege of serving as your representatives!

Rep. Steve Tharinger

Rep. Mike Chapman



Representative Steve Tharinger

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Committees:

Capital Budget - *Chair*
Appropriations
Health Care & Wellness



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Committees:

Agriculture & Natural Resources,
- *Chair*
Transportation
Consumer Protection & Business

24TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

REPRESENTATIVE STEVE THARINGER

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE CHAPMAN



Operating Budget Highlights

Behavioral Health: \$245 million

We increased inpatient behavioral health capacity and rates for long-term civil commitments in the community; and we're funding behavioral health personal care for those with exceptional needs, as well as diversion and outpatient care.

Fentanyl & Opioid Response: \$215 million

We're addressing the fentanyl and opioid crisis with increased access to use disorder treatment, programs, and supplies; and supporting the safety of families and children with public health awareness and prevention, including outreach and support for Tribes.

Health Care & Public Health: \$444 million

To improve health outcomes, we're continuing the Medicaid Transformation Project, funding health equity for uninsured adults, expanding provider rates and reimbursements, and increasing funding for the Cascade Care Savings Program.

Children, Youth & Families: \$115 million

Our commitment to children, youth and families is about our values and the kind of society we want for ourselves and for future generations. To that end, this session we expanded early support for infants and toddlers, increased childcare slots and expanded eligibility, and increased provider rates and reimbursements including basic foster care and ECEAP.

K-12 Schools: \$335 million

Because every student deserves access to resources, opportunities, and assistance throughout their entire educational journey, this session we increased the cap to allow more funding for special education, increased participation for free student meals, directed new funding to support paraeducators, and increased funding for schools' daily basic operating costs.

Higher Education & Workforce Development: \$135 million

With the challenges of today's knowledge-based economy, the way to a gainful, productive, and fulfilling future is squarely dependent on marketable skills. This is why we are expanding workforce & training programs, as well as adding student supports.

Homelessness & Housing: \$230 million

To address the housing affordability and stability crisis, this session we're increasing funding for low and moderate-income clean energy assistance, addressing the growing need for local homeless services, adding support to existing local housing programs to backfill the document recording fee, and housing vulnerable populations by supporting tenants' rights and homeownership.

Clean Energy & Natural Resources: \$335 million

Clean energy, agriculture and natural resources play a crucial role in maintaining biodiversity and preserving our natural heritage. The investments we are making this year include forest health & wildfire protection; water quality & availability; salmon production, habitat & recovery; clean energy and climate programs; and payments to exempt agricultural fuel users.

Public Safety, Legal, & Corrections: \$70 million

Protecting our communities and supporting victims of crime are critical responsibilities of the state. The investments made this year are geared toward giving law enforcement tools to keep families safe, such as boosting criminal justice training, reentry support, and increasing compensation for crime victims.

Other Investments Include:

- \$728 million for disaster response recovery & assistance (nearly all federal funds).
- \$13 million for economic development & small business supports.
- \$8 million for digital equity, literacy, and broadband access.

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A record-breaking Capital Budget

The **massive \$1.3 billion** supplemental Capital Budget will give a serious boost to our efforts to build schools, parks, local projects, and other vital infrastructure.

Public School Construction

- \$79 million increase for school construction.
- \$69 million for skill centers and career/technical education.
- \$114 for the Small District & Tribal Compact School Modernization program.

Behavioral Health

- Community beds: \$82.7 million in behavioral health community capacity grants, to build care facilities in communities across Washington.
- Tribal centers: expanded investment to provide behavioral health and substance abuse treatment.

Affordable Housing

- Housing Trust Fund: \$127.5 million.

Local Construction Projects

- \$25 million for the Quinault Legacy Forest Acquisition
- \$15 million for the Jamestown S'Klallam Behavioral Health Center
- \$5 million for small school district and tribal compact school modernization
- \$4.99 million for the Sequim School District CTE Center of Excellence
- \$3.1 million for Boat Haven stormwater improvement
- \$2.7 million for the Sekiu Boat Ramp acquisition

- \$2.5 million for the Hoquiam Community Forest
- \$2.5 million for a carbon removal facility
- \$2 million for the Schafer Creek headwaters restoration
- \$1.367 million for the Fort Flagler Historic Theater restoration
- \$900,000 for recreational target shooting pilot sites
- \$773,000 for the Shore Metro Park District childcare expansion
- \$515,000 for the Montesano Child Care center
- \$500,000 for the YMCA Early Learning Center in Port Angeles
- \$488,000 for Port Angeles Fire season employee housing
- \$171,000 for the City of Sequim park acquisition
- \$136,000 for the Jefferson County Public Health project at Blue Heron Middle School

A Transportation Budget that keeps us moving

This year, we **boosted spending by \$1 billion**, investing in priority needs like ferries, the State Patrol, and traffic safety.

Ferries

- \$196 million for hybrid electric vessel construction and terminal electrification.

~ continued on page 4





Rep. Steve Tharinger Rep. Mike Chapman

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A note on Election Year Activity

During election years, there are certain restrictions on our public communications to prevent the use of state resources for campaign purposes. They include a halt to newsletters and a freeze to our websites and social media. This means that from May 6, until after the general elections have been certified in the Fall, you will not receive legislative updates from us, and no new content will be uploaded on the web.

LD24

Recycled

- \$73 million in 2023-25 to cover cost increases for hybrid vessel construction.
- \$22.9 million For increased staffing, workforce development, and increased service.

Highway Improvements & Preservation Work

- \$150 million to remove fish passage barriers
- \$100 million for highway preservation
- \$1 million for wildlife crossings

Climate Commitment Act

- \$65.5 million for rail/port electrification and public transportation electrification
- \$40 million for public/private initiatives to switch to zero-emissions technology
- \$33 million for local programs, including pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure and local electrification initiatives
- \$12 million for zero-emissions vehicle supply equipment infrastructure
- \$4 million for electric school buses

State Patrol

- \$5.9 million for additional trooper training
- \$691,000 in longevity bonus program

Traffic Safety

- \$8.5 million for public education and enforcement efforts, and to increase grants to local jurisdictions and community-based organizations for projects such as improving bike, pedestrian, and school zone safety.
- \$4.2 million to reduce accidents and improve road safety programs.

