

Rep. Dave Paul's 10th Legislative District Update



Dear neighbors,

I'm pleased to report that lawmakers made significant progress on the issues that matter the most to families and residents in our community during this short 60-day session.

While the national climate is very polarized, Democrats and Republicans in Washington state continue to find many opportunities to work together. Here's an update on some of the work we did in the last session.

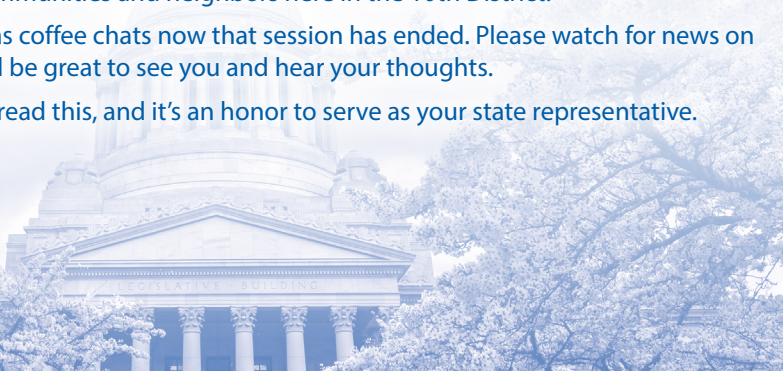
It's great to be back home, where I can chat with community members, neighbors, and friends. A special thanks to all who took the time to attend one of my recent town halls to advocate for the needs of our communities and neighbors here in the 10th District.

I'll continue to host events such as coffee chats now that session has ended. Please watch for news on when and where I'll be—it would be great to see you and hear your thoughts.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and it's an honor to serve as your state representative.

Sincerely,

Rep. Dave Paul



Committees

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Innovation, Community & Economic Development, & Veterans

Postsecondary Education & Workforce

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Ferries

Ferries are vital to local residents and our state's economy. It's unacceptable that our state has long ignored ferries—until there is a crisis. I asked to serve as the Vice Chair of the House Transportation Committee to ensure that ferries are fully funded—and have a legislative champion that will hold WSF accountable.

I've fought to address two key problems holding back ferry service: the lack of new vessels and the shortage of trained ferry crews.

The new transportation budget addresses both problems. It includes:

- \$196 million for hybrid electric vessel construction and terminal electrification
- Funding for the construction of 5 new hybrid electric ferries
- Restoring \$49 million in cuts to ferry preservation
- \$10 million to add two additional crew to each shift
- \$2.1 million to double the number of Able Bodied Sailors to Licensed Deck Officers
- \$988,000 to increase dispatch staff
- \$540,000 to increase the class size for New Mate Scholars

As a ferry rider, I share your frustrations with cancellations and vessels going out of service. We can—and must—do better for all the families and communities that need reliable ferry service.

Public Safety

Everyone deserves to feel safe in their community, and the new state budget supports our justice system and improves public safety.

Our local law enforcement agencies are facing significant challenges with hiring new officers. I'm pleased that the legislature invested \$9 million to fund new law enforcement regional training academies and \$8 million to help local jurisdictions pay for the training of new public safety officers. I continue to lead local bipartisan efforts to bring a regional training academy to our community. This will allow local recruits to become officers without traveling to South King County.

Housing

I know how the high cost of housing is hard on families and on our economy. The legislature made progress this year on housing, with \$127.5 million in the construction budget for the Housing Trust Fund and a number of new reforms passing both chambers and becoming law.

That includes the Workforce Housing Accelerator Program (**House Bill 1892**), which creates a loan program to speed up the construction of affordable housing throughout the state.

Another reform (**House Bill 2071**) makes it easier to build middle housing by putting triplexes, quads, and other options under the residential code instead of the costlier and more time-consuming commercial code.



Healthcare

Inhalers and epinephrine injectors (epi-pens) are lifesaving devices. They're also shockingly expensive today. I wrote **House Bill 1979** to cap the cost of inhalers and epi-pens at \$35 for a 30-day supply. This new state law will soon help to reduce healthcare costs.

Our state's healthcare costs are rising faster than other states, so a new effort (**House Bill 1508**) adds more consumers to the state's healthcare cost transparency board and improves data-sharing between agencies to help identify coordinated ways of reducing healthcare costs.

Mental Health & Addiction

Many of you have spoken to me about the need to prioritize behavioral health outcomes, including improving mental health services and substance use disorder treatment. This session, we increased funding in the operating budget to invest in treatment and prevention. I'm very pleased to report that the capital budget includes three important local projects that help address behavioral health.

- \$1.9 million for the Holman Recovery Center in Arlington
- \$250,000 for the Skagit County Crisis Stabilization Center
- \$93,000 for the Ituha Stabilization Facility in Oak Harbor

New laws include a statewide drug overdose prevention and awareness campaign in public schools (**House Bill 1956**) and higher education institutions (**House Bill 2112**). The operating budget also funds housing for people in recovery and tribal support and outreach.

Improving Education and College Affordability

Earning college credit while in high school is a great way to reduce the cost of higher education. I'm happy to say the governor signed my law (**House Bill 1146**) requiring schools to notify students and parents about dual credit options.

We also boosted special education funding by \$29 million, expanded career and technical education opportunities for students (**House Bill 2236**), and made it easier for certificated teachers from other states—such as the spouses of service members—to work in Washington state (**Senate Bill 5180**).



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Local Projects

The \$1.3 billion construction budget funds infrastructure here in the 10th District and across the state. It helps tackle two of our toughest challenges: affordable housing and the pressing need for behavioral health facilities.

Here's a partial list of new local projects:

- \$1.6 million for Generations Place workforce housing in Langley
- \$36,000 for sidewalk improvements to the Coupeville Boys and Girls
- \$600,000 for the Langley Library Historic Preservation
- \$77,000 for a fire alarm system for the Camano Lutheran Childcare Center
- \$100,000 for the Stanwood Police Station
- \$3 million for the Lagoon Point Community Forest
- \$273,000 for Jensen Park improvements in Arlington
- \$2 million for estuary and salmon restoration in the Lower Maxwellton Valley, Port Susan Bay, and other locations in the 10th District

