

Representative Joe Fitzgibbon End of Session Report



Representative
Joe Fitzgibbon

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Committees:

- Appropriations
- Rules

Dear friends and neighbors,

The 2025 session began with a significant shortfall in the state budget. We also are facing unpredictability and chaos at the federal level. Our state has made significant investments in housing, education, behavioral health, and clean air and water. There is more work to be done in these and other areas, and we continue to work to protect Washington from threats coming from the federal government.

Given the challenges we faced, our priorities were to balance the budget responsibly and to protect core services for Washingtonians, like education, health care, and the safety net. This newsletter provides some highlights from the budget and key bills that passed.

If you have questions or concerns about anything covered or not covered in this newsletter, please reach out to my office and I will work to provide further information. It's an honor to serve the people of the 34th Legislative District.

Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon



Closing the shortfall: A balanced approach

We made clear from the beginning that we needed a balanced approach to solving our budget shortfall, minimizing harm to Washingtonians and relying not solely either on budget cuts or on tax increases. Our final budget achieves that balance and was signed by the governor last month.



It was a tough year, but we still provided new resources in some areas, particularly our K-12 public schools, with a focus on improving special education. We worked hard to maintain food assistance for hungry families and summer meals for hungry schoolkids and to avoid deeper cuts to health care and child care.

We delayed or paused implementation of some programs and services, including expansion of access to affordable child care. With limited options for revenue, these delays were the least bad option.

We passed increased taxes on Washington's largest businesses and most successful households, and we will continue working to reform our state's outdated tax code. The gap between Washington's working families and the gains made by the wealthiest in our state results in not enough funding for our schools, puts our safety net at risk, and keeps many working families struggling to make ends meet.

Closing loopholes to benefit Washingtonians

I was proud to sponsor the following bills to balance the budget and benefit the people of our state:

HB 2077: Preventing windfall profits for car manufacturers

This bill targets windfall profits by certain electric vehicle manufacturers that have exploited Washington's Zero Emission Vehicle program to make record profits. The bill levies an excise tax on the banking and sale of surplus zero-emission vehicle credits and invests the proceeds in electric vehicle rebates, incentives, and infrastructure and in balancing the state budget. This will help the Zero Emission Vehicle program achieve its intended purpose without generating windfall profits for billionaires.

HB 2061: Supporting tourism and sustainable aviation fuels

Duty-free sales enterprises operate at our ports of entry, such as airports. They don't pay state sales, liquor, or tobacco taxes, but their products have an impact on our state. By implementing a concession fee on these sales, we're putting resources toward supporting Washington's economically important tourism sector and supporting cleaner travel with sustainable aviation fuels.



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Spotlight on environmental wins

34th Legislative District

HB 1409: Next big step for clean fuels

The transportation sector makes up nearly half of our state's greenhouse emissions. In 2021, we passed my bill establishing a clean fuels program, taking meaningful action on climate change. This year, we took the next big step forward by setting more ambitious targets for the state Clean Fuels Standard with **HB 1409**, which I sponsored. It requires fuel suppliers to reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuels. Cleaner fuels will pay dividends for Washingtonians and keep us moving forward on climate action during a time of federal inaction and backsliding.

SB 5284: Making it easier and more affordable to recycle

Washington is now the seventh state to adopt an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law, requiring manufacturers and consumer brands to reduce unnecessary packaging, help fund statewide recycling collection services, and ensure materials put in curbside bins are recycled. This will reduce pollution, help more households recycle (especially in rural areas that traditionally haven't had access to curbside recycling programs), incentivize producers to use less wasteful and more recyclable or compostable packaging, and divert materials away from our landfills. I was proud to co-sponsor this bill in the House.

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Safe communities: reducing gun violence

Gun violence is the number one cause of death for children and teens. As a parent, this is a scary statistic and I want safer communities for our children, as I'm sure we all do. That's why I'm glad we passed **HB 1163** this year, which will help keep guns out of the hands of those who may use them to harm themselves or others. It establishes a coordinated system to check eligibility of firearm permit-holders and requires a "permit to purchase" that includes participating in safety training and ensuring background checks. Washingtonians have overwhelmingly supported gun safety measures, and this bill is an important way to ensure responsible gun ownership.

