



5th DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

Rep. Lisa Callan & Rep. Bill Ramos

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SPRING 2020

Dear friends and neighbors,

This year has brought unprecedented challenges to our region, state, nation, and the world. We were called upon to work together during these difficult times to mitigate the impact that COVID-19 has on our communities and loved ones. Washington answered that call with bold action.

The legislature allocated \$225 million for COVID-19 response including:

- \$175 million for direct response to the health crisis.
- \$25 million for worker and business protections.
- \$25 million in federal funds to help state agencies, local governments, and tribes respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

Additionally, the Governor issued a **Stay At Home, Stay Healthy** order to slow the spread of the virus and temporarily halted all evictions to keep people in their homes.

These are trying times, but our state has stepped up. Though we're apart for a while, we will get through this together because Washingtonians look out for their neighbors and protect the most vulnerable among us. We are proud of the response of our communities and are proud to represent you in Olympia. We are committed to doing whatever work is necessary to mitigate the damage this crisis has caused and help our communities, our neighbors, and our economy recover from COVID-19.

Stay safe and stay healthy,

Lisa Callan *Bill Ramos*
Rep. Lisa Callan Rep. Bill Ramos

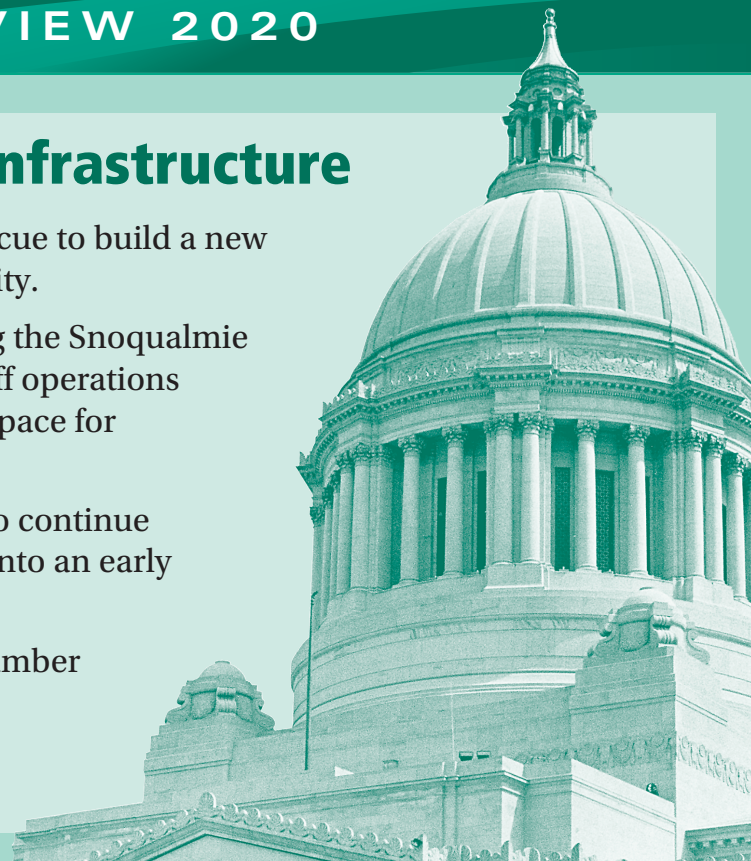
COVID-19 Resources

- The state COVID-19 resources page: www.coronavirus.wa.gov
- Washington's Dept. of Health coronavirus page: www.doh.wa.gov/coronavirus
- DOH coronavirus call center: 1-800-525-0127 from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- King County COVID-19 page: www.kingcounty.gov/coronavirus

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Improving Community Infrastructure

- \$1 Million for King County Search and Rescue to build a new training facility and headquarters in Fall City.
- \$200,000 to begin the process of expanding the Snoqualmie Valley Shelter Services resource center, staff operations area, and emergency night shelter to add space for important services.
- \$155,000 for the Issaquah School District to continue conversion of an old district office facility into an early learning center.
- \$20,000 to help the Snoqualmie Valley Chamber of Commerce create an interactive, online kiosk visitor experience.



REPRESENTATIVE Lisa Callan

Committees:

- Capital Budget (Vice Chair)
- Human Services & Early Learning (Vice Chair)
- Education

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REPRESENTATIVE Bill Ramos Assistant Majority Whip

Committees:

- College & Workforce Development
- Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources
- Transportation

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Rep. Callan's Healthy Kids, Healthy Families Agenda



As your voice in Olympia, the health and wellbeing of our kids and families has been my top priority. We've been heavily impacted by tragedy in the last few years; from teen overdoses and suicide to the COVID-19 emergency. I've been championing healthy kids and families across Washington State by successfully passing legislation that:

- Extends and adds school-based needs to the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group to develop better behavioral health policies for our kids. **(HB 2737)**

- Helps schools and colleges respond to suicide and substance use crises by requiring the national crisis hotline on the back of school IDs. **(HB 2589)**
- Supports families experiencing homelessness seeking stability by extending the grace period for the Working Connections Childcare Program to 12 months. **(HB 2456)**
- Reduces trauma for kids and helps families in the foster care system find permanency by encouraging mentorships between caretakers and parents. **(HB 2525)**
- Removes barriers for youth experiencing homelessness to get state ID cards so they can find jobs, apply for housing, and more. **(HB 2607)**
- Consolidates the infants and toddlers program into one agency to more effectively provide early support for our littlest learners. **(HB 2787)**
- Improves education for children in the juvenile justice system, leading to better outcomes for kids and communities. **(HB 2116)**

While the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on our economy may impact these investments, I am committed to making sure that our families and our kids have the resources they need to be healthy and thrive.

Comprehensive Sexual Health Education

We've received many questions about the comprehensive sexual health education (CSHE) legislation passed this session and want to clarify a few misconceptions. We understand the natural concerns parents have about their children's education. This is an important discussion that needs to be based on facts rather than misleading information.

Here is what the final legislation actually does:

- Requires schools to teach social-emotional learning (SEL) for grades K-3. This kind of learning helps kids understand how to be a good friend, how to ask for permission to hug someone, how to refuse unwanted hugs, recognize inappropriate touch, and identify trusted adults. Many school districts are already teaching SEL, and the learning standards haven't changed.
- Maintains local control by putting the curriculum choice in the hands of local school boards and school districts, using their own curriculum adoption processes. The state learning standards remain largely the same as they have since 2006.
- Requires districts to more clearly communicate to parents when and how this adoption process will occur and what specific content the district has decided will be taught at each grade level, for optimum family communication and transparency.
- Preserves a parent's right and makes it easier for parents to opt their child out of learning the locally chosen curriculum.

We trust our school board members, our teachers, and our parents to make the best decisions for students at the local level and adopt or develop appropriate curricula for the students in their district. Thank you for engaging on this important topic!



Rep. Ramos' 2020 Legislative Successes



Carbon sequestration

Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide and is a natural way to fight climate change. Trees and other plants absorb carbon and store it in trunks, foliage and soils. Sequestration helps maintain forest cover, supports biodiversity and wildlife, protects oceans from acidification and provides forest products, such as wood for building materials. State agencies will begin recognizing the impacts of forests and agriculture, and supporting the timber industry's efforts to reduce carbon emissions through sequestration **(HB 2528)**. This will help private landowners engage in voluntary reforestation and afforestation projects, and support the creation of badly needed jobs in rural communities.

Census Bill of Rights

Census counts determine how much representation each state gets in Congress and how much federal funding is sent to each state for hospitals, fire departments, school lunches, and many other programs.

To get the most accurate count, we passed a measure ensuring that every Washingtonian has access to census information so they can get counted freely **(HB 2527)**.

The new law affirms the rights to confidentiality and participation free of threat or intimidation. It also makes it a gross misdemeanor to impersonate a census taker, and it makes mailing materials with the intent to interfere with census operations an unfair trade practice.

Washingtonians deserve to be counted and in doing so, they have the power to shape their future.

Tribal vehicle registration and license plates compacts

Recognizing the sovereign authority of tribes, this new law allows them to enter into compacts with the governor for vehicle registration and tribal license plates **(HB 2491)**. This is another step in the process of respecting relations between tribes and state government. The program is voluntary and does not represent a cost or a loss of revenue for the state.

Anti-swatting measure

Swatting is a practice that sends heavily armed law enforcement to the homes of innocent people under the belief that there is a life-threatening situation. Far from being a prank, swatting can result in serious trauma or worse, in a fatality. **HB 2632** identifies the different outcomes and intents of a false report, establishing corresponding punishments depending on the seriousness of the offense. This could result in a class B felony and 10 years in prison if a swatting call directly leads to someone's death.

Transportation

The I-90/SR 18 interchange

The I-90/SR 18 interchange experiences severe congestion during peak traffic and some of you have shared concerns about funding for the project that will improve the interchange and widen SR 18 to increase safety and alleviate congestion. Funding for this project was included in the 2019-2021 budget and this year's supplemental budget didn't make any adjustments. The project plan remains the same and we'll work hard to mitigate any potential impacts from COVID-19.

Addressing the license tabs issue

Initiative 976 made writing the Supplemental Transportation budget extremely difficult because we had to make surgical cuts, some of which were very deep. Our priority was to protect services that vulnerable people rely on every day, uphold as much as possible our commitment to maintenance and repairs, and finish projects that had already started. Those safeguards came at a steep cost, resulting in having to hit pause on numerous projects that are essential to our state's future safety and economic development.