

## 2020 SESSION SUCCESSES

While much of our focus has turned to addressing the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 session saw the passage of significant public policy. This includes legislation to:

- Roll back recession-era cuts to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program to help families who are one paycheck away from homelessness;
- Establish a statewide Office of Equity to help reduce systemic disparities in our public institutions;
- Ensure students receive a comprehensive sexual health education, providing the skills to identify and prevent sexual assault, as well as engage in healthy, consensual relationships; and
- Ban single-use plastic bags from use by retailers, helping to encourage reusable alternatives.

### Representative Frame

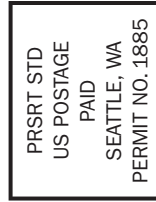
Two areas of public policy in which I am heavily involved include juvenile justice and tax code reform, and I continued my work on both during the 2020 session. I successfully sponsored legislation to streamline the process of juvenile record sealing, which will make it easier for young people who have served their time and are committed to getting their life back on track to be successful after release. I'm also currently serving as Co-Chair of the bipartisan, bicameral Tax Structure Work Group, which aims to modernize and balance our state's tax code so that it is equitable, adequate, stable, and transparent. We are in the process of conducting a robust analysis of the code and modeling alternative structures, but the next step will be in-depth public engagement, including small, low-margin, and start-up businesses, as well as low- and middle-income families.

Learn more about the Tax Structure Work Group and find meeting information at [dor.wa.gov/about/tax-structure-work-group](http://dor.wa.gov/about/tax-structure-work-group).

### Representative Tarleton

This session, I successfully passed two election-related pieces of legislation. The first will help protect Washington's election system from cyber-attacks and prepare local and state officials for possible election interference. The second ensures that local elections offices are reimbursed for the costs of conducting state and federal elections.

I also sponsored historic legislation that was the result of extensive, months-long negotiation between the state, the Tulalip Tribes and Snohomish County to reach a revenue-sharing agreement. Under the new law, this revenue-sharing agreement will be the first of its kind in Washington state, and will help settle disputes over who has taxing authority on tribal lands.




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## 2020 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

### Neighbors,

COVID-19 has dramatically shifted the landscape in Washington state and the nation. Job losses, businesses suffering or closing completely, healthcare for many in jeopardy – these are all the realities we are living under. There is hope, however, and we know that by working together Washington can weather this storm.


In this update, you will find websites to provide resources and help, information on what the Legislature and state government has done in response to COVID-19, and an update on the federal CARES Act, which is providing additional assistance to states, businesses, individuals, and families. You'll also hear about the work we did on housing and homelessness, new laws that passed to help those who are still struggling due to the Great Recession, and how we make Washington a safer, more prosperous place for EVERYONE to live and thrive.


Below are some websites you can visit for specific resources or assistance. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our offices by emailing us at [Gael.Tarleton@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Gael.Tarleton@leg.wa.gov) or [Noel.Frame@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Noel.Frame@leg.wa.gov):

- The Governor's COVID-19 Resources and News page: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/>
- Layoff Guidance for Workers & Businesses: <https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/layoff-assistance>
- Disaster Assistance Loans for Businesses & Homeowners: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>
- King County's COVID-19 Resources page: [www.kingcounty.gov/covid](http://www.kingcounty.gov/covid)
- City of Seattle's COVID-19 Resources page: <https://www.seattle.gov/mayor/covid-19>

Again, please do not hesitate to reach out to our offices if you need assistance or have questions. Together we will get through this and we will continue to do everything we can to ensure your family is safe during this crisis.

Sincerely,

  
Rep. Gael Tarleton

  
Rep. Noel Frame



## RESPONDING TO CORONAVIRUS

Washington's Legislature is standing strong against the COVID-19 pandemic. To respond to this unexpected crisis, the Legislature passed several critical policies and funded over \$200 million in investments to increase capacity in hospitals, make it easier to hire health care workers, expand testing and provide vital resources to help small businesses, workers and families.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Our state is in the middle of a housing affordability and homelessness crisis. Everyone should be able to afford a place to call home – and still be able to pay for the basic necessities, like health care, food and childcare. Unfortunately, that's become out of reach for far too many people. We need creative solutions for housing and are committed to building more permanent affordable housing to ease the bottleneck between moving people out of short-term housing or shelters and into a stable home. This session we supported numerous policies to protect renters from rising expenses by allowing residential tenants to pay initial move-in fees in monthly installments, lifting restrictions on community organizations who want to help, creating tools for local governments to build affordable housing and requiring more advance notice for residential rent increases.

For many, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased economic anxiety around the ability to pay property taxes, mortgages, and rents on time. **To ease this burden, the date to pay property taxes in King County has been extended from April 30 to June 1** for those who pay their residential and commercial property taxes themselves, not to those who make payments through a mortgage lender or servicer. **If you are struggling to pay for property taxes or a mortgage on time, get in contact with your lender immediately.** Don't wait to fall behind on payments to make arrangements.

**Statewide Washington Homeownership Hotline:**  
1-877-894-HOME

**King County Property Tax Information:**  
propertytax.customerservice@kingcounty.gov or 206-263-2890

## CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT

Congress passed a package to help state and local programs in these difficult times. While it won't fix every problem, it's a good first step to continue fighting this virus. Here's the estimated breakdown of funding for our state:

- **State Coronavirus Relief Fund**—\$1.624 billion to the state and \$1.329 billion to local governments, for our state and local public health systems, personal protective equipment, human services, and more.
- **Child Care Development Block Grant**—\$58.2 million to help childcare providers during this unprecedented crisis.
- **Community Services Block Grant**—\$11.8 million for local community-based organizations providing social services and emergency assistance to those with the highest need.
- **Low-income heating assistance program**—\$11.1 million to offer help to those who need assistance paying their utility bills.
- **Education Stabilization Fund**—\$56.6 million, along with \$216.9 million for elementary and secondary education, to help schools purchase technology to support online learning, plan and coordinate school closures, and other emergency needs.

### Help for workers, businesses, and families

The state unemployment insurance system ([esd.wa.gov/unemployment](https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment)) has become more flexible during the COVID-19 pandemic. These are the most important things you need to know:

- More people are eligible for assistance today, including the self-employed, part-time workers, and people in the gig economy. Visit [esd.wa.gov/newsroom/covid-19-worker-information](https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/covid-19-worker-information) to learn more.
- Benefits will increase by \$600 per week through the end of July.
- An additional 13 weeks of eligibility are added.
- Job search requirements are relaxed and now optional, as the governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy order makes it hard for people to look for work.
- Reduced tax impacts for businesses that use state unemployment insurance programs.
- Relaxed penalties and fees for employers and workers who miss key deadlines due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- SharedWork allows businesses to reduce worker hours without having to lay them off.

**Help for families** includes a \$1,200 per person check for those making under \$75,000 a year and \$2,400 for a married couple who file jointly earning \$150,000 or less. There's an additional \$500 per child.

For small businesses, the **Small Business Administration** ([www.sba.gov/](https://www.sba.gov/)) offers small business guidance and loan assistance. Multiple programs for direct assistance have been created for emergency relief, including the **Economic Injury Disaster Loan Emergency Advance** ([www.sba.gov/disaster/apply-for-disaster-loan/index.html](https://www.sba.gov/disaster/apply-for-disaster-loan/index.html)), which provides up to \$10,000 to businesses that are experiencing temporary difficulties, and the **Paycheck Protection Program** ([www.sba.gov/ppp](https://www.sba.gov/ppp)), which provides loan forgiveness for retaining employees. At the time of printing, the initial funding for these programs has been allocated, however, we are monitoring for additional federal funding and considering state-level assistance.

### Food Assistance

There are plenty of ways to continue to access safe and healthy food, and extra help is available for families that need support getting food on the table. Grocery stores, gas stations and convenience stores remain open. You can also continue to order takeout and delivery while practicing social distancing.

- **Assistance with buying food:**  
[washingtonconnection.org/home](https://washingtonconnection.org/home)
- **Find a food bank or meal program in your area:**  
[foodlifeline.org/need-food](https://foodlifeline.org/need-food)
- **Free meals through Seattle Public Schools:**  
[seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what\\_s\\_new/coronavirus\\_update/resources/student\\_meals](https://seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/coronavirus_update/resources/student_meals)

