

2025 SESSION REPORT TO THE 21ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



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Friends and neighbors,

Democrats in the legislature have ushered through big wins for working families, including historic investments in affordable housing and successful passage of 26 housing supply bills over the past seven years. We've also invested in Washington's behavioral health workforce and facilities, expansion of access to quality, affordable child care, and protections for our clean air and water thanks to investments from the Climate Commitment Act.

This year brought significant challenges. For the first time since the Great Recession, we had to navigate budget shortfalls. With slowing revenue, inflationary pressures, increased demand for core government services, and an outdated, regressive tax system, we faced a budget deficit that needed to be resolved.

We also faced major and immoral challenges from the other Washington. In previous sessions, we protected access to reproductive health care, prevented rollbacks of our progress on climate, and safeguarded Washingtonians' civil rights. But unpredictability and chaos at the federal level have hit our state hard, especially the mass firings of federal workers and harmful executive orders targeting immigrants and transgender people. On top of that, since we are the most trade-dependent state in the nation, ongoing uncertainty on tariffs will have a disproportional impact on our farms and our businesses on both sides of the state.

We remain committed to advocating for the needs of our communities and the strength of our state. We have tumultuous times ahead and we will continue working to protect you from federal chaos. We're here for you. Please reach out with any thoughts, concerns, ideas, or questions.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Sen. Marko Liias.

A blue ink signature of Rep. Lillian Ortiz-Self.

A blue ink signature of Rep. Strom Peterson.

2025 REPORT TO THE 21ST DISTRICT

COMBATING THE HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS CRISIS

Housing and homelessness continue presenting challenges in our state. We've made significant strides in recent years to build more homes and support those in need. This session we continued that work while also passing monumental legislation to stabilize costs:

RENT STABILIZATION

Residential and manufactured home renters alike deserve rent predictability, stability, and protection. Rent stabilization means we are protecting families, low-income individuals, and senior citizens by combating corporate price gouging in the rental market and creating stability in communities. **HB 1217** achieves much-needed reforms, but the two most important things it does to protect renters are:

- Capping yearly rent increases on existing residential tenants at 7% + inflation or a flat 10% - whichever is lower.
- Limiting annual rent increases for existing tenants of manufactured home parks to 5%.

TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT:

HB 1491 establishes development targets around rail and bus rapid transit stops and gives local jurisdictions flexible tools to meet these targets in ways that reflect the unique characteristics of their communities.

COVENANT HOMEOWNERSHIP

HB 1696 dismantles systemic racism in the real estate industry. The law allows loan forgiveness for certain individuals who qualify for the program and increases the income eligibility level.

IN ADDITION TO THESE IMPORTANT POLICIES, WE ARE:

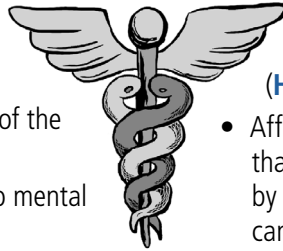
- Ensuring compliance with Growth Management Act housing elements (**SB 5148**).
- Preventing landlords from asking renters to sign away their rights to class action lawsuits (**SB 5313**).
- Allowing middle housing options in rural areas (**SB 5471**).



- Removing hurdles for financing affordable housing (**HB 1075**).
- Expanding the use of existing spaces for housing (**HB 1757**).
- Improving homelessness data collection (**HB 1899**).
- Giving residents of manufactured homes a fair shot at buying the land if their landlord decides to sell (**SB 5298**).
- Identifying counties that are failing to meet housing needs (**SB 5587**).
- Classifying manufactured homes as real property (**HB 1191**).
- Expanding the Foreclosure Mediation Program to members of homeowners' associations (**SB 5686**).
- Closing a loophole in the process of designating historic buildings that can prevent housing development (**HB 1576**).
- Limiting minimum parking requirements to build more homes (**SB 5184**).
- Keeping families together through stable housing (**HB 1177**).
- Improving housing stability through flexible support (**SB 5232**).
- Expanding the property tax exemptions for new and rehabilitated multiple-unit dwellings (**HB 1494**).
- Funding the Washington Center for Real Estate Research (**HB 1552**).
- Simplifying condominium construction (**HB 1403**).

HEALTHIER, SAFER COMMUNITIES

We're building a Washington where every family has access to the care they need and every community feels safe. We passed legislation to strengthen public safety, expand health care access, and protect some of the most vulnerable people in our state by:



- Strengthening behavioral health parity laws so mental health care is treated equally under insurance (**HB 1432**).
- Building a stronger home health care workforce and improved care for patients who rely on in-home services (**HB 1395**).
- Increasing transparency in health care spending by requiring health insurers to report primary care investments (**SB 5084**).
- Helping lower health care costs for public and school employees by setting reasonable hospital reimbursement rates and investing more in primary and behavioral care (**SB 5083**).
- Establishing a 12-month supply requirement for all prescriptions of contraceptive drugs, not just refills (**SB 5498**).
- Guaranteeing emergency medical care for pregnant patients, regardless of federal changes (**SB 5557**).
- Requiring the Health Care Authority to provide coverage for all FDA-approved HIV antiviral drugs without prior authorization or step therapy (**SB 5577**).
- Establishing a task force to help remove barriers to receiving and administering justice with fairness and equity, providing better health outcomes for vulnerable communities (**HB 1359**).
- Prioritizing child safety by setting clearer standards for visitation, evaluations, and ensuring judicial accountability in custody decisions (**HB 1620**).
- Giving cities and counties more flexibility to invest in law enforcement and local public safety measures (**HB 2015**).
- Strengthening protection orders to better support survivors of domestic violence and harassment (**SB 5202**).
- Clarifying what constitutes a hate crime and strengthened accountability for hate crimes, ensuring justice for victims and reaffirming our state's commitment to dignity and fairness (**HB 1052**).
- Strengthening oversight, clarified operational requirements, and expanded enforcement powers to protect people in a detention center held in inhumane

conditions—including individuals who have not been convicted of a crime or granted a hearing (**HB 1232**).

- Affirming tribal sovereignty and closing the gap in justice that exists between reservations and local jurisdictions by ensuring people who commit crimes on a reservation cannot easily evade accountability (**HB 1829**).
- Keeping guns out of the hands of those who may use them to harm themselves or others by establishing a coordinated system to check eligibility of firearm permit-holders (**HB 1163**).
- Adding two governor-appointed voting members with lived experiences to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee, building on the Nothing About Us Without Us Act to ensure directly impacted voices shape policy (**HB 1185**).
- Ensuring courts consider serious criminal offenses when making child custody decisions (**HB 1620**).
- Updating and improving court interpreter services by expanding and promoting equity in legal proceedings (**HB 1174**).
- Strengthening our animal cruelty laws by increasing penalties for abuse and ensuring those convicted of harming animals cannot own them again (**HB 1149**).
- Prohibiting the use of specific animals, such as elephants, bears, big cats, and primates, in traveling performances and circuses. These animals endure cruel training practices and live in subpar conditions (**SB 5065**).



Senator Marko Liias

2025 REPORT TO THE 21ST DISTRICT

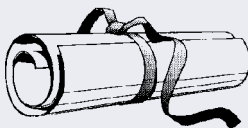
STRONGER STARTS, BETTER SCHOOLS

From early learning through high school graduation, we focused on giving every child the opportunity to thrive. Despite budget challenges, we protected

critical investments and passed legislation to strengthen early learning, support educators, and give students the resources they need to succeed.



- Investing \$750 million in special education services and removed outdated funding caps ([SB 5263](#)).
- Preserving core elements of the Fair Start for Kids Act while adjusting timelines to reflect current fiscal realities ([SB 5752](#)).
- Expanding access to early learning by giving providers flexibility to fill open ECEAP seats and enroll more three-year-olds ([HB 1351](#)).
- Eliminating birth certificate fees for low-income families and expanding acceptable ID for school enrollment ([SB 5030](#)).
- Providing \$213 million for classroom materials, supplies, and operating costs ([SB 5192](#)).
- Directing \$200 million in local effort assistance to help low-income districts ([HB 2049](#)).
- Providing tools to help districts recover from financial distress and avoid disruptive cuts ([SB 5412](#)).
- Strengthening learning standards to ensure students are mastering key subjects ([SB 5189](#)).
- Supporting remote testing options for students enrolled in online school programs ([HB 1079](#)).
- Promoting safe, inclusive, and welcoming classrooms for all students ([HB 1296](#)).
- Making it easier for more people to become teachers and diversifying the educator workforce ([HB 1651](#)).



Representative Lillian Ortiz-Self



A THRIVING WORKFORCE

We continue standing up for working families across the state because every Washington worker deserves fair wages, good benefits, and support during tough times. We passed legislation to improve job safety, expand leave protections, and strengthen workers' rights on and off the job.

- Protecting all minors from harm and exploitation, holding bad actors accountable ([HB 1644](#)).
- Safeguarding workers' jobs when they return from using paid family and medical leave ([HB 1213](#)).
- Requiring timely investigations of workplace violations in health care settings, helping protect nurses, ER techs, orderlies, and others ([HB 1162](#)).
- Giving more time for child care providers to meet professional development requirements, helping stabilize the workforce ([HB 1648](#)).
- Expanding safety requirements for isolated workers, such as hotel housekeeping staff, including training and access to panic buttons ([HB 1524](#)).
- Improving enforcement of prevailing wage laws by requiring certified payroll records and targeting wage theft ([HB 1821](#)).
- Expanding pregnancy-related accommodations by requiring paid lactation and travel breaks, extending protections to all employers, and allowing jury duty deferrals for breastfeeding parents of infants under 12 months ([SB 5217](#)).

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A THRIVING WORKFORCE - *continued*

- Granting hospital workers more control over breaks by allowing mutual agreements to waive or reschedule meal and rest periods during 12-hour shifts (**HB 1879**).
- Allowing paid sick leave use for immigration-related court proceedings, protecting workers' jobs and income during legal processes (**HB 1875**).
- Providing up to six weeks of unemployment benefits for striking or locked-out workers, leveling the playing field during labor negotiations (**SB 5041**).
- Reducing barriers to employment for people with criminal records by limiting access to certain background information (**HB 1747**).
- Standardizing workers' compensation payments so married and unmarried workers are treated equally (**HB 1788**).
- Leveling the playing field by implementing and enforcing collective bargaining between cannabis industry employers and cannabis agricultural employees who cultivate, grow, harvest, or produce cannabis (**HB 1141**).



SAFEGUARDING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Democrats have delivered transformative legislation to confront the climate crisis, restore our environment, and improve public health. This session, we continued this trend by passing bills to improve waste management and protect workers and the environment from hazardous substances.

- Overhauling our outdated recycling program by creating a producer-responsibility program to require manufacturers and consumer brands to reduce unnecessary packaging, expanding curbside recycling to more than 500,000 households, and creating a statewide list of all recyclable material (**Recycling Reform Act SB 5284**).
- Our new right-to-repair laws require manufacturers of electronics and mobility devices to provide independent repair businesses and owners with access to parts, tools, and repair information. This will lower repair costs, increase access to refurbished electronics and equipment, and help reduce waste (**HB 1483, SB 5680**).
- Requiring our Department of Ecology to report sewage spills to keep communities safe from contaminated waterways (**HB 1670**).
- Improving our "Call Before Your Dig" program (**SB 5627**).
- Setting new lead thresholds in cookware (**SB 5628**).
- Strengthening our Clean Fuels Program (**HB 1409**).

SUSTAINABILITY AND SAFETY

As the climate crisis becomes more severe, we are focused on protecting and enhancing our state's natural resources and safeguarding agricultural production for future generations by:

Taking critical steps to increase water supply (**SB 5303**), promote habitat restoration (**SB 5157**), and better protect fish and wildlife (**HB 1325**). We also increased support for our agricultural industry by expanding a grant program for farmers and ranchers who adopt sustainable practices (**SB 5391**).

With droughts and hotter temperatures making wildfires more devastating, we must invest in prevention, mitigation, and recovery efforts. We passed bills that facilitate the use of new tools for forest management and wildfire risk mitigation (**HB 1563**), require investor-owned electric utilities to file wildfire mitigation plans (**HB 1522**), and minimize rate increases for customers by allowing utilities to securitize disaster recovery costs (**HB 1990**).



Representative Strom Peterson

CAPITAL BUDGET

The state's capital budget funds the construction of needed infrastructure, like housing, school buildings, behavioral health facilities, and other important projects, while also creating jobs. This year we prioritized construction to support housing and homelessness programs, affordable housing, behavioral health, and schools.

KEY STATEWIDE INVESTMENTS INCLUDE:

- \$782 million in housing and homelessness programs.
- A record-setting \$605 million for the Housing Trust Fund – directly funding the construction of affordable housing.
- \$1 billion for K-12 school construction and early learning facilities – including \$202 million for small district and tribal compact schools, \$151 million for school seismic safety, and \$100 million for early learning facilities.

- \$130 million in grants for projects expanding behavioral health care capacity in community settings.

SOME OF THE PROJECTS IN OUR AREA THAT RECEIVED FUNDING:

- \$1 million for construction needs at the Rise Up Academy Early Learning Center.
- \$810,000 for work at the Mariner Community campus, which will include affordable housing, community gathering and learning spaces, and will be centered around a public library.
- \$681,000 to expand the Martha Lake Park by nearly an acre.
- \$412,000 for Port of Edmonds boardwalk repair.
- \$103,000 for needed improvements at the Edmonds Food Bank.

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TRANSPORTATION BUDGET

The transportation policies and bipartisan budget we passed this session prioritize finishing key projects, preserving aging infrastructure, and making our system safer for everyone who uses it.

Our budget invests in continuing key projects already underway across the state, including the I-90 Snoqualmie Pass and SR 18 improvements. We also directed significant funding toward preservation and maintenance, especially for our aging ferry system, highways, and roads. These are some of the projects in our area:

- Lynnwood Link Improvements at I-5 and 164th St.
- Snohomish County Applied Sustainable Aviation Evaluation Center.
- SR 99 Revitalization Project.
- Pedestrian & Traffic Improvements on SR 525.
- Improvements at the Edmonds and Mukilteo Ferry Terminals.



Our budget maintains funding for pedestrian and bicycle safety grants, as well as dedicates additional dollars to driver safety. And, to help reduce injuries and fatalities on the road, we passed legislation that will require driver training for people ages 18 to 25 ([HB 1878](#)), hold reckless drivers accountable ([HB 1596](#)), and let cities prioritize pedestrian safety by creating shared streets ([SB 5595](#)).