CLEAN ENERGY. HEALTHIER FUTURE

While the federal government reverses years of climate progress, Washington is confronting the climate crisis, expanding transportation electrification, protecting and restoring our environment, and investing in clean and renewable energy by:

- Creating new partnerships to **expand the transmission capacity** that moves electricity across our state, helping connect more clean energy to the grid while strengthening reliability (**SB 6355**).
- Lowering the emissions threshold for fuel suppliers' compliance with Washington's cap-and-invest program, ensuring more polluters are participating so we can continue to **invest in reducing emissions and helping people lower their energy bills** (**HB 2215**).
- Ensuring Washington continues our **clean energy transition** despite the federal government's attempts to keep retired coal-fired electric plants open (**HB 2367**).
- Creating a consistent funding source for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' **wildfire prevention and mitigation** work (**HB 2089**).
- Allowing more electric vehicle manufacturers to **sell their cars directly to buyers** in Washington and creating a rebate program to help make it more affordable for people with lower incomes to purchase or lease them (**SB 6354**).

State Representative
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2026 Session Report
to the 49th Legislative District

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INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS. REAL RESULTS

The 2026 supplemental capital budget (**SB 6003**) invests **$889 million in construction and infrastructure projects across Washington**. These investments create jobs, strengthen local economies, build schools, housing, and community projects that people rely on every day:

- $200 million for **affordable housing and homelessness response.**
- $109 million in **new funding for schools**, including $71 million for building modernization and improvement for small school districts and tribal compact schools.
- $25 million for **Washington Builds**, a new revolving loan program that families, local governments, and businesses can use for clean-energy upgrades.

Locally, we secured funding for projects across the 49th District that expand housing, strengthen community resources, and invest in local infrastructure, including:

- **Housing Solutions Center, Community Roots Mill Plain housing, and YWCA** housing expansion will help increase access to affordable and supportive housing.
- **Vancouver Family Resource Center, Clark County public safety investments, and winter shelter accessibility improvements** will expand services and improve community safety.
- **Northrop Primary School renovations, Cascadia Tech facility improvements, and projects supporting Deaf and Hard of Hearing** youth will improve school facilities and expand access to education.

For more information on the budgets, please visit www.fiscal.wa.gov

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2026 Session Report to the 49th Legislative District

State Representative **Sharon Wylie**

May 2026

Dear friends and neighbors,

This year's legislative session was shaped by real challenges—from rising costs to uncertainty at the federal level that continues to impact families across Washington. In a difficult budget year, my focus was on protecting essential services, supporting working families, and making smart investments in our communities.

That includes continued progress on replacing the I-5 Bridge—one of the most important infrastructure projects for Southwest Washington.

As you may have heard, I am retiring this year, so I will take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation for your vote of confidence in allowing me to represent your interests in Olympia all these years.

It has truly been a great honor.

Sincerely,

Sharon Wylie

Rep. Sharon Wylie

VOICES LIFTED. BARRIERS REMOVED

Every day it seems like the federal government finds another way to attack our democracy. We believe that voting should be easy, free, and accessible to everyone who is eligible. Putting up roadblocks and disenfranchising eligible voters only hurts our society and prevents valid, legal voters from exercising their voices. **Democracy can't defend itself; that's our job.** So, this year, we pushed back by:

- **HB 1710 – Establishing a voting rights "preclearance" process**
  Creates a state-level process to prevent discriminatory election changes before they take effect.
- **HB 1750 – Strengthening the Washington Voting Rights Act**
  Improves how voting rights violations are addressed and allows earlier resolution.
- **HB 1916 – Preventing mass voter challenges**
  Updates challenge processes to prevent abuse and protect eligible voters.
- **SB 5892 – Protecting sensitive voter data**
  Safeguards personal information in voter registration records.
- **SB 6035 – Expanding access to the ballot**
  Improves voting access for Tribal communities, military and overseas voters, and people with disabilities.

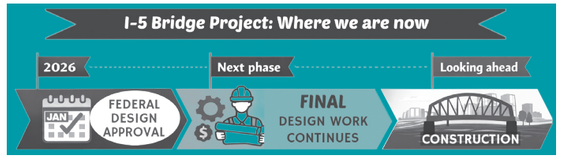
Together, these measures **ensure every eligible voter can participate** fully and fairly in our democracy.

State Representative **Sharon Wylie**

2026 Session Report to the 49th District

PROGRESS ON THE BRIDGE!

Replacing the aging Interstate 5 bridge across the Columbia River has been a top priority for me since I first came to the Legislature. The bridge is almost 110 years old and serves as a vital connection for families, workers, and businesses traveling between Southwest Washington and the Portland region every day.

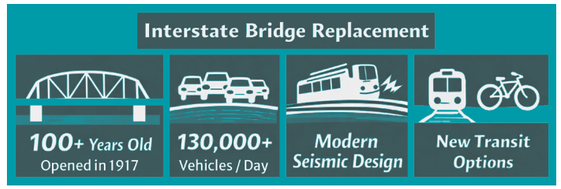


A few years ago, the federal government recognized our bridge replacement as a project of national significance. This basically means that our bridge is not just a local commuter bridge, but a key piece of national infrastructure that affects trade along the entire West Coast. Our bridge moves enormous amounts of freight, making it a key part of national supply chains. And, while it is critical for emergency response, it is one of the worst bottlenecks in the region because, with narrow lanes and no shoulders, when there is an accident or a car breaks down, everything comes to a halt.

This year's supplemental transportation budget continues Washington's investment in the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program to improve safety, reduce congestion, and strengthen a crucial freight and commuter corridor.

- **2026:** Earlier this year, with the approval by the U.S. Coast Guard of the design for the new bridge, we cleared a major regulatory hurdle, allowing the project to move forward.
- **Next phase:** Engineers continue final design work while Washington, Oregon, and federal partners assemble the remaining funding needed for construction.
- **Looking ahead:** Once design and permitting are complete, the project will move into construction — replacing the aging bridge and modernizing the entire I-5 corridor between Vancouver and Portland.

For Southwest Washington, replacing the Interstate Bridge isn't optional — **it's essential.**



The new bridge will be built to modern seismic standards to withstand earthquakes, improve safety and mobility throughout the corridor, upgrade nearby interchanges, extend light rail to Vancouver, expand transit options, and create safe paths for people walking and biking across the river.

Other transportation projects in our district include:

- I-5/Mill Plain Boulevard reconstruction of existing interchange
- SR-14 Auxiliary Lanes (I-205 to SE 164th Ave)
- C-TRAN Highway 99 Bus Rapid Transit
- C-TRAN Fourth Plain BRT Extension
- SR-501 Roadside Safety Improvements (I-5 to Port of Vancouver)
- C-TRAN Highway 99 Bus Rapid Transit
- C-TRAN Hydrogen Fuel Cell Buses
- Vancouver Mall Transit Center Relocation & Upgrade

A FAIRER TAX SYSTEM

Washington's regressive and outdated tax system balances the state budget on the shoulders of working families. Our neighbors with the lowest incomes, the bottom 20 percent of earners, pay nearly **14 percent of their income in taxes**, while the highest earners — the top 1 percent — pay just **4.1 percent**. To us, that doesn't seem fair. That is why House and Senate Democrats passed the Millionaires' Tax this year (SB 6346).

The tax **goes into effect in 2028**, and **collections will begin in 2029**. Revenue from the millionaires' tax will support:

- Expanding the Working Families Tax Credit so **460,000 more families** become eligible.
- Exempting **sales tax** on diapers, hygiene products, and over-the-counter medications.
- Providing **universal school meals** for all Washington students.
- Investing in **Fair Start for Kids, child care, early learning,** and **K-12 education**.
- Easing the burden on small businesses with a **B&O tax break**.

Millionaires' Tax signed into law on March 30, 2026

AFFORDABILITY FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Across Washington, families are feeling the pressure of rising costs—from housing and health care to everyday essentials. Over the past two years, we have taken steps to reduce financial burdens, expand access to critical services, and create more stability for working families.

- **Modernizing our property tax structure** so more seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities can stay in their homes with dignity, stability, and financial security (SB 6162).
- Creating a statewide program **to help low-income households manage rising utility costs** by expanding access to energy assistance so families don't have to choose between keeping the lights on and paying for other necessities (HB 1903).
- **Protecting access to groceries and medications** by removing outdated restrictions that prevent grocery stores and pharmacies from reopening in vacant buildings. This helps reduce food deserts, increases competition, and ensures families have better access to affordable essentials in their communities (HB 2294).
- **Making energy-efficient improvements more affordable by allowing** utilities to cover upfront costs and letting customers repay them gradually through their utility bills (HB 2296).
- **Helping families stay healthy** by ensuring that preventive services like cancer screenings and vaccines remain available without new out-of-pocket costs (HB 2242).
- **Lowering barriers for community development by** giving local governments the option to waive upfront utility connection fees, helping reduce costs and support development that benefits local communities **(HB 1302).**

STANDING UP TO INTIMIDATION

We passed several bills to protect Washingtonians from the aggressive and violent actions of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, including:

- Prohibiting law enforcement officers — including ICE agents — **from wearing face-concealing masks** while interacting with the public (SB 5855).
- **Preserving the integrity of Washington's law enforcement** by making it a crime for people who are not law enforcement officers to wear badges or other law enforcement insignia (HB 2165).
- **Strengthening protections for immigrant workers** against retaliation and coercion (HB 2105).
- Allowing people to **use shared leave for work absences** if they are victims of hate crimes or affected by ICE actions (HB 2411).
- **Preventing immigrant enforcement from using surveillance tools** like automatic license plate readers, ensuring community safety and trust (SB 6002).

If you or someone you know needs assistance, **scan this QR code** for resources that may be useful.