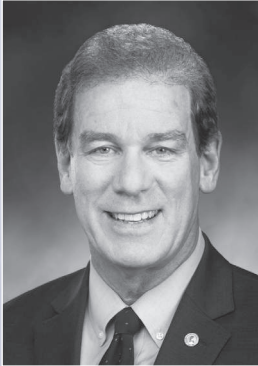


2023 Legislative Post-Session Report



Rep. Roger Goodman

District office:

615 Market Street

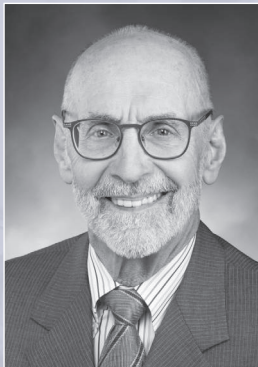
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Rep. Larry Springer

Deputy Majority Leader

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2023 legislative session has officially wrapped up its business for the year. Our return to the Capitol in Olympia marked a return to normality after almost three years of COVID pandemic restrictions. We also shifted our legislative priorities from helping residents survive the pandemic to making sure no one is left behind in the “new normal.”

We enacted the 2023-25 **Operating Budget**, aptly named the Resilient Washington budget, which invests **\$69.3 Billion** to fund critical state services and boosts funding for students, workers, behavioral health, housing, and climate action. It also leaves \$3 billion in total reserves and **does not rely on any new general taxes or fees. Major investments include:**

- **\$1.1 B:** Behavioral health services & **\$1 Billion** in public health and health care
- **\$2.2 B:** K-12 education & **\$382 Million** for higher education and workforce development
- **\$1.8 B:** Long-term care and developmental disabilities
- **\$684 M:** Natural resources, wildfire prevention, clean energy, and climate change
- **\$590 M:** Services for children, youth, and families
- **\$519 M:** Homelessness and housing
- **\$397 M:** Human services and poverty reduction
- **\$253 M:** Public safety, legal aid, and corrections

This biennium’s **Capital Budget** creates jobs across the state while investing **\$8.9 Billion** to address challenging needs in our communities around affordable housing, behavioral health, health care facilities and school construction. It also makes investments in ecosystem resiliency and restoration. **Some of the highlights include:**

- **\$2.4 B:** Community & technical colleges, 4-year universities, public schools and early learning facilities
- **\$730 M:** Public infrastructure, including broadband, local projects, and National Guard facilities
- **\$690 M:** Environment, including clean energy & climate change, toxic cleanup, and state parks
- **\$660 M:** Behavioral health, including mental health facilities
- **\$570 M:** Housing Trust Fund, and affordable housing and shelters

These budgets build on the work we’ve done in previous years to ensure that families have stable housing, students have the tools they need for success after graduation, and future generations can enjoy our natural areas.

Government works best when it invests in people. As we continue to move past the state of emergency, the resources we allocated to support our state’s residents will help ensure that every Washingtonian achieves success and stability.

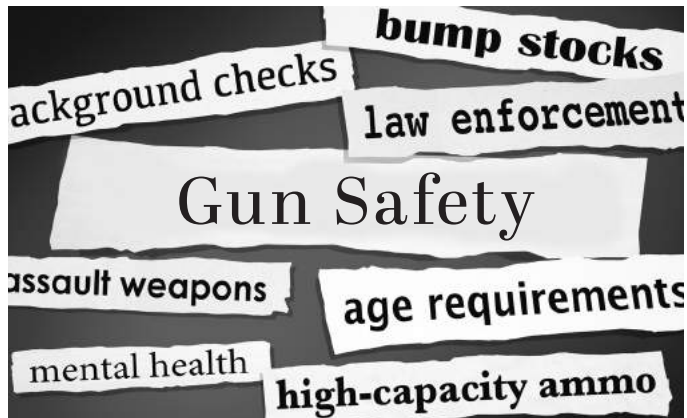
It is an honor to serve you in the Legislature, and we want to keep in touch to ensure that we are reflecting your values and your priorities.

Sincerely,

Larry and Roger

Rep. Roger Goodman - 2023 Post-Session Report

I serve as Chair the **House Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry Committee**, and I have discussed some of the priority legislation that went through my committee in e-newsletters and videos during the session. Here are a few bills I sponsored that were referred to other committees, focusing on strengthening background checks for employment and for access to firearms.



ENSURING FIREARM BACKGROUND CHECKS ARE ACCURATE

When conducting firearms-related background checks, the Washington State Patrol (WSP) is currently limited to information in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), a database used by criminal justice agencies. However, any entry into NICS is an automatic disqualifier, and there are approximately 165,000 Washington mental health entries that don't have supporting documentation. Because WSP doesn't have access to court records regarding involuntary commitments, they can't check the accuracy of a NICS response indicating a person is prohibited from having firearms. In other words, they cannot verify if they have the right person. To fix this, my **House Bill 1599** will allow WSP to access files and records of Involuntary Treatment Act court proceedings when conducting firearms-related background checks. This will ensure that WSP gets it right when denying or approving firearms transfers, or concealed pistol licenses.

PROVIDING ACCESS TO SEALED JUVENILE RECORDS FOR FIREARM PURPOSES

Under current law, when WSP has information that would prohibit a person from purchasing a firearm, they are restricted from sharing it with other states. I introduced **House Bill 1600** to allow for access to sealed juvenile records when conducting background checks for firearms transactions. Making this change in the law will ensure that appropriate juvenile criminal history information is shared with other criminal justice agencies, both within and beyond Washington's border, to make sure that guns do not get into the hands of those who should not have them.



PROTECTING ANIMALS FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT

I'm an animal lover and I suspect many of you are, too. Throughout my legislative career, I've sponsored many measures to reduce animal cruelty. This year, I introduced **House Bill 1234**, which makes it easier for law enforcement and animal control to protect animals and ensure they are properly cared for when an animal is discovered to have suffered neglect or abuse and needs to be removed from its owner immediately. I worked closely on this legislation with Pasado's Safe Haven, a special sanctuary where many seized animals are sent. In our state, we often see more exotic animals—not just dogs and cats—that are seized from abusive situations, and many of these animals require special care that only certain sanctuaries can provide.



COMPLYING WITH FEDERAL LAW ON SHARING BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION

The Department of Social and Health Services works with the FBI to complete background checks for those who want to work in sensitive jobs, such as child care, health care and working with vulnerable adults. Important changes were made in federal law to restrict access by outside parties to background check information but, while Washington state has a waiver until the end of the year to access the FBI's criminal database, we will lose it if we don't update our state law to align with the federal guidelines. I sponsored the House companion to **Senate Bill 5252**, which updates background check information laws by making modifications necessary to comply with federal regulations regarding sharing criminal history record information.

These changes are necessary for FBI approval so Washington can continue conducting national fingerprint-based background checks.



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BETTER PLANNING FOR WILDFIRE SEASON

Wildfire season has gotten worse, especially in Western Washington. The negative effects of this are far-reaching. Increases in preventable health problems like respiratory illnesses and devastating loss of homes and businesses are just a few of what we've seen. It's clear, hoping for a snowy winter or cool spring can't be our only option. I sponsored **House Bill 1578**, which passed with unanimous support, to require the Department of Natural Resources to work with local entities to better plan and prepare for responses to wildfire season. As fires continue to get worse, we need to gain a leg up in our response.



HOUSING FOR ALL

Washington has a housing crisis. To address this challenge, my colleagues and I passed legislation to increase our housing supply, assistance in achieving stability, and increasing supports towards strong housing foundations. **House Bill 1474** stands out in a slate of bills that work towards these goals. The covenant home-ownership account it creates will work to reverse decades of racist housing discrimination in our state and help those affected gain a steady financial footing through home ownership.

OTHER HOUSING WINS

- **HB 1110**- Increases the “middle housing” supply by requiring cities to allow more diverse housing options in residential neighborhoods.
- **HB 1337**- Eases barriers to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) in urban growth areas.
- **HB 1042**- Helps rapid conversion of unused or underused existing buildings into new housing.
- **HB 1695**- Makes it easier to create affordable housing for low-income neighborhoods while creating opportunities to build generational wealth.
- **HB 1349**- Extends the timeframe to refer homeowners to mediation in the case of a default.

PROTECTING PRIVACY AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

When the U.S. Supreme Court's Dobbs decision was made public, Washington State made it clear that these services would remain safe and accessible here. One major component of this was working to protect healthcare data from being sold without consent. **House Bill 1155**, the My Health My Data Act, is first-in-the-nation legislation to protect our deeply personal health information from being sold without our consent – including reproductive health data. This is critically important as reproductive health care is being attacked across our country. This bill protects the independence and dignity of individuals when they make their own health care decisions in our state.

OTHER PRIVACY AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH WINS

- **HB 1340**- Protects health care providers from discipline or having their license denied if they provide care that is in accordance with Washington state law.
- **HB 1355**- Prohibits individuals from publicly disclosing personally identifiable information with the intent to harass, intimidate, or otherwise cause harm.
- **HB 1469**- This “Shield Law” protects patients and care providers from facing legal retaliation in other states when they receive protected health services in the state of Washington.

INVESTING IN WASHINGTON'S CHILDREN

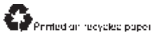
This session we made significant investments in Washington's future. Important legislation was passed easing barriers that were keeping students from finishing their degrees and starting careers that pay family sustaining wages.

- **HB 1308**- Graduation Pathways provide students with options to graduate with a meaningful diploma tailored to their individual goals.
- **HB 1316**- Expanding the Running Start program year-round to include summer courses will allow more students to dip their toes into college coursework to assess their college readiness. It's an opportunity for students to get ahead on their studies or to catch up with credit recovery. Another important aspect of this bill is that it requires all public schools to notify students and parents of all the dual-credit opportunities available to them in high school.
- **HB 1658**- Allows public high school students ages 16 and up the option to earn elective credit for their paid work experience. This bill also requires students meet grade level financial literacy standards in order to receive elective credits. This will be a difference maker for students whose jobs are a necessity.



STATE REPRESENTATIVES
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2023 Post-Session Report

45th Legislative District

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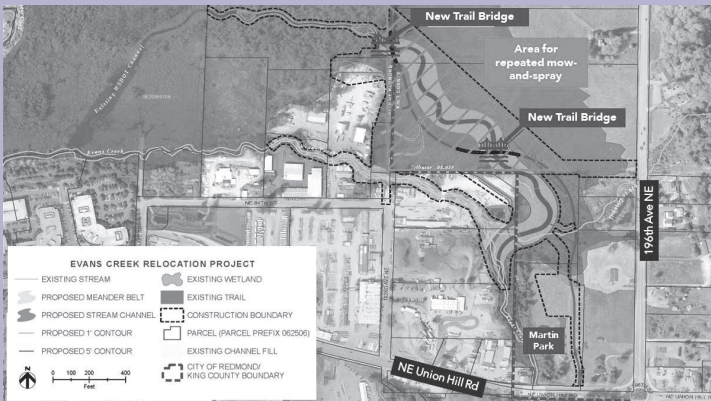
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EVANS CREEK RELOCATION PROJECT

The Capital Budget allocates **\$1.03 Million** for the Evans Creek Relocation project in Redmond that will move over 3,000 feet of Evans Creek away from heavily industrial land use to forested riparian habitat. Reconnecting Evans Creek with floodplain wetlands will reduce flooding for businesses and the community while restoring riparian buffer function, which will improve fish passage and enhance juvenile salmon rearing potential. Evans Creek connects with Bear Creek, one of the most productive salmon-bearing streams in the region for Coho and Chinook. This relocation project will also increase passive recreational opportunities to foster environmental stewardship from the community, and it includes an ADA-compliant pedestrian bridge to connect people to nature.



Caption: Emily Flanagan, Rep. Vandana Slatter (48th LD), Rep. Roger Goodman (45th LD), Redmond Mayor Angela Birney, Briahna Murray.



For more information,
scan the QR code:

