

STAY IN TOUCH



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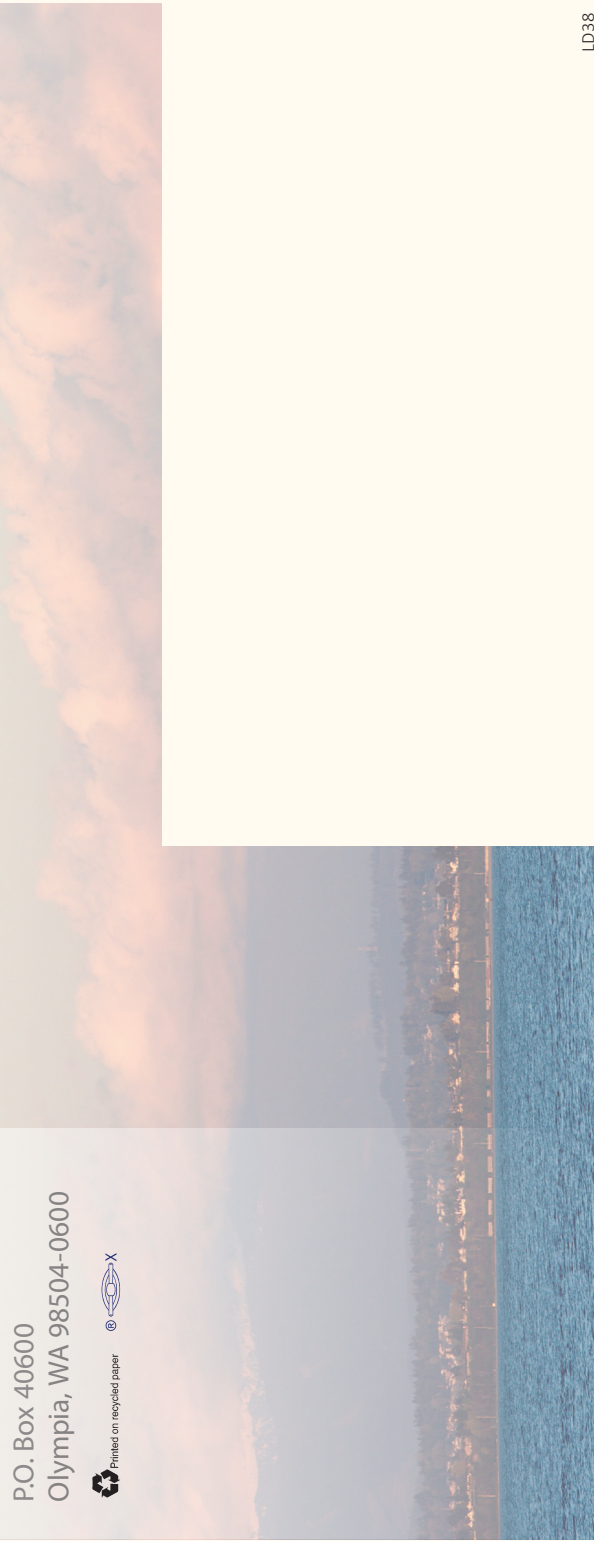
38th Legislative District

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38th Legislative District 2025 UPDATE

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Rep. Julio Cortes
Rep. Mary Fosse

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LD38

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW



Sen. June Robinson



Rep. Mary Fosse



Rep. Julio Cortes

Dear friends and neighbors,

This year’s legislative session brought big challenges — from a major budget shortfall to rising needs statewide — but we stayed focused on what matters: protecting the services people rely on and moving Washington forward.

We took a responsible, balanced approach to the budget, pairing targeted reductions with new revenue, including updates to capital gains and estate taxes and surcharges on some of the world’s largest, most profitable corporations. That allowed us to make our tax code more progressive and continue investing in housing, health care, public safety, education, and support for working families.

There’s more work ahead, but we’re proud of what we achieved together and proud to represent the 38th Legislative District. Thank you for staying engaged and making your voice heard.

— June, Julio & Mary

38th Legislative District

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



HEALTHIER & SAFER COMMUNITIES

Our goal is to build 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.

- Gave cities and counties more flexibility to invest in law enforcement and local public safety measures (**HB 2015**).
- Strengthened protection orders to better support survivors of domestic violence and harassment (**SB 5202**).
- Strengthened Washington's hate crime laws to improve enforcement and protect impacted communities (**HB 1052**).
- Required training and a permit to purchase a firearm (**HB 1163**) .
- Added 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**).
- Improved developmentally appropriate alternatives for youth by strengthening juvenile diversion and removing diversions from criminal history (**HB 1391**).
- Ensured courts consider serious criminal offenses when making child custody decisions (**HB 1620**).
- Strengthened behavioral health parity laws so mental health care is treated equally under insurance (**HB 1432**).
- Built a stronger home health care workforce and improved care for patients who rely on in-home services (**HB 1395**).
- Increased transparency in health care spending by requiring health insurers to report primary care investments (**SB 5084**).
- Helped 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**).
- Established a 12-month supply requirement for all prescriptions of contraceptive drugs, not just refills (**SB 5498**).
- Guaranteed emergency medical care for pregnant patients, regardless of federal changes (**SB 5557**).

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.

- Preserved core elements of the Fair Start for Kids Act while adjusting timelines to reflect current fiscal realities (**SB 5752**).
- Expanded access to early learning by giving providers flexibility to fill open ECEAP seats and enroll more three-year-olds (**HB 1351**).
- Gave more time for childcare providers to meet professional development requirements, helping stabilize the workforce (**HB 1648**).
- Eliminated birth certificate fees for low-income families and expanded acceptable ID for school enrollment (**SB 5030**).
- Helped more childcare centers open by easing facility restrictions in shared buildings (**SB 5655**).
- Invested \$750 million in special education services and removed outdated funding caps (**SB 5263**).
- Provided \$213 million for classroom materials, supplies, and operating costs (**SB 5192**).
- Directed \$200 million in local effort assistance to help low-income districts (**HB 2049**).
- Passed tools to help districts recover from financial distress and avoid disruptive cuts (**SB 5412**).
- Strengthened learning standards to ensure students are mastering key subjects (**SB 5189**).
- Made it easier for more people to become teachers and diversify the educator workforce (**HB 1651**).
- Promoted safe, inclusive, and welcoming classrooms for all students (**HB 1296**).

CONSTRUCTION AND TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Both budgets fund priority projects across our district. For complete project lists and maps, please go to fiscal.wa.gov. Highlights include:



- Compass Health's new Broadway facility in Everett
- Little Wings Early Learning in Everett
- New Tomorrow's Hope Center in Everett
- Bayview Trail in Marysville
- Waterfront pedestrian safety at the Port of Everett
- I-5/NB Marine View Dr. to SR 529 corridor and interchange improvements
- I-5/116th St. NE, 88th St. NE and SR 528/Marine Dr. interchange
- SR 526 corridor improvements
- North Broadway Pedestrian Bridge
- U.S. 2 Trestle capacity improvements and westbound Trestle replacement
- 156th Street railroad overcrossing

A THRIVING WORKFORCE

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.

- Protected all working minors from harm and exploitation, holding bad actors accountable (**HB 1644**).
- Protected workers' jobs upon return from using paid family and medical leave (**HB 1213**).
- Required timely investigations of workplace violations in health care settings, helping protect nurses, ER techs, orderlies and others (**HB 1162**).
- Expanded safety requirements for isolated workers, such as hotel housekeeping staff, including training and access to panic buttons (**HB 1524**).
- Improved enforcement of prevailing wage laws by requiring certified payroll records and targeting wage theft (**HB 1821**).
- Strengthened responsible bidder criteria on public works projects, supporting apprentice opportunities and workforce development (**HB 1549**).
- Expanded 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**).
- Gave hospital workers more control over breaks by allowing mutual agreements to waive or reschedule meal and rest periods during 12-hour shifts (**HB 1879**).
- Allowed paid sick leave use for immigration-related court proceedings, protecting workers' jobs and income during legal processes (**HB 1875**).
- Provided up to six weeks of unemployment benefits for striking or locked-out workers, leveling the playing field during labor negotiations (**SB 5041**).
- Expanded protections for applicants and employees under the Washington Fair Chance Act (**HB 1747**).
- Standardized workers' compensation payments so married and unmarried workers are treated equally (**HB 1788**).
- Streamlined the bargaining process for the State and Department of Corrections employees (**HB 1105**).

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

We took major steps to address Washington's housing crisis — capping rent hikes, increasing housing supply, supporting first-time homebuyers, and making a historic investment to meet needs across the state.

- Invested a record \$782 million in housing and homelessness programs statewide, including \$605 million for the Housing Trust Fund to build and preserve affordable housing in communities across Washington (**SB 5195**).
- Capped annual rent increases to prevent extreme price hikes that push people out of their homes (**HB 1217**).
- Expanded down payment and closing cost assistance for first-time homebuyers from economically disadvantaged backgrounds (**HB 1696**).
- Enforced state housing laws and created a "builder's remedy" so that more affordable housing can actually get built (**SB 5148**).
- Limited minimum parking requirements near transit and for affordable, senior, and small-scale housing to reduce costs and unnecessary barriers (**SB 5184**).
- Required denser housing near major transit stops, with affordability standards and offsets like a 20-year property tax exemption (**HB 1491**).