

2025 END OF SESSION WRAP UP - 27TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



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Committees:

- Ways & Means (*Vice Chair - Capital Budget*)
- Law & Justice (*Vice Chair*)
- Housing



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Committees:

- Rules (*Chair*)



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Committees:

- Transportation (*Chair*)
- Environment & Energy

Dear neighbors,

Over the last few years, we've celebrated some big legislative victories, including historic investments in affordable housing with over two dozen housing supply bills and passing rent stabilization, new investments in our state's behavioral health workforce and facilities, expansion of access to affordable childcare for working parents, and protections for our clean air and water thanks to the Climate Commitment Act.

There is more to be done, but this year we faced some big challenges.

One was a significant budget shortfall due to slowing revenue, inflationary pressures, increased demand for core services, and an outdated tax system. It made for some hard decisions, but it also gave us an opportunity to take a hard look at many things.

Democrats in the House and Senate fought for a balanced approach to solving the budget shortfall. We knew reductions were necessary and we know from the Great Recession years that deep cuts hurt Washington families. This approach resulted in over \$7b in budget reductions while we worked hard to minimize harm and protect basic needs like food, shelter, and health.

Our transportation budget faced similar struggles, and the emphasis there was on prioritizing maintenance and preservation of our roads and bridges, keeping our long-term commitments, and ensuring a more sustainable future.

The other challenge was chaos at the federal level. Here in Washington, we've worked to protect access to reproductive health care, prevent rollbacks of our progress on climate, and safeguard people's civil rights. But mass firings of federal workers, harmful executive orders targeting immigrants and transgender people, and tariffs that would hit us – the most trade-dependent state in the nation – especially hard, loomed over our work.

This newsletter is our annual report to you with some of the major highlights of the session.

In the 2025 session, 421 bills passed the legislature. Of those, 65% passed with strong bipartisan support. That's more than we can cover in this brief newsletter, so if you have questions or comments about a particular bill, please reach out to any of us.

It's an honor to serve together as your 27th District delegation. Our community is well-represented in Olympia with Rep. Fey as House Transportation Committee chair, Sen. Trudeau as the Capital Budget lead on the Senate Ways & Means Committee, and Speaker Jinkins in the top leadership position in the House. We each have our areas of focus, but we work together to deliver for you and ensure your voice is represented.

Thank you for taking the time to look over these highlights, and we hope to see you as we are out and about in the community.

Sen. Yasmin Trudeau

Rep. Laurie Jinkins

Rep. Jake Fey





Protecting essential services, boosting support for K-12 schools

The operating budget is what most people think of as “the state budget.” Every odd-numbered year, legislators pass a new two-year budget for our state.

This year’s work was challenging due to a significant budget deficit (see cover letter), so the first priority was combing through the budget to find efficiencies and cuts. But without new revenue, the cuts would have been absolutely devastating for Washingtonians (examples of cuts that were on the table can be viewed at wabudgetcuts.com).

We supported a balanced approach that includes new revenue, protecting essential services and further modernizing our outdated tax code. Not only were we able to hold the line on programs families rely on to put food on the table or keep a roof over their head, but we made much-needed additional investments in our K-12 schools totaling over **\$1 billion**. This includes boosting funding for special education services and for materials, supplies, and operating costs for schools. We also maintained our school meals and summer EBT funding at current levels, so hungry kids can still get the food they need.

Another big win was avoiding tuition increases at our public colleges and universities and fully funding the Washington College Grant – one of the best financial aid programs in the nation that helps Washington students afford a degree or credential.

Housing is another area where we made investments, including **\$118 million** for local governments to keep shelter beds online and funding to help prevent youth homelessness.

Transportation: Responsible, forward-looking choices

This year’s transportation budget was one of the most challenging we’ve worked on since any of us have been in the legislature. Inflation, labor shortages, and supply chain disruptions have significantly driven up costs. Even with new revenue, we couldn’t fund every need—but we stayed focused on preserving our infrastructure, honoring our commitments, and keeping Washington moving.

We continued investing in priorities like removing fish-passage barriers, purchasing new ferries, and maintaining roads and bridges across the state. In Tacoma, we advanced improvements along the I-5 corridor, kept the Gateway Project on track, and secured funding to restore Pugnetti Park to its originally planned use. We also maintained support for the Port of Tacoma Road—a key freight corridor supporting jobs and economic activity.

Our ferry system is still recovering from a serious workforce shortage. Many communities continue to experience service delays. That’s why we passed legislation to raise wages based on market data and strengthen recruitment efforts—especially in communities historically underrepresented in maritime trades.

We didn’t add new projects to the pipeline this year. Instead, we made responsible, forward-looking choices in a difficult fiscal climate. Despite the headwinds, we passed a balanced budget that prioritizes safety, reliability, and sustainability.

Whether you drive, bike, ride transit, or walk—we’re working to ensure the system serves all Washingtonians.



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Investing In Our Community

It's our job to make sure your tax dollars come home to make direct investments that we can touch, see, and feel in our community. That's why, with the capital budget leadership of Sen. Trudeau, we secured funding for local projects including

- **\$5 million** to clean up toxic waste at the former Arkema Manufacturing plant so it can be returned to productive use.
- **\$5 million** in renovation work at the South Puget Sound Maritime Skills Center, and **\$5.05 million** for the Willard Early Learning Center.
- More than **\$2 million** for an affordable housing project for seniors on S Yakima St.
- **\$9.3 million** in repairs and maintenance at UW Tacoma.
- Funding to support projects like the Cora Whitley Family Center on Hilltop, the Asia Pacific Cultural Center, the Tacoma Historical Society's building, expanding the Peck Community Sports Park, the Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center, renovating the Museum of Glass, and more!



Making Our State More Inclusive

Washington state must be a place where everyone feels safe and welcome. That means updating our laws on parents' and students' rights to make sure parents are appropriately involved in their children's education and students are safe and supported in school. A safe, inclusive environment in schools is essential for all students to learn, grow, and reach their full potential. It also means passing bills like Sen. Trudeau's **SB 5106**, recognizing the Islamic holidays of Eid, so that our Muslim neighbors know that this is a state where they are respected and welcome and that our state stand by its commitment to religious liberty and acceptance.



Historic Progress on Affordable Housing



We came into this session with a three-pronged housing strategy — expand our housing supply, support homeownership opportunities, and provide stability for renters. On all three, we delivered significant progress. After years of work on the issue, the Legislature finally passed a major housing bill to create rent stabilization in Washington. Rent stabilization protects tenants against excessive rent hikes while still allowing increases to cover repairs and other costs. The Legislature also passed a long list of bills to expand the state's housing supply, cut tape and lower construction costs, as well as a record-setting **\$605 million** investment directly into the construction of affordable housing through the Housing Trust Fund.

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Please join us this summer/fall !

Your feedback is essential! That is why we are hosting a series of informal 'coffee chats' in the coming weeks. We welcome your thoughts, questions and look forward to talking about the legislative issues most important to you.

July 21, 2025 Fife Public Library 6622 20th St. E. 2:30 - 4 pm	August 12, 2025 Tacoma Public Library <i>main branch</i> 1102 Tacoma Ave S. 5:30 -7 pm	September 25, 2025 Franklin Park, Tacoma 10:30 am – 12 pm	October 13, 2025 Cutters Point Coffee Co. 2209 N Pearl St. Ste 104 10:30am -12 pm
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Our email newsletters are the best way to stay up to date on events that we're holding, or if any of these coffee chats have to be moved or rescheduled.

Thank you so much and hope to see you there!