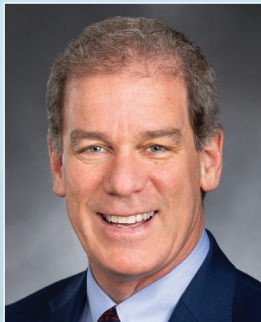


2022 Legislative Session Report

45th Legislative District



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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The Legislature adjourned our 60-day short session in March. The last two years have been some of the most eventful and consequential in Washington history. After passing a budget in 2021 that invested in keeping people healthy, provided assistance to keep people in their homes, and ensured that food and utility assistance was available throughout the pandemic, our goal this year was to support those families who relied on that assistance, while also prioritizing communities and small businesses that are struggling through this uneven recovery. Last year's record-breaking investments helped keep thousands fed and in their homes. And while some businesses are experiencing record profits and a return to normality, not everyone is thriving. So many of our beloved small businesses, like restaurants and movie theaters, have not been able to recover with the same speed as other sectors of our economy. Small local businesses are what make our communities unique and wonderful. This year's budgets prioritize these small businesses and entrepreneurs through:

- An increase to the Business & Occupation tax credit for most businesses, and all small businesses, in the state
- \$100 million in grants to hospitality businesses who have been some of the hardest hit during the pandemic
- \$25 million for small business assistance for arts, heritage, and cultural organizations
- \$15 million to incentivize movies and TV shows to film in Washington state
- \$39 million to support an innovation and competitiveness fund for entrepreneurs and small businesses
- \$75 million for a new small business disaster response, innovation, and resiliency program
- Lowering the liquor license fee to provide small businesses a break on costs

Investments are only good for the state if they are sustainable. This budget also makes dramatic increases to our state reserves to ensure that we are ready for whatever economic changes lie ahead. Over the next three years, our reserve estimate will grow to roughly 12.4 percent of our annual revenue. That is even greater than the 10 percent reserves recommended by the state treasurer to preserve our state's strong bond rating. This will lead to cost savings through lower interest rates for state-issued debt to pay for critical infrastructure and transportation projects.

This budget invests responsibly to ensure that those in need of support can get it and that small businesses and entrepreneurs have the support they need to thrive. The last two years have been hard: lockdowns, restrictions, masks, remote learning and work, crowded hospitals, and far too many gone too soon. But through it all, we have proven that by working together, we move forward together. Together we are building a better future for Washington.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to our offices if you have questions or concerns or if we can help connect you with the support and services you deserve.

Yours sincerely,

Larry and Roger

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MOVE AHEAD WASHINGTON TRANSPORTATION PACKAGE

Move Ahead Washington, the Legislature's 16-year, almost \$17 billion transportation package delivers significant investments to preserve our roads, reduce carbon emissions, and provide safe, accessible, and affordable options to get around. After hosting more than 90 listening sessions to hear the top transportation priorities from communities across the state, this session saw the enactment of this historic package. This people-oriented proposal doesn't pass costs onto working families through a gas tax. Instead, we are meeting our state's needs with a one-time transfer from the state's general fund, federal dollars from the Infrastructure and Jobs Act, and investments from the Climate Commitment Act.

Here in the 45th District, the package will fund several priority projects including trestle widening on State Route 202 in Woodinville and completion of the Bellevue gap along the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail.



45TH LD CAPITAL PROJECTS

- \$53,000 to replace the flooring for the Kirkland Boys and Girls Club.
- \$206,000 to create safe connections for pedestrians to cross Willows Road in Kirkland.
- \$698,000 for Lake Washington Institute of Technology to make needed infrastructure repairs.



REP. ROGER GOODMAN POLICY WINS

PROTECTING SURVIVORS BY IMPROVING THE PROTECTION ORDER SYSTEM

Washington has a robust civil protection order system that allows victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment, stalking, and other threatening behavior to get immediate protection apart from the criminal legal system. Crucially, those named in protection orders are required to surrender their firearms, allowing victims of violence protection and peace of mind.

The pandemic highlighted some long-standing barriers to access for victims of violent or harassing behavior. Often victims were forced to choose between going to court to get a protection order and caring for their child or going to work. As a result of the pandemic, the state temporarily removed those barriers by allowing online filing of petitions, electronic service of protection orders, and video and telephone hearings.

Last year, I sponsored and passed House Bill 1320, which made permanent the changes put in place by the courts during the pandemic that allowed easier access by victims and survivors to protection orders and made the court process easier to navigate. The civil protection order system is now more efficient and effective, allowing survivors of violence access to these crucial protections without having to decide between their safety and their job.



PROTECTING SURVIVORS OF COERCIVE CONTROL

Coercive control is an abuser's pattern of behavior that causes a victim to suffer physical, emotional, or psychological harm and is used by an abuser to control their victim. Examples of coercive control include intimidation or threats of harm against the victim, children, family members, or pets; abusing technology through cyberstalking, surveillance, distributing intimate images and commandeering social media accounts; brandishing firearms to intimidate; financial exploitation; and several other forms of harassment. Research shows that coercive control is a widespread form of domestic violence that too often goes unrecognized.

This year I sponsored and passed House Bill 1901, which adds coercive control to the definition of domestic violence, allowing a victim of coercive control to obtain a protection order. It's time for our culture and laws to catch up with the research. Domestic abuse is not just physical, but also emotional and psychological. With this important change in the law, survivors will have the tools and knowledge they need to protect themselves from abusers whose pattern of coercive control can cause even more trauma than physical harm.



STRIKING THE RIGHT BALANCE ON POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

Last year the Legislature passed a broad package of legislation designed to improve trust between law enforcement and the community and to uphold the policing profession. These laws work together



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to establish clear expectations for the behavior of police officers by: defining acceptable uses of force, regulating what tactics and equipment are permitted, and making sure that misconduct is held accountable.

One of last year's major reforms was to establish a uniform, state-wide standard for the use of force that requires officers to prioritize de-escalation tactics and reserve the use of force as the last option. Last year, the number of people killed by police in Washington hit a five-year low, down 60% from 2020. However, police expressed concern that the limits on their ability to put "hands on" criminal suspects detained during an investigation allowed those suspects to flee the scene of a potential crime.

In response to these concerns, I went on the road, meeting in person with and listening to dozens of police chiefs, sheriffs, city mayors, police officers, mental health workers, 911 dispatchers and other first responders. Based on the feedback I received, I sponsored and passed **House Bill 2037**.

HB 2037 allows police to use force to prevent a criminal suspect from fleeing a temporary investigative detention when police have reasonable suspicion to believe that person has committed a crime and have informed them that they are not free to leave. Officers will still be subject to the strict limits that require officers to use the least amount of force necessary, to use available and appropriate de-escalation tactics, and to cease using force when it is no longer necessary.

This bill strikes the right balance between the safety of the public and police officers and the right of the people to not suffer from unreasonable searches and seizures and unnecessary police violence. The uniform use of force standard passed in 2021 is a major step toward prioritizing de-escalation and preventing unnecessary police violence. Change is never easy, but I am continuing to work with law enforcement to rise to the challenge of prioritizing de-escalation and limiting their use of force while providing all communities with the public safety they expect and deserve.

CRACKING DOWN ON CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT

Washington holds the dubious distinction as the fourth worst state in the nation for catalytic converter theft. Rising prices for precious metals and the devastating economic effects of the global pandemic have created a perfect storm: limited resources and supply chain disruptions that make catalytic converters enticing targets for thieves.

That's why I helped to shepherd **House Bill 1815** through the Legislature this year, a measure that tackles this problem from a number of different angles. First, it requires purchasers of detached catalytic converters to document that a catalytic converter came from a vehicle registered in the seller's name, and prohibits cash payments for transactions involving catalytic converters. Second, it creates a law enforcement workgroup to find ways to reduce catalytic converter theft and provides money for a grant program for police agencies to put special enforcement emphasis on metal theft. Finally, it creates a new violation under the Consumer Protection Act for selling a used



catalytic converter without verifying proof of ownership. By targeting the places where stolen catalytic converters are sold and providing law enforcement with new resources, HB 1815 will help stem the wave of catalytic converter thefts.

REP. LARRY SPRINGER POLICY WINS

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES

In 2021, the Legislature made record investments focused on pandemic relief for small businesses. This includes championing policies and investments to be responsive to Washington businesses and entrepreneurs that need a partner in government to help them stay open and competitive, create opportunities in our communities, and be resilient in the face of disaster. As a member of both the House Finance and Appropriations Committees, it was gratifying to work with my colleagues to make significant investments and provide relief to small businesses in every corner of our state.

One of the most significant new laws is SB 5980, which increases the credit that small businesses are allowed to deduct for state Business

and Occupation (B&O) taxes and increases the filing threshold.

This means that 125,000 small businesses in Washington will see lower B&O taxes, many of which may not even have to file with the Department of Revenue. Many small businesses have not returned to their normal level of operations since the start of the pandemic, so this policy will be welcome relief to those that are still struggling and now confronting increased costs, supply chain issues, and staffing shortages.



In addition to passing legisla-

tion to provide relief, the Legislature made significant investments in the 2022 supplemental budgets to support small businesses. This recovery has been uneven, and many small businesses continue to struggle while large corporations are making record profits at a time when costs and inflation are increasing. By making smart, strategic investments in small businesses through state loans, grants, lower fees, and tax credits, we are helping communities thrive again and ensuring entrepreneurs have the tools and resources they need to be successful.

INVESTING IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Our state was in a housing and homelessness crisis before the pandemic, and the economic downturn only made it worse. Seeing our neighbors in need, out in the cold, with no roof over their heads? We can do better than that.



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Record investments in 2021 helped stave off a wave of evictions and kept people housed, but now that emergency supports are winding down, we are continuing to make significant, targeted investments that promote housing security. Those overall investments include \$1.7 billion in the '21-23 Biennial Budget, plus an additional \$855 million in the supplemental operating and capital budgets. These funds will help grow our housing stock, assist with rent and utilities, and help get people housed. Specific investments include:

- A record \$500 million transfer from the operating to capital budget to address housing needs
- \$318 million in the operating budget, including \$45 million in additional rental assistance funds and \$55 million in homeless provider stipends, and more
- \$439 million in the capital budget, including \$300 million for Rapid Capital Acquisition to make more housing available as soon as possible, \$113 million for the Housing Trust Fund, \$15 million for homeless youth projects, \$2 million for the mobile home preservation program, and more

Keeping people housed requires more than just investments in housing itself, which is why we also directed money towards kitchen tables costs for families, such as \$160 million for utility assistance, \$94 million for additional food assistance, \$11 million to expand the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, and \$4 million for food banks.

PROTECTING THE SALMON

Salmon are an indicator species, intertwined with the economy, cultures, and values of our state. Populations have drastically declined and are on the brink of extinction in the wild, while at the same time salmon's significance to Washington's Treaty Tribes and the health and well-being of endangered Southern Resident orcas has not diminished. We must continue our efforts and investments in salmon protection and habitat restoration.



Last session, I was proud to aid in the fight to restore wildlife and habitat across our state by passing HB 1168, a 20-year plan to reduce the number of forests and grasslands destroyed by wildfires, not to mention homes, businesses, and lives. By managing our forests so they are more resistant to wildfires, we can help preserve and potentially restore habitat critical to our environment, including for our salmon.

Additional supports for salmon include significant investments in the 2022 supplemental budgets, including:

- \$180 million to fund salmon habitat, production, and recovery
- \$113 million for wildfire suppression and habitat recovery
- \$15 million for the salmon recovery funding board, and
- \$625 million for fish passage barrier removal in communities across the state.