

State Representative JOE FITZGIBBON

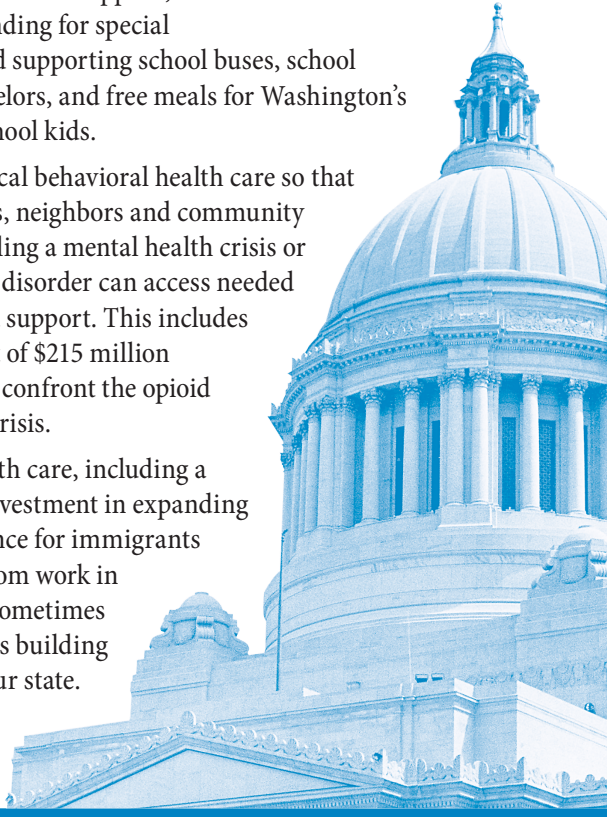
34th Legislative District

*Standing up for our
district's families and
communities*



A BUDGET THAT PUTS PEOPLE FIRST

- Strong schools, with \$335 million in new K-12 investments, including more funding for school materials and supplies, increasing funding for special education, and supporting school buses, school nurses, counselors, and free meals for Washington's 1.1 million school kids.
- Access to critical behavioral health care so that our loved ones, neighbors and community members battling a mental health crisis or substance use disorder can access needed treatment and support. This includes an investment of \$215 million specifically to confront the opioid and fentanyl crisis.
- Access to health care, including a \$28 million investment in expanding health insurance for immigrants – many of whom work in difficult and sometimes dangerous jobs building and feeding our state.



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State Representative
JOE FITZGIBBON
34th Legislative District

P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504



2024
Session
Report

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State Representative JOE FITZGIBBON

34th Legislative District

*Standing up for our
district's families and
communities*



Dear friends and neighbors,
The 2024 legislative session may have lasted just 60 days, but it was a productive session. Our state's operating budget invests in K-12 schools, behavioral health, and clean energy. The transportation and construction budgets include investments for our district in ferry service, public transit, and local projects that support food security for people and families in our communities. We're improving community safety with gun violence prevention bills, funding to train more law enforcement officers, and cracking down on catalytic converter theft and other crimes. Details on these and other wins are inside this newsletter.

OLYMPIA OFFICE:

LEG 339A
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786-7952

Joe.Fitzgibbon@leg.wa.gov
<https://housedemocrats.wa.gov/fitzgibbon>

COMMITTEES:

- Appropriations
- Select Committee on Pension Policy (Chair)

TOLL-FREE HOTLINE:

1-800-562-6000
1-800-833-6388 (TTY)

To stay informed about what I'm working on during the legislative session, sign up for my e-newsletter at housedemocrats.wa.gov/Fitzgibbon



CLEANER AIR AND CLIMATE PROGRESS

We increased climate, clean energy and natural resource investments by \$335 million this year, funded almost entirely from the Climate

Commitment Act (CCA). CCA dollars are funding:

- Zero-emission school buses, which protect kids' health from harmful diesel fumes, through a grant program prioritizing high-pollution areas and delivering cleaner air for kids and communities.
- Helping families heat and cool their homes with \$150 million for clean energy credits for low-income households.
- Investments in air quality in high-pollution areas like South King County, where rates of childhood asthma are higher.

Additionally, we're reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting the transition to a cleaner future with:

- **SB 6058** (sponsored by our own 34th District Sen. Joe Nguyễn), which aligns Washington's carbon market with California's and Quebec's, reducing carbon pollution and strengthening the predictability and affordability of the Climate Commitment Act.
- **HB 1589**, which helps the state's largest utility transition to clean energy and prevents possible spikes in the cost of natural gas down the road.

FERRIES AND PUBLIC TRANSIT

Reliable ferry service and public transit is critical to many 34th District households, including our Vashon Island neighbors who have been particularly impacted by service disruptions. The 2024 supplemental transportation budget includes funding for:

- Four additional Vashon water taxi weekday roundtrips, thanks to \$3.17 million secured by my 34th District seatmate, Rep. Emily Alvarado.
- Urgently needed investments in the ferry workforce, including hiring more dispatchers and deck and engine room crew.
- Ferry terminal preservation and improvements, including the Fauntleroy, Vashon, and Seattle terminals.
- Support for Metro RapidRide service between Burien, White Center, Delridge, and downtown (H line).
- Bus electrification and infrastructure to support cleaner, quieter rides, including nearly \$5 million for the Burien Transit Center layover charging infrastructure.



COMMUNITY SAFETY

- Our state's high schools were recently ranked as the safest in the nation*, thanks in part to gun violence protection legislation passed in previous years. This year we took further gun safety steps with bills requiring gun dealers to secure their inventory, mandating lost or stolen guns be reported within 24 hours to law enforcement, and prohibiting firearms in places like zoos, aquariums, and libraries.
- To help train more law enforcement officers, the state is funding more training at the academies and picking up the full tab for local jurisdictions to train new officers.
- A 77% decline in catalytic converter thefts - thanks to legislation in 2022 - is bolstered further this year with a new law controlling the buying and selling of catalytic converters.

* according to study published October 2023 by Scholaroo



FIGHTING HUNGER AND FEEDING FAMILIES IN THE 34TH

Unfortunately, too many families in our communities face food insecurity. I fought for \$11 million in Climate Commitment Act funds to connect farmers and food businesses with organizations combating hunger and preventing food waste. We are also providing state dollars to support these projects that serve our communities:

- South Seattle Community Food Hub – additional funding for the next phase of a freezer/cooler project that will receive and store produce and other perishables, which will particularly help our BIPOC, immigrant, and refugee growers and producers in the area while feeding those in need.
- White Center Food Bank – funding towards renovation costs.

