

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

CAPITAL BUDGET

The 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget of **\$1.3 billion** focuses on job creation and addresses key challenges in Washington state. Major investments include **\$79 million** for school construction, **\$82.7 million** for behavioral health facilities, and **\$127.5 million** for affordable housing through the Housing Trust Fund. Legislation like **House Bill 2195** aims to meet growing childcare needs by funding high-quality early learning facilities, while House Bill 1892 establishes a Workforce Housing Accelerator Program to expedite affordable housing construction. To ensure all Washingtonians have access to critical resources, **House Bill 1982** provides broadband loans and grants to enhance connectivity reflecting a comprehensive approach to fostering economic development and community well-being. A few meaningful investments coming to our community include:

- **\$2.3 million** for the expansion of early learning facilities at Brightonview Childcare.
- **\$3.2 million** from the Housing Trust Fund to provide affordable and permanent supportive housing from Kenmore to Redmond as part of the Plymouth Housing Project.
- **\$4.2 million** to develop a transit-oriented housing development for supportive housing projects in Redmond.
- **\$350,000** for KidsQuest Children’s Museum to teach stories of water.
- **\$100,000** for renovations to the nonprofit Redmond Theater of the Arts, enhancing access to community arts programs for young children.



OPERATING BUDGET

The Supplemental Operating Budget, building upon the Resilient Washington Budget, prioritizes communities in need and focuses equity by making targeted investments in healthcare, energy assistance, housing, and education. Notable allocations include **\$335 million** for climate initiatives, **\$335 million** for K-12 education, **\$115 million** for early learning and childcare, **\$215 million** for opioid and fentanyl response, and **\$245 million** for behavioral health. Funding also supports long-term care, public health, homelessness, college, and workforce development.

Legislative successes include a 3% COLA increase for retired teachers and public workers, inclusion of DSHS workers in the Public Safety Employees’ Retirement System, increased funding for school operating costs and special education, and staffing allocations for prototypical schools. These measures aim to address rising costs, ensure equitable access to education and healthcare, and support vulnerable populations across Washington state. Operating budget items we were proud to request include:

- **\$426,000** to recruit, train, and retain healthcare professionals in rural and underserved communities through Area Health Education Centers.
- **\$330,000** for the Kinderling Cherish early youth development program in Bellevue, specifically identifying infant and children’s developmental needs by supporting them through a proven home visitation program. This program was at risk of being discontinued this year.
- **\$300,000** to create a pilot Entrepreneur-in-Residence program for graduate students at CoMotion and the University of Washington in support of immigrant entrepreneurs and small business leadership.
- **\$250,000** to expand community service centers in Bellevue to help low-income individuals and immigrant and refugee community members.

TRANSPORTATION BUDGET

The **\$14.6 billion** 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget prioritizes climate action through substantial funding from the Climate Commitment Act (CCA), totaling over **\$300 million**. This funding supports a range of initiatives aimed at reducing carbon emissions and promoting clean transportation. Specifically, the budget allocates funds for electric school buses, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, public transit enhancements, and pedestrian safety measures like sidewalks and bike lanes. Underserved and tribal communities are targeted for assistance, ensuring equitable access to clean transportation solutions.

In addition to CCA funding, the budget retains its commitment to funding major transportation projects and invests in road preservation and maintenance to ensure the longevity of existing infrastructure. We’ve also prioritized investments in multi-modal transportation systems such as the Puget Sound Gateway Project, the ‘highway in the ocean’ through ferry upgrades, traffic safety measures, and infrastructure improvements. Funding is allocated for bridge replacements, fish passage repairs, and highway maintenance, contributing to overall transportation resilience and safety. Notable investments coming to the 48th district include:

- **\$14 million** for construction of multi-use paths, and trail infrastructure for the Mountains to Sound Greenway.
- **\$2.67 billion** for the first phase of replacing the SR-520 floating bridge.
- **\$18 million** for rehabilitation of the Wilburton Trestle and I-90 steel bridge.
- **\$800,000** for Bellevue and Redmond to replace two diesel fire engines with two electric engines.

Overall, the budget reflects Washington state’s commitment to combating climate change, promoting clean transportation, and ensuring a sustainable and resilient transportation system for the future.

48th DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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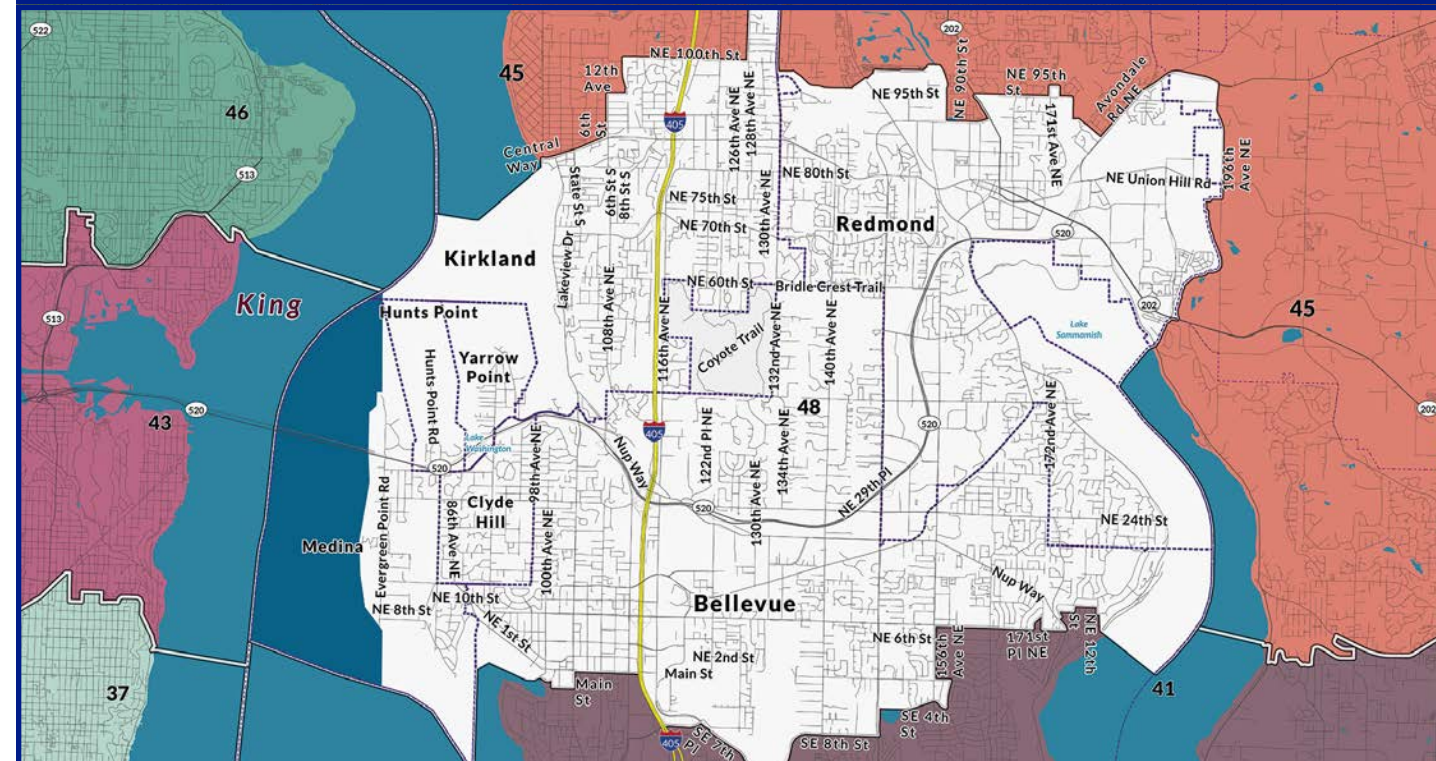
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48th DISTRICT MAP



SENATOR  
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**Vandana Slatter**



REPRESENTATIVE  
**Amy Walen**

48th  
District  
Legislative  
Report



Dear neighbors,

In the 2024 legislative session, we embarked on a short yet remarkably productive 60-day session with a focus on bipartisan cooperation and advancing policies to benefit all Washingtonians. As a result, the vast majority of bills passed received strong bipartisan support, with 236 bills passing unanimously.

With a backdrop of optimism and determination, our work emphasized the need for progress in critical areas such as housing supply and stability, childcare accessibility, the fentanyl and opioid crisis, and the transition to a clean energy economy.

Legislation was swiftly enacted, including measures to address extreme weather events, ban child marriage, and promote the creation of housing. Notably, efforts were made to legalize co-housing arrangements and incentivize the conversion of commercial structures into residential housing. Significant investments were made in providing services for the homeless, housing programs, and tenant rights. Funding boosts for early learning facilities and streamlined childcare access were also notable achievements.

In response to the fentanyl and opioid crisis, legislation focused on protecting youth, expanding the behavioral health workforce, and providing crucial support services. Substantial investments were allocated for opioid response and prevention, as well as behavioral health care facilities.

Climate action is a priority, with legislation promoting zero-emission school buses and ensuring equitable transitions to clean energy. Funding from the Climate Commitment Act supported clean energy development, natural resource conservation, and community resilience against climate risks.

Additionally, we enhanced road safety, supported survivors of trafficking, and safeguarded minors. Provisions for hate crime reporting and inclusive educational standards were also enacted to foster a welcoming and equitable environment. Although some measures, like rent stabilization, faced challenges this year, we remain committed to furthering these discussions in future sessions.

Overall, the session reflected a concerted effort to address pressing issues while maintaining Washington’s reputation as a leader. In serving you, we want to thank you for your partnership in helping us build a better life for all Washingtonians. You can also learn more about our work by visiting our websites and getting in contact with us.

Thank You,

*Patty Kuderer*  
Sen. Patty Kuderer

*Vandana Slatter*  
Rep. Vandana Slatter

*Amy Walen*  
Rep. Amy Walen



We just ended the 2024 short legislative session in early March and I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the progress we've made. We've fought hard and won meaningful consumer protection reforms, from advancing healthcare initiatives to promoting economic growth in the sector, and we've won big for student safety by prioritizing NARCAN availability and Fentanyl/Opioid education in our schools.

But there's still a long way to go to ensure our system works for everyone and not just the wealthy, well-connected, and well off. That means our work to prioritize housing affordability, gun safety, worker protections, strengthen our elections system, and preserve our libraries continues day in, and day out.

*Here are a few of my favorite bill highlights:*



### NARCAN AVAILABILITY AND THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN OUR SCHOOLS

**SB 5804** increases NARCAN availability in all school districts in the state, regardless of size, including charter schools, state tribal compact schools, elementary, middle, and high schools.

By expanding access to over-the-counter opioid overdose treatment (NARCAN) in schools, we can ensure these life-saving tools are available for cases of both intentional and accidental exposure to opioids. We all wish laws like this weren't necessary, unfortunately they are. And this bill is about saving lives

Some very talented students from Lake Washington High School brought this idea to me. I am honored to have worked with them this session. So don't believe those who say the younger generation doesn't care about their communities – they absolutely do!

### WASHINGTON STATE CONSUMER PROTECTION PACKAGE

Our communities have clearly called for policies that put people before profit and increase protections for consumers across the board. I am honored to have garnered unanimous votes on three of four of these bills, with broad bipartisan support on all of them.

**SB 5806** closes a loophole that prevented the Office of Insurance Commissioner (OIC) from gathering critical insurance data needed to protect the public in emergencies and natural disasters.

**SB 5798** gives homeowners more time to find new insurance when they are surprised by a "nonrenewal" notice, providing them a better chance to ensure their homes are protected.

**SB 5842** helps protect individual Social Security numbers from unnecessary dissemination, ensuring timelier insurance claim settlements and reducing the risk of identity theft.

**SB 5213** adds much-needed oversight and transparency to Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs), to help lower drug costs for Washingtonians.

### LONG NEEDED TRANSPARENCY IN THE PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGER SECTOR

**SB 5213**, the PBM transparency and accountability bill, has been widely applauded for paving the way to a more equitable industry, helping to preserve community pharmacies, and lowering drug costs for all Washingtonians – and similar to our balanced-billing law, we made it opt-in so for non-state-regulated plans so they can choose to be covered by these same protections.

Medical patients should not bear the burden of corporate inflation and meaningless price hikes. **SB 5213** helps us see and avoid that, and I am proud that we got it passed with such strong bipartisan support.



This past session, my focus has been to strengthen affordability in the face of inflationary cost pressures in education, housing and transportation. Central to this effort is building resiliency in the workforce and providing access and inclusivity in areas such as education, childcare, healthcare, entrepreneurship, pedestrian and community safety, climate action, and protecting the environment.

As a healthcare professional, I remain committed to supporting access to safe reproductive healthcare and reproductive rights. These issues were advanced this session with policies such as **House Bill 2115**, that protected abortion medication providers and **Senate Bill 6151**, which increased safe access to ultrasound services through properly licensed healthcare providers.



### BUILDING A FUTURE FOR ALL STUDENTS

As the Chair of the House Postsecondary Education & Workforce Development Committee, I collaborate with colleagues from both sides of the aisle to enhance access to education and workforce opportunities in Washington. Important achievements this year include the following bills:

- House Bill 2214** simplifies access to post-secondary education for low-income high school students by informing them about tuition-free college via the Washington College Grant.
- House Bill 1950** streamlines access to the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program to help eligible teachers, firefighters, healthcare professionals and public servants navigate student loan debt so they can stay in their careers and support their families.
- Senate Bill 5904** aligns federal and state financial student aid timelines, as does **House Bill 1943** for the National Guard. In combination, this legislation helps students complete their education, addresses workforce needs, and supports our military.
- Senate Bill 5953** ensures that incarcerated students can access educational programs using federal resources and financial aid, to facilitate successful reentry into society.
- House Bill 2019**, resulting from meaningful collaboration between labor groups and tribal partners, establishes the first Native American Apprentice Assistance Program to create apprenticeship opportunities that build an inclusive workforce and provide resources to strengthen tribal self-sufficiency and governance.
- House Bill 2112** funds overdose prevention education and makes naloxone available on college campuses to help address the fentanyl and opioid crisis. This legislation works alongside **SB 5804**, sponsored by Senator Kuderer to increase Narcan availability in the K-12 environment.

We have made important strides over the past few sessions in addressing healthcare workforce shortages that were exacerbated by the pandemic. This year, we streamlined licensing of physician assistants (**House Bill 1917**) and enabled multistate licensing for social workers (**House Bill 1939**). To support those seeking an education in behavioral healthcare, **House Bill 1946** will provide scholarships to recruit and retain a diverse workforce, especially in areas lacking access to behavioral health care. These bipartisan legislative efforts reflect our commitment to ensuring equitable access to educational pathways and workforce development opportunities across Washington.

### TURNING THE TIDE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The House Environment & Energy Committee made significant strides in environmental and energy policy this year. Efforts include food waste reduction (**House Bill 2031**), zero-emission school buses (**House Bill 1368**), thermal energy networks (**House Bill 2131**) and improving the efficacy of the Climate Commitment Act (**House Bill 2201/Senate Bill 6058**) by linking Washington's carbon market with California and Quebec. This year, over **\$340 million** in carbon emission auction revenue will be directed to support investments in multimodal transportation, developing a green economy workforce, climate disaster mitigation, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions through climate projects in underserved communities. I believe this collective work demonstrates Washington's commitment to leading the nation in environmental stewardship and accountability.

### THE WORK AHEAD

Serving the 48th district as your legislator in the House of Representatives is an incredible honor. It is a privilege to bring my experience as an Indian American woman, parent, clinical scientist, and licensed healthcare professional to the legislative process. Though we celebrate the session's achievements, much work remains ahead. My ongoing policy priorities include addressing school funding shortages at a crucial time of recovery from the pandemic, expanding healthcare access, building robust pathways to postsecondary credentials, improving housing affordability including for students and workers, cultivating equity in entrepreneurship, and supporting workers in an age of advanced technology and artificial intelligence. I look forward to your partnership as we work on these and other pressing issues.

As chair of the House Consumer Protection and Business Committee I can report that we passed critical bills protecting consumers. Out of state and online "fin-techs" have been preying on Washington consumers charging interest rates up to 240%. We fixed that. Bad actors in the solar market have taken advantage of our seniors, using solar programs to encumber their property. We fixed that.

We are taking action to ensure that insurance remains affordable and attainable, that real estate, banking, and business practices are fair, and that the challenges and opportunities of artificial intelligence are addressed. Our committee works on occupational licensing, and we care about removing barriers to work, while still maintaining our state's strong standards for consumer protection.

As a member of the House of Representatives, my goals weren't limited to the Consumer Protection and Business Committee. I had a number of legislative successes, and I would like to provide you with an update on these bills.



### ENDING ARBITRARY HOA OCCUPANCY LIMITS

Before this session, apartment or homeowners' associations could enact arbitrary occupancy limits that don't recognize the needs of modern families. The reality is many Washingtonians are increasingly turning to multigenerational living and unit sharing arrangements to address housing unaffordability.

**House Bill 1054** prohibits these associations from limiting the number of unrelated people who can live in a home. Out of date policies don't recognize modern families and ways that we can be of service to our neighbors.

### MAKING SURE GUN DEALERS SECURE THEIR INVENTORY

I have long been an advocate for firearm safety. We have taken major steps over the last few years to improve gun safety. However, there is still work to do. Most stolen firearms are taken from vehicles. Gun dealers are also at risk of being robbed, or having straw purchasers buy firearms for those who cannot and should not be able to purchase them. **House Bill 2118** requires dealers to keep their inventory safe and secure, maintain standardized records, report loss and theft in a timely manner, and promptly cooperate with law enforcement to share information about guns used in crimes.

### EXPANDING PROFESSIONAL LICENSE ELIGIBILITY FOR DREAMERS

We have incredibly diverse communities across our state. For those without documentation status, there are barriers preventing them from obtaining professional licenses to work. I believe that if someone can pass our rigorous standards showing that they are competent, federal immigration status should not matter. I introduced **House Bill 1889** to provide increased eligibility for professional and commercial licenses for various professions, and for DREAMERS.

### INCENTIVIZING THE USE OF EXISTING STRUCTURES FOR HOUSING

Long lead times for plan approval and high interest rates are affecting our ability to build. We should adapt to the changing nature of work and the resulting vacancies in commercial space to rapidly house families. **Senate Bill 6175** builds on my success last year in expanding the use of existing building for housing (**House Bill 1042**). I sponsored the house version of the bill (**House Bill 2308**) and worked with Senator Trudeau to get this legislation to the governor's desk. I am excited to see how it will be used to rapidly house families.

### ENDING THE TESTING OF COSMETICS ON ANIMALS

The testing of cosmetics on animals is unnecessary and cruel. Numerous other states have banned the sale of cosmetics tested on animals and it is time Washington steps up to do the same. **House Bill 1097** bans the sale of cosmetics tested on animals in Washington. The Fur Fighter caucus continues its work to create a statewide plan for animal welfare in Washington.

### HELPING SENIORS

I have finally advanced a policy that assists seniors in our district. **House Bill 1867** removes the need to file an estate tax return, when no estate tax is owed. In our most difficult moments, we should not be required to complete unnecessary forms or processes. My bill to freeze property taxes at retirement did not progress, but I will continue to pursue this policy and to educate families on property tax relief programs that are available.