

Rep. Dave Paul's 10th Legislative District Update



Dear friends and neighbors,

The 2025 legislative session has ended, and I'm proud to share that we delivered balanced budgets—that protect essential services and reflect the values of the 10th District.

In this challenging budget year with shortfalls in both our operating and transportation budgets, the legislature prioritized affordable housing, school funding, and support for our workforce.

We passed meaningful legislation and rejected harmful proposals that would have rolled back on our commitment to reliable infrastructure, climate progress, and public education.

This session was marked by deep losses—former Speaker Frank Chopp and Sen. Bill Ramos—whose legacies live on through the values we fought for and the lives we've improved. I'm back home now and looking forward to hearing from you. Thank you to everyone who met with me during session or came to our town halls—your voices help shape our work.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with your thoughts or questions.

Sincerely,

Rep. Dave Paul

Committees

Postsecondary Education & Workforce (Chair)
Transportation
Technology, Economic Development & Veterans
Ferry Caucus (Co-Chair)

Mailing Address

424 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Email

Dave.Paul@leg.wa.gov

Phone

(360) 786-7914

Toll-free Hotline

1-800-562-6000
1-800-833-6388 (TTY)



Education & Workforce Development

As Chair of the House Postsecondary Education & Workforce Committee, I was honored to help build a stronger economy by expanding access to education and removing barriers to workforce participation. We passed legislation that supports students, workers, caregivers, and communities across Washington.

Key wins include expanding College Bound Scholarships to GED earners (**SB 5543**) and lowering the age for tuition waivers in high school completion programs (**HB 1556**).

Each year thousands of Washington students enroll in Career and Technical Education (CTE) dual credit programs, yet many don't utilize the credits they earn. That's why I introduced and passed **HB 1273**, extending a pilot program that removes financial barriers and ensures more students can successfully apply their CTE credits toward postsecondary credentials.

Building A Reliable Ferry System

Washington's 2025 transportation budget delivers major wins for our ferry system. The 2025–27 transportation budget (**SB 5161**) includes critical funding to build new vessels, convert existing ferries to hybrid-electric, and improve service reliability. To support long-term operations, **SB 5801** includes new, sustainable revenue streams for ferries and other transportation needs. Meanwhile, **HB 1264** ensures fair compensation for ferry workers by reforming salary survey comparisons used in collective bargaining. These efforts protect ferry access, promote sustainability, and strengthen Washington's maritime workforce.

Housing Affordability

Washington is facing a housing crisis. Whether you live in a big city or a small town, the issues are the same - rents are rising, housing is in short supply, and people are struggling to stay in their homes. This year, we passed a wide range of laws to tackle these challenges from multiple angles.

We passed rent stabilization (**HB 1217**) to protect renters from sudden, unaffordable rent hikes. This helps keep seniors, families, and low-income renters housed and stable.

We're also boosting housing supply. Transit-oriented development (**HB 1491**) supports building more homes near public transit. Middle housing (**SB 5471**) expands housing options in rural communities. Lot splitting (**HB 1096**) allows more homes on large lots.

With my bill, **HB 1791**, we removed outdated restrictions on Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) revenues, allowing cities and counties – especially smaller and rural communities – to invest in affordable housing, homelessness services, and other critical needs **without** raising taxes. It gives communities the flexibility they need to meet growing housing demands head-on.

From increasing housing supply to strengthening renter protections and supporting first-time buyers, this year's housing bills are about stability, fairness, and opportunity for all Washingtonians. We'll keep pushing for solutions that put people first and make housing affordable and accessible in our community.



Community Safety

This year, the Legislature advanced community safety through targeted investments and bold policy reforms. **HB 2015**, allocates \$110 million for the Community Reinvestment Program and \$100 million in law enforcement grants. Additional investments support reentry services, youth diversion, and crime victim assistance—putting community needs first.



Affordability in Healthcare

Every Washingtonian deserves affordable, accessible, and equitable healthcare. This year, we took bold steps to reduce costs and expand access. With **HB 1686**, we increased transparency around healthcare mergers to protect consumers. We strengthened mental health and substance use disorder coverage with **HB 1432**.



With **HB 1811** and **HB 1718**, we improved crisis response and supported the healthcare workforce. Together, we are building a healthcare system that puts people first and meets the needs of every community.

Finally, we’re tackling the high cost of life-saving medications. In 2024, I sponsored **HB 1979**, to cap out-of-pocket costs for inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors (EpiPens) at \$35 for a 30-day supply—offering immediate relief to families managing asthma and severe allergies. The cost of EpiPens has soared in recent years, forcing many to make dangerous trade-offs between medication and other basic needs. By limiting cost-sharing, we’re saving lives and reducing long-term costs through better preventative care—keeping kids in school, parents at work, and families out of emergency rooms.

Rep. Dave Paul’s 10th Legislative District Update

PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT NO. 1885

LD10

Local Projects

- \$927,000 for mental health care: Expanding treatment at the Ituha Stabilization facility for people in crisis
- \$8.8 million for flood protection: Reducing flood risks, cleaning up water, and supporting local farms in the Stillaguamish area
- \$1 million for Stanwood levy improvements: helping protect both Stanwood and Camano Island residents
- \$1 million to clean up toxic sites: Removing pollution along the Whidbey Island waterfront to keep people and the environment safe
- \$29 million for the Island Unit Restoration Project: Expanding estuary restoration and protecting fish and wildlife habitat
- \$878,000 for the Meyer Art Center: Building a new community arts space in Stanwood with flexible areas for classes, exhibits, and events
- \$412,000 for teen shelter and housing: Supporting the Oasis Youth Shelter in Mount Vernon to help homeless and at-risk youth
- \$300,000 for affordable housing: Helping Habitat for Humanity buy land to build homes for families in need

Transportation Investments

- \$40 million for improvements to the Clinton Ferry Terminal
- \$39 million for SR 531 corridor improvements from 43rd Ave NE to 67th Ave NE in Arlington

