Homelessness and Housing
Addressing the homelessness crisis and expanding access to programs to protect people from losing their homes is a top priority. Between the pandemic and the growing cost of living and inflation, we need to do more. Families deserve better. They should have a roof over their head and the peace of mind knowing treatment and care are available for those that need it. This year’s supplemental budget invested in supporting our neighbors experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity:

- An additional $100 million in utility assistance for broadband, energy, water, garbage, and recycling.
- $45 million in additional funds for rental assistance.
- $55 million in homeless provider stipends.
- $27 million in landlord mitigation.
- $45 million for services for individuals living in public areas.
- Transfers half a billion dollars to the Capital Budget for housing needs.

Public Health and Healthcare
The Legislature dramatically expanded our public health response to COVID-19 and set us up for long-term public health success. These investments included money from the state budget and from federal funds.

- An additional $125 million for COVID response and vaccination.
- $20 million for public health information systems.
- $12 million for increases in children’s Medicaid dental rates.
- $11 million for mental health and substance use disorder provider rate increases.
- $23 million for services for individuals living in public areas.
- $51 million in additional funding for salmon habitat, production, and recovery.
- $15 million in additional funding for community health centers.

Behavioral Health
Mental health crises and substance use disorder cause untold pain for families across Washington.

- Families just want to get their loved one help when they need it. They deserve to know there is help available.
- $520 million to support behavioral health providers.
- $11 million for mental health and substance use disorder provider rate increases.
- An additional $24 million for Non-Medicaid services.
- $23 million to expand opioid response programs and supports.
- $24 million for housing and employment for individuals with behavioral health issues.
- $35 million for crisis, outreach, and diversion programs.

Protecting Our Environment
The Supplemental Operating Budget also made significant investments in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, supporting salmon recovery, and combating invasive species.

- $125 million for wildfire suppression and habitat recovery.
- $150 million for low emission vehicles and infrastructure.
- $80 million for solar incentives.
- $16 million for expanding invasive species control.
- An additional $22 million for solar incentives.
- $35 million for additional funding for salmon habitat, production, and recovery.
- $11 million in expanded funding for recreational lands maintenance.
- $113 million for wildlife suppression and habitat recovery.
- An additional $40 million in additional funding for salmon habitat, production, and recovery.
- $20 million for construction of a new lake and pedestrian crossing of Bothell Way SE (SB 5097) in the northwest quadrant of Lake Forest Park.
- $100,000 to relocate the St. Edward State Park Maintenance Facility help with the redevelopment of the old maintenance building.

Friends and neighbors,
If the last two years have taught us anything, it is how important it is to plan for resilient communities and to address problems early. This has been illustrated by natural disasters, a pandemic, as well as local, state, national, and international crises. This parade of emergencies has shown us that resiliency comes from smart planning, social safety nets, and governments that respect and reflect the lived experiences of all our residents.

We want to share and have your feedback on the work we’ve done this session. Whether it is allocating money to retrofit schools for seismic safety, pushing the State Patrol to reflect the diversity of our state, including our tribal partners in local planning, creating a transportation future that supports our environment and all our neighbors, or the many short investments made by our capital and operating budget, we’ve worked with our colleagues to create a Washington that is resilient and supports its residents.

As chairs of the State and Local Government Committees, we directly influence this process. Likewise, our positions on the Transportation and Appropriations Committees mean we give vital input in getting resources that help keep our communities resilient.

These are responsibilities we take seriously. We have the responsibility to listen to all residents of the 46th, all sides of issues, to seek solutions that benefit everyone in Washington. That is why your input is so important to us. Your thoughts and concerns help us do a better job for the people of the 46th-District and our state.

We look forward to hearing the next great idea from someone we call neighbor. During this interim, we do not hesitate to reach out to us to share your thoughts. We are excited to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Rep. Gerry Pollet
Rep. Javier Valdez
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
(206) 307-0409
javier.valdez@leg.wa.gov

46th District Capital Budget Projects

- $100,000 to relocate and expand Children’s Home Society of WA’s North Seattle Family Resource Center to a new, more visible street level location in Lake City and create a new North Seattle social justice hub with other community partners.
- $20 million for wildfire suppression and habitat recovery.
- $100,000 to create a welcoming, inclusive, fully accessible, and world-class community boating center to engage more people and provide safe lake access and oversight at Saltair Park.
- $20 million to support Native American tribes.
- $10 million in utility assistance for broadband, energy, water, garbage, and recycling.
- $25,000 to relocate the St. Edward State Park Maintenance Facility help with the redevelopment of the old maintenance building.
Thank you,

I continue to hold my drop-in Saturday morning discussion times – just email me to join an upcoming discussion. The engagement and advocacy of residents in our district is always inspiring. To meet my commitment to be accessible, I’ll be working to have us move quickly in 2023 to include fighting climate change in the Growth Management Act.

Unfortunately, with hours left in the legislative session after the bill returned from the Senate with amendments, Republicans threatened to run out the clock during debate HB 1099, showing their commitment to preventing us from passing HB 1099 and combating the climate crisis.

We can’t run out the clock on climate change; it is happening right in front of us. We are committed to bringing this bill back next year.

HB 1799 expands on this by helping redistrict surplus food to families who desperately need it, while repurposing organic waste that otherwise sits at local farms. We can also eliminate hunger and protect communities from the effects of climate change at the same time. This is a common-sense, win-win solution.

Our kids deserve a bubble-free, and we must do what we can to prevent our planet from getting hotter and hotter.

Heathcare and Behavioral Health

Over 70 percent of people who are chronically homeless struggle with a physical health or behavioral health condition. Stable housing will allow people to get the care they need and help prevent them from becoming chronically homeless. HB 1666 establishes the Apple Health and Homes Program to provide a housing benefit and community service voucher to people who meet eligibility criteria related to income, medical risks or barriers to finding stable housing.

Additionally, many people are discharged from behavioral health care and have nowhere to go. HB 1800 requires that patients receive housing-related care coordination services before being discharged. Housing outcomes are often related. We should not lose the opportunity to connect people to housing prior to homelessness.

Access to Health Care for Everyone

Many Washington families can’t afford needed hospital care. Squalling the thresholds for charity care and expanding eligibility will expand access across the state. HB 3102 invests in 2 million Washingtonians.

Balancing Billing

Patrons and families shouldn’t have to pay a surcharge bill after an ER visit. Prior federal and state efforts haven’t covered some types of hospital visits. Mental health needs can be an emergency too, and these emergencies should be protected as well.

Capping Insulin at $5 Per Month

In 2022, the legislature directed health plans to first cost of insulin to $200 per month. That was set to expire next year. Under this new law, insulin will be capped at $5 per month through 2023 for all health plans.

This year was a landmark year in the areas of transportation and climate change. HB 1685 to combat the Cascadia Zone earthquake

I was a favorite of gun traffickers. Law enforcement recovered more than 23,000 ghost guns between 2016 and 2020. The Move Ahead WA transportation package invests $3 billion on carbon to further reduce emissions and increase transportation options. These are funded by the Climate Change and Revenue Account.

Protecting Our Children in Schools During a Cascadia Zone Earthquake

Federal and state efforts haven’t

I was concerned about this problem for many years, to develop and pass a new investment program to reduce our schools to prevent being killed in an earthquake.

Ensuring Our Tribes Have a Right to Participate in Local Government Planning

Treaty rights for our tribes to access shorelines, fish, use plants, access cultural sites are all too often ignored or harmed. As Chair of the House Local Government Committee and a long-time advocate for local government land use and comprehensive plans. Sadly, some local governments have resisted including our tribes and refuse to recognize them as sovereign nations.

Our kids deserve a bubble-free, and we must do what we can to prevent our planet from getting hotter and hotter.

The Move Ahead WA transportation package invests $3 billion in transit. Realize your Move Ahead WA for transit service, much of which will benefit Seattle residents, means more accessible transportation to help us reach our state’s clean energy and climate goals.

Making sure our schools are safe is a top priority to prevent violence epidemic. I look forward to continuing to work on this issue.

Ready to read more?

Rep. Javier Valdez
413 Capitol Annex
Olympia, WA 98504
javier.valdez@leg.wa.gov

Protecting Sensitive Voter Information

There are few priorities that did not make the legislative finish line this year. One effort I devoted a lot of effort to was HB 1080 to increase low-barrier affordable housing through a bond on the nation-policy bond on the voter ballot. Your personal information remains your personal information.

Our state still has a lot of work to do to make sure our governments reflect the people they represent, continue managing our health in a post-COVID recovery, combat climate change, and protect people against the gun violence epidemic. It is too bad to continue working on these issues in the future. It is an honor to serve and represent you.

Thank you,

Chair Rep. Javier Valdez

HB 1709, which established a state board on human rights, “gum go.” However, two years later, a few years later.

HB 1099 revises an implementing regulation for HIP to let us create a safer environment.

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