



2024 SESSION UPDATE

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT NO. 1885

Representative
Mia Gregerson

P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504



Representative Mia Gregerson • 2024 SESSION UPDATE

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Your stories inform my work in the Legislature, so your input is critical. **I want to thank everyone who took the time to come down to Olympia during session.** I enjoyed meeting with students and neighbors. Please know you can contact me throughout the year to voice your ideas and concerns. I appreciate your continued participation in our democratic process.

For those who wish to dive deeper into state government, consider the following opportunities:

- Join a board or state commission to help shape the quality of life for Washington residents. With over 230 opportunities available, there is something for everyone! Visit <https://governor.wa.gov/boards-commissions> to learn more about available vacancies.
- **The House Page Program** is for 14–16-year-olds. Pages serve for one week during session. They receive civics education, support the operations of the Legislature, draft their own bills, and more. Applications open November 1, 2024. Visit <https://bit.ly/HousePageProgram> for information, including a scholarship opportunity.
- **The Legislative Youth Advisory Council** is a nonpartisan youth-led committee for 14–18-year-olds to serve on the council for two years, engaging in the legislative process and making policy recommendations to the Legislature on behalf of Washington’s youth. Visit <https://walyac.org/> for all the details.
- **The Legislative Internship Program** is for college juniors and seniors. They are full-time nonpartisan staff serving member offices in Olympia during session. They receive college credit and a stipend. Visit <https://leg.wa.gov/Internships> to learn about the application process, which opens every fall.

These are excellent opportunities for Washingtonians to gain firsthand experience engaging in state government operations. Please share this information with anyone who may be interested!



MIA GREGERSON

Washington State Representative

2024 SESSION UPDATE 33RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Now that the 2024 Legislative Session has concluded, I am happy to be back home. We ended on time and with balanced supplemental operating, capital, and transportation budgets that reflect our democratic values. I’m proud of what we accomplished together in just sixty days.

We sent close to 400 bills to Governor Inslee with 297 of them passing with strong bipartisan support. This newsletter includes highlights from the session and useful resources.

The Washington House Democrats Members of Color Caucus (MOCC) was founded on the belief that we stand stronger when we stand together. This group prioritizes policy proposals each year that break down structural barriers and reimagine opportunity, access, and representation for people of color in our state. It has been an honor to serve as Chair of the MOCC over the last two years. In this role, I not only have the honor to represent my constituency but individuals, families, and communities of color across the state. I am proud to share two of our priority bills were signed into law this year. HB 1541 which establishes the Nothing About Us Without Us Act and directs the state to bring more people to the table when shaping policy by including folks with lived experience on statutory taskforces, workgroups, or advisory committees. HB 1228 establishes grant programs to create or expand dual language education programs as well as tribal language programs in K-12 schools.

It is a privilege to continue representing our diverse community. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns you want to share. I hope to hear from you! Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

Representative Mia Gregerson
33rd Legislative District

STAY IN TOUCH

Olympia Office:

328 John L. O’Brien Building
PO Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504

Phone: (360) 786-7868

Email:

mia.gregerson@leg.wa.gov

Website:

housedemocrats.wa.gov/gregerson/

Facebook:

facebook.com/RepMiaG

Committees:

- Appropriations (*Vice Chair*)
- Rules
- State Government & Tribal Relations

NOTABLE INVESTMENTS: 2024 SUPPLEMENTAL OPERATING BUDGET

\$215 million to combat the fentanyl and opioid crisis, educate our communities, and prevent overdoses; \$150 million for clean energy assistance to low-income households; \$115 million for early learning and high-quality childcare; \$64 million for food assistance for our seniors, children, and local foodbanks, and \$36 million to support immigrants, asylees, refugees and undocumented Washingtonians. Other investments include:

- \$335 million for K-12 Education to support additional school district funding, special education services, paraeducator staffing, and dual credit programs notifications.
- \$245 million to meet statewide behavioral health demand through funding diversion programs, additional inpatient beds, and outpatient care and supportive services. An additional \$215 million will help those who struggle with substance use disorder, plus an increase in access to medication, prevention education and intervention, and support for tribal partners.
- \$335 million in targeted projects to improve air quality (including \$6 million to address health impacts caused by Sea-Tac operations), reduce wildfires, and expand renewable energy generation thanks to the Climate Commitment Act.
- \$77 million to ensure long-term care and developmental disabilities programs are operational. Additional efforts to support our communities include property tax relief for eligible seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities (**HB 1355**); funding a new state facilitated automatic retirement savings account program (**SB 6069**); cost of living increases for plan 1 retired teachers and state employees (**HB 1985**); paving the way for co-living housing options (**HB 1998**); support for foster youth (**SB 5908**); support for refugees and immigrants (**HB 2368**); and streamlining the Working Families Tax Credit to promote financial stability (**HB 1895**).

Toll Free Hotline: 1-800-562-6000 • TTY: 1-800-833-6388

Representative Mia Gregerson • 2024 SESSION UPDATE

INVESTMENTS AT HOME

This biennium I continued to work closely with Sen. Karen Keiser and Rep. Tina Orwall to secure millions of dollars for capital projects in our district, including:

- **\$809,000** for Highline School District Early Learning Facilities
- **\$550,000** for the Kent Multicultural Village
- **\$5 million** for Open Doors for Multicultural Families
- **\$500,000** for the Muslim American Youth Foundation Center in Burien
- **\$515,000** for the Refugee Welcoming & Healing Center in SeaTac
- **\$100,000** to Electrify the Des Moines Marina
- **\$1 million** for the Arc Legacy Center
- **\$4.3 million** for Highline College Utility Meters, Facility Repairs, Preservation, and Program Improvements

Transportation Projects: This year, there were discussions about putting some projects on hold. Fortunately, budget writers were able to avoid that and important ongoing projects in our area are still on track. For the full list, visit <https://fiscal.wa.gov/statebudgets/TransportationMap>

STATE RESOURCES

The state's official website <https://wa.gov> is an excellent one-stop location for information on state services and government agencies, in addition to helpful guides.

- **Health & Safety:** resources for caregivers, foster parents, seniors, long-term care providers; healthcare resources like links to obtain health insurance coverage and the WA Recovery Line; plus emergency preparedness resources. <https://wa.gov/health-and-safety>
- **Education:** information for educators, K-12 students and their families: <https://wa.gov/education>.
- **Work:** information about workers' rights, benefits, apprenticeship programs, professional licenses, and more. <https://wa.gov/work>
- **Your Government:** information on courts and appeals, city and county codes, tribal government, habitat conservation plans, assistance for insurance problems, reporting robocalls and telemarketing scams to the Attorney General, and information to safeguard consumers from fraud. <https://wa.gov/your-government>
- **Financial Aid:** tools for students heading to college, an apprenticeship, or seeking career or technical training. <https://wa.gov/how-to-guides/financial-aid>.

Washington Information Network: dial "211" (9am-5pm Mon-Fri) or visit <https://wa211.org> for the assistance you're seeking. I'm glad we were able to secure \$4 million this biennium to fund this critical resource.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

If you or a loved one is in crisis, dial "988" to be connected to free, confidential support with trained crisis counselors. You can also text "988" or visit <https://988lifeline.org> to chat with someone online. **All 988 resources are available 24/7.**

- **Social and Human Services** (DSHS) has subdivisions to meet the needs of our communities. <https://www.dshs.wa.gov>
 - ◇ For eligibility details and frequently asked questions on food, cash, or medical assistance: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/food-cash-medical>.
 - ◇ Apply online for food, cash, child care, long-term care, and Medicare Savings Programs at <https://www.washingtonconnection.org/home>.
- **Medicaid** (aka Apple Health) is low cost, or often free, health insurance for those who qualify. <https://www.hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care>
- **Children, Youth & Families:** <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov> for childcare and early learning services, information on adoption, report child abuse, youth suicide prevention, juvenile rehabilitation, and more.
- **Paid Family and Medical Leave:** <https://paidleave.wa.gov> for what to do before you apply, how to apply, and more.
- **Employment Security:** <https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment> for unemployment benefits, eligibility criteria, and how to apply.
- **WorkSource:** <https://seeker.worksourcewa.com> provides employment and training to job seekers
- **Office of Civil Legal Aid:** <https://ocla.wa.gov/> provides civil (not criminal) legal services to low-income people.
- **Washington Student Achievement Council:** <https://wsac.wa.gov/financial-aid> has financial aid information including details on need-based programs like the Washington College Grant, merit-based programs and more.
- **Weatherization Programs for qualified low-income households:** <https://tinyurl.com/366j36zt>
- **Small Business Resiliency Network:** <https://tinyurl.com/kfh4h7ph>
- **Manufactured/Mobile Home Relocation Assistance and Coordination Programs:** <https://tinyurl.com/bdzmnz6z>

Representative Mia Gregerson • 2024 SESSION UPDATE

Recursos Estatales

El sitio web oficial del estado <https://wa.gov> es un excelente punto de partida para obtener información sobre servicios estatales y agencias gubernamentales, además de guías útiles.

- **Salud y seguridad:** recursos para cuidadores, padres de crianza, personas mayores, proveedores de cuidados a largo plazo; recursos de atención médica como enlaces para obtener cobertura de seguro médico y la Línea de Recuperación de WA; además de recursos de preparación para emergencias. <https://wa.gov/health-and-safety>
- **Educación:** información para educadores, estudiantes K-12 y sus familias: <https://wa.gov/education>
- **Trabajo:** información sobre derechos de los trabajadores, beneficios, programas de aprendizaje, licencias profesionales y más. <https://wa.gov/work>
- **Su gobierno:** información sobre tribunales y apelaciones, códigos de ciudades y condados, gobiernos tribales, planes de conservación del hábitat, asistencia para problemas de seguros, denuncia de llamadas automáticas y estafas de telemarketing al Fiscal General e información para proteger a consumidores de ser defraudados. <https://wa.gov/your-government>
- **Ayuda financiera:** herramientas para estudiantes que se dirigen a la universidad, a un aprendizaje, o que buscan capacitación profesional o técnica. <https://wa.gov/how-to-guides/financial-aid>

Red de información de Washington: marque "211" (de 9 a. m. a 5 p. m. de lunes a viernes) o visite <https://wa211.org> para obtener la asistencia que está buscando. Me alegra que hayamos podido obtener \$3 millones de dólares este bienio para financiar este importante recurso.

Soporte adicional

- Si usted o un ser querido se encuentra en crisis, marque "988" para recibir apoyo gratuito y confidencial de consejeros de crisis capacitados. También puede enviar un mensaje de texto a "988" o visitar <https://988lifeline.org> para chatear con alguien en línea. **Los recursos del 988 están disponibles las 24 horas, los 7 días de la semana.**
- **Servicios Sociales y Humanos** (DSHS) tiene subdivisiones para satisfacer las necesidades de nuestras comunidades. <https://www.dshs.wa.gov>

- ◇ Para obtener detalles de elegibilidad y preguntas frecuentes sobre alimentos, dinero en efectivo o asistencia médica: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/food-cash-medical>
- ◇ Solicite en línea alimentos, dinero en efectivo, cuidado infantil, cuidados a largo plazo y programas de ahorro de Medicare en <https://www.washingtonconnection.org/home>
- **Medicaid** (también conocido como Apple Health) es un seguro médico de bajo costo o, a menudo, gratuito para quienes califican. <https://www.hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care>
- **Niños, jóvenes y familias:** <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov> para servicios de cuidado infantil y aprendizaje temprano, información sobre adopción, denuncia de abuso infantil, prevención del suicidio juvenil, rehabilitación juvenil y más.
- **Licencia familiar y médica remunerada:** <https://paidleave.wa.gov> para saber qué hacer antes de presentar la solicitud, cómo presentarla y más.
- **Seguridad del empleo:** <https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment> para obtener beneficios de desempleo, criterios de elegibilidad y cómo solicitarlos.
- **WorkSource:** <https://seeker.worksourcewa.com> proporciona empleo y capacitación a quienes buscan trabajo.
- **Oficina de Asistencia Legal Civil:** <https://ocla.wa.gov/> ofrece servicios legales civiles (no penales) a personas de bajos ingresos.
- **Concejo de Logro Estudiantil de Washington:** <https://wsac.wa.gov/financial-aid> información de ayuda financiera que incluye detalles sobre programas basados en necesidades como el Washington College Grant, programas basados en méritos y más.
- **Programas de climatización para hogares calificados de bajos ingresos:** <https://tinyurl.com/366j36zt>
- **Red de resiliencia para pequeñas empresas:** <https://tinyurl.com/kfh4h7ph>
- **Programas de coordinación y asistencia para la reubicación de casas prefabricadas/móviles:** <https://tinyurl.com/bdzmnz6z>