

Sen. Yasmin Trudeau • Speaker Laurie Jinkins • Rep. Jake Fey



HOUSING

2023 has been a phenomenal year for housing! We came together to tackle the statewide housing crisis and

focused on building our housing supply, increasing housing stability, and ensuring support to help people get and stay housed. Our housing crisis wasn't created overnight, and it won't be solved overnight, but this session, we made strides and passed historic investments in housing. These bills include:

- **HB 1110** allows for the construction of more attached single-family homes and expand middle housing options throughout our state. It's companion, **SB 5190** was brought forward by our own Sen. Trudeau
- **HB 1474** creates the first-in-the-nation Covenant Homeownership Program to address the racial wealth gap and open homeownership opportunities to those impacted by generational discrimination and redlining.
- **HB 1042** helps quickly increase housing supply by facilitating renovation of underutilized or vacant commercial and mixed-use buildings into residences.
- **HB 1349** protects vulnerable homeowners, particularly low-income households, and seniors, from predatory foreclosures.
- **HB 1337** reduces barriers to the construction of new accessory dwelling units (ADUs).

Between the capital construction and operating budget, we invested over \$1 billion in housing to address affordability and the housing crisis. Those investments include:

- \$400 million in the Housing Trust fund for Affordable Housing projects
- \$141 million for emergency housing and rental assistance
- \$60 million for encampment response and outreach
- \$30 million in additional funding for children and youth homelessness
- \$25 million to create housing to meet the needs of our disabled community members

Although there is more work to be done to address affordability and stabilize our rental market, we are proud to build on the legislative success of this session in addressing our housing crisis moving forward.

PROTECTING REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM



While other states attack access to reproductive health care, abortion access, and gender-affirming care, we took action to protect patients and providers. Washingtonians have said time and again we must protect and provide access to the full scope of care. We met the moment with the following bills, which will soon be implemented:

- **SB 5242** prohibits cost-sharing for abortion.
- **HB 1155**, the My Health My Data Act, protects personal health data. It is the first law in the nation to require companies like period-tracking apps to get a person's consent to collect, share or sell their health data.
- **HB 1469** and **SB 5489**, which was sponsored by Sen. Trudeau, is also known as the Shield Law. It protects people seeking an abortion and gender-affirming care in Washington, as well as providers, from prosecution in other states.
- **HB 1340** protects health providers from professional disciplinary action in Washington for performing procedures that are legal here, regardless of punishments in other states.

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY POLICY WINS

We've seen how dangerous and deadly hot weather events can be, with climate change these events will only happen more often. HB 1329, sponsored by fellow Tacoma resident Rep. Sharlett Mena, helps protect vulnerable communities from the devastating impacts of extreme hot weather. This bill prohibits utilities and landlords from stopping water or electricity when the National Weather Service has issued an extreme heat warning.

We also protected consumers by banning chemicals like lead, mercury, formaldehyde, and PFAS in cosmetic products (HB 1047). These harmful and potentially cancer-causing chemicals have already been banned in other products.

This year we also had our first auction under the Climate Commitment Act. We'll be using that revenue to help people switch to more efficient heat pumps, prepare communities for flooding and drought, transition towards clean energy, prevent wildfires, and protect our state's biodiversity.

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27th Legislative District • 2023 Session Review



Rep. Jake Fey • Sen. Yasmin Trudeau • Speaker Laurie Jinkins

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Dear neighbors,

After two remote legislative sessions, we were thrilled to be back in person for the 2023 session and ready to get to work on the issues that matter most to our community and state.

It's no secret our state fared better than most during the COVID-19 pandemic, thanks in part to the Washington Recovery Budget and supplemental budget legislators passed in 2021 and 2022. In fact, Washington's economy was ranked best in the nation by WalletHub both last year and this year, and we were also named the second-best state for business last year by CNBC.

But we knew there was more to be done, and we heard loud and clear from you that you wanted to see more progress on addressing housing affordability and homelessness, on behavioral health access, on workforce development and support, on community safety for all, on environmental progress, and on protection of reproductive rights. You placed your trust in us to get the job done, and we're excited to share the results with you in this newsletter.

Serving as your legislative delegation is a huge honor, and we're proud that the 27th District has a strong voice on legislative committees, with Rep. Fey chairing the House Transportation Committee and serving on the House Environment & Energy Committee, and Sen. Trudeau serving as vice chair of the Senate Law & Justice Committee, on the Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee, on the Senate Housing Committee, and as one of the two Senate Democrat negotiators on the Capital Construction Budget. Additionally, while Speaker Jinkins' top leadership role in the House means she doesn't sponsor any legislation, as Speaker she chairs the House Rules Committee, which decides which bills make it to the House floor calendar.

This 2023 report highlights some of the major wins for our community and state. We think you'll agree there is a lot of good news in here, and we also continue to welcome your feedback, questions, and concerns. A great way to share feedback with us is at one of the many community conversations we'll be hosting this summer. Confirmed dates, times and locations are listed at the end of this newsletter.

We hope to see many of you around in the community this summer and fall.



Sen. Yasmin Trudeau



Speaker Laurie Jinkins • Rep. Jake Fey



**JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS
THIS SUMMER!**

- Thursday, July 13th from 2:00-3:00pm at the Fife Pierce County Library**
- Thursday, July 27 from 6:00-7:00pm at the Center at Norpoint**
- Tuesday, August 29th from 11:30am-12:30pm at Heritage Coffee and Plant House**
- Tuesday, September 5th from 12:30-1:30pm at Tacoma Public Library South Tacoma Branch**



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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A TRANSPORTATION BUDGET THAT HONORS A COMMITMENT TO ALL WASHINGTONIANS

During the 2023 Legislative Session, we passed a two-year budget of \$13.5 billion to fund the state's transportation needs (**HB 1125**). The bipartisan and bicameral budget passed the House unanimously.

The budget builds on projects in previous legislative budgets, including last year's historic and transformative Move Ahead Washington package (almost \$17 billion), which is funded over 16 years.

This 2023-2025 budget shows a commitment to the people of Washington by keeping key projects on schedule, maintaining our current transportation system, investing in our vital ferry system, improving traffic safety, combating climate change, and focusing on equity and overburdened communities. Key highlights include:

- Eliminating delays on major highway projects around the state
- Investing in vessels for our ferry system
- Improving traffic safety
- Reducing carbon emissions as part of the Climate Commitment Act (CCA), including equity investments in overburdened communities that have faced the brunt of the climate crisis in our state
- Additional workforce equity investments to attract women and people of color into transportation-related careers

This year's transportation budget furthers our commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector by allocating nearly \$1 billion from the CCA. Earlier this year the state had its first CCA auction and the proceeds from these auctions will be used to invest in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, public transit, and in projects across the state that will electrify ports, vehicles, and other transportation equipment.

KEY TRANSPORTATION POLICY WINS

The three bills below are necessary components to last year's Move Ahead Washington package. The work below is the start of implementing many parts of that 16-year project.

- **Ferry Procurement (HB 1846):** Opens the procurement of new vessels at Washington State Ferries to national shipbuilders. Washington shipbuilders will receive a 13 percent credit for bid proposals for vessels constructed in state. Our ferries are between 30 to 50 years old—with the oldest one being 64 years old! Maintaining or repairing vessels this old is very expensive and challenging. Opening up the procurement process means the state should see new vessels even sooner, though the earliest new vessels will be on our waters in four years from now.
- **Incentivizing Recruitment for the Washington State Patrol (HB 1638):** Troopers at the Washington State Patrol (WSP) are a vital part of our highway safety system, enforcing roadway regulations and offering road assistance. Recruitment at WSP has struggled in recent years because all law enforcement agencies are recruiting from the same pool of candidates. In 2022, Washington experienced 745 traffic fatalities, our highest level in more than 30 years. Incentives to recruit qualified troopers will provide the workforce for growing highway safety needs.
- **Putting a Pause in the Airport Debate (HB 1791):** We've reset the airport debate and have stopped work to name a site by June 2023. Instead, we've created a work group that will partner with various levels of government, including the military and tribes, to identify the strengths and weaknesses of potential airport sites, as Seattle-Tacoma International Airport will reach capacity by 2050. They're also tasked with considering the environmental impacts of airport expansion.

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

The two-year capital budget invests \$8.9 billion for construction and infrastructure across the state. These projects support the growth and development of our communities and address various needs and challenges that have been identified. We are proud to report we ended with a balanced budget that prioritized the needs of all our communities, urban and rural, Republican and Democrat. In fact, one of our own, Sen. Trudeau, helped write it! Here are just a few of the projects we secured funding for across the 27th:

- \$1,000,000 for Affordable Housing provided by Shiloh Baptist Church
- \$1,000,000 for Chinese Reconciliation Park
- \$1,500,000 for Fife Aquatic and Community Center
- \$2,446,000 for the CLR Certified Community Behavioral Health Center
- \$90,000 for the Latino Arts and Culture Community Center
- \$3,500,000 for the Sea Mar Community Health Center in Tacoma
- \$2,500,000 for the Multicultural Child and Family Hope Center
- \$226,000 for the Multicultural Youth Recreation Facility
- \$7,700,000 for the UWT Campus Land Acquisition
- \$2,000,000 for the Tacoma Public Library
- \$5,050,000 Lincoln District Family Housing

IMPORTANT TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN THE 27TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

The state's transportation budget is a commitment to all Washingtonians, but here's what's happening in our community.

- **The Puget Sound Gateway Program** (SR 167 and SR 509 completion) is two projects in one—SR 509 connects SeaTac to the Kent Valley and SR 167 connects the Port of Tacoma to Sumner and Puyallup. We've allocated \$873 million to this project over the next two years and are currently in stage two of construction. This project will allow for a tolled expressway from I-5 to the Port of Tacoma. The total cost for this project will be \$2.2 billion, and once complete, it will greatly improve the movement of goods to the Port of Tacoma. This project also funds a shared use trail for pedestrian and bicycle travel from Puyallup to Tacoma.
- Over the next two years, \$7.7 million is funded for access improvements on the **Port of Tacoma Road**. This road is one of the major arterials serving the Port of Tacoma and is in desperate need of an upgrade. We're projecting an additional \$22 million to fund this work from 2025-2027.



HELPING OUR STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS THRIVE

Our state has an alarming homelessness crisis. Among those without a roof over their head every night are 30,000 students — or about 3% of those in K-12 schools. So investments to expand and make permanent programs that have proven to be successful are critical.

That is why we passed the homeless students stability act in 2016, sponsored by Rep. Fey. Improvements to the original legislation were made this year (HB 1622), including further community supports and counselors for students who are at risk of becoming homeless, as well as additional funds to support that work. This legislation created a competitive grant program available to school districts to connect homeless students to stable housing and improve access to educational resources. The original source of inspiration was from Tacoma School District and Tacoma Housing Authority and efforts already in place at McCarver Elementary School in Tacoma.



Unfortunately this problem extends to higher education as well. 19% of higher education students experience homelessness. SB 5702, sponsored by Senator Trudeau, also originally passed the Legislature in 2016. This year, changes to this piece of legislation make our Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness pilot program permanent. It extends supports and resources for students who are unhoused or aging out of the foster care system that need assistance in meeting basic needs. This is an example of keeping up with programs that are working well. Over 90% of students engaged in the pilot program went on to successfully complete their degrees.

PRIORITIZING COMMUNITY SAFETY

Many of you have reached out to us with concerns about community and neighborhood safety. From preventing gun violence, to supporting survivors and victims, to addressing substance use disorder, to providing law enforcement the tools they need and simultaneously ensuring accountability to the community they serve, we all place a high value on safety.

Unlike some states that are doing nothing to help prevent deadly mass shootings—and in the absence of federal action—Washington passed a ban on the sale and distribution of assault weapons this session (**HB 1240**). We also passed legislation to require safety training and waiting periods to purchase firearms (**HB 1143**). And because firearm manufacturers and retailers need to be part of the solution for ending gun violence, we passed legislation requiring them to take reasonable steps to enforce existing laws, track their inventory, and prevent straw sales (**SB 5078**).



Washingtonians expect our legal system to be fair and accessible to everyone. That's why this session we expanded funding for domestic violence services by \$62 million, the Office of Public Defense and Office of Civil Legal Aid by \$52 million, and therapeutic courts by \$21 million. We also funded expanded firearm violence prevention grants (\$12 million).

Ensuring we are training enough cadets from our law enforcement academy, funding independent investigations and improving our criminal justice system are other ways we provide the fair, equitable and accessible public safety that everyone deserves. That's why we added new training locations in the 27th and classes to this year's Basic Law Enforcement Academy budget (\$27 million).

We heard a lot of feedback about our state's vehicular pursuits law. High-speed chases can be extremely dangerous to the public, and law enforcement also needs the tools to be able to pursue dangerous suspects who flee. With the passage of **SB 5352** this year, the standard for vehicle pursuits is lowered to reasonable suspicion, ensuring police are able to pursue dangerous suspects while allowing each community to set a pursuit policy that works best for them.

We also passed bills to support crime victims and witnesses and survivors of sexual assault (**HB 1028**), and improved protections for people experiencing domestic violence (**HB 1715**), ensuring the system works to keep them safe and that law enforcement and judicial officers have the training they need.



Finally, we passed legislation to ensure private detention facilities in our state, like the one located in the 27th District, meet the same health and safety standards as public facilities in order to protect basic human rights (**HB 1470**).

ADDRESSING THE SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER CRISIS

Our family members, neighbors, and communities are suffering. Nearly everyone knows someone affected by substance use disorder, and our nation's 50-year war on drugs has only shown that the criminal legal approach to addiction does little to improve public safety or get people who are suffering into treatment. Communities are best served when treatment is prioritized. When the Washington State Supreme Court struck down our statute criminalizing drug possession, we took the opportunity to adopt a statewide accountability approach that addresses the root causes of this crisis while mitigating the problems it creates in our communities. In a one-day special session on Tuesday, May 16th, legislators came together to pass a compromise bill (**SB 5536**) that prioritizes treatment for substance use disorder while giving some flexibility for law enforcement and prosecutors to intervene. It sets up systems for outreach, treatment, diversion, and recovery, while still ensuring accountability.

