

24th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT WRAP - 2022



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Dear neighbors,

We're happy to report that the 2022 session put people first and made a lot of changes and investments that will make a difference for generations here in the 24th District.

Inside this newsletter, you'll find highlights from the session, including:

- a new state budget that rebuilds our economy, addresses the housing crisis, and improves health care;
- help for farmers, seniors, and working parents;
- a historic construction budget that builds schools, colleges, parks, and environmental projects, along with a long list of new projects here in the 24th that will create jobs;
- a new transportation package that moves Washington forward and makes serious improvements to our ferry system; and
- public safety reforms that make sure our law enforcement officers can do the job of protecting our families.

We also made college more affordable, protected you from surprise medical bills for emergency room visits, and expanded access to health care.

To help our small businesses on Main Street deal with the damage from this pandemic, we increased the B & O tax credit and gave direct help to those hurt the most in restaurants, the hospitality industry, and the arts.

Thank you to everyone who called, emailed, and advocated for our communities, schools, and businesses. It's only by listening to each other with respect, and working together, that we can get things done for all our families.

This newsletter isn't big enough to address every issue. If you have a specific question, comment, or idea, please get in touch!

Sincerely,

Senator Kevin Van De Wege

Representative Steve Tharinger

Representative Mike Chapman



Sen. Van De Wege - 24th Legislative District

A state government that works for you

One of the advantages of serving on the Senate Ways & Means Committee is that you get to see — and vote for or against — all the proposals to allocate dollars across the state. It's a bottom-line way to make sure our public services put people first.

For example, to help everyday households makes ends meet, and to prevent or relieve homelessness, this year's state operating budget provides:

- \$350 million to strengthen our state's groundbreaking paid family leave program.
- \$10 million to increase access to dental care for children.
- \$5 million to expand the School-to-Work Program in all counties to connect students with intellectual and developmental disabilities with employment services.
- \$100 million in federal COVID-19 relief for utility assistance.
- \$95 million to increase access to lifelines for people across the state: Working Connections Child Care, behavioral health services, child visitation, and in-home care.
- \$37 million to increase financial support for people eligible for the Aged, Blind or Disabled program.
- \$58 million for the Farmers-to-Families Food Box Program to provide fresh, healthy food to food banks across the state.
- \$100 million to address workforce shortages and improve access to behavioral health services.
- \$9 million for Basic Food program expansion.
- \$45 million for rental assistance to help at risk families stay in their homes.
- \$45 million to help transition people camping on public roads and highways to emergency and permanent housing.
- \$3 million to assist tenant and landlord relations, including funding for dispute resolution services to indigent tenants involved in eviction proceedings, and legal advice and assistance to tenants prior to the filing of eviction actions.
- \$6 million to expand access to no-barrier, low-barrier and transitional housing using a housing-first approach.
- \$4 million for an emergency adolescent housing pilot to provide a supportive housing option for youth aged 16 and older.

To enhance public safety, the budget allocates:



- \$9 million for law enforcement and investigative personnel trainings for 390 additional law enforcement officers. This funding will increase the number of classes for law enforcement personnel from 30 to 43.
- \$2 million to help the Washington Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force combat internet-facilitated crimes against children, promote education on internet safety to the public and minors, and rescue child victims from abuse and exploitation.
- \$6 million for training for local law enforcement agencies to help train officers to intervene during a behavioral health crisis and to prevent a person from fleeing the scene of a crime.

To improve education, the budget provides:

- \$345 million to stabilize school districts.
- \$90 million to add nurses and counselors in schools to meet the physical and social emotional needs of students.
- \$37 million to support expanded nursing education at state universities and colleges.
- \$13 million for cybersecurity training programs at state universities and colleges.
- \$10 million to support outdoor education for 5th and 6th grade students.
- \$3 million to expand financial literacy curriculum in high schools.

Rep. Tharinger - 24th Legislative District

Building hope and progress



The new \$1.5 billion state construction budget makes significant investments in housing, economic development, early learning, and broadband internet.

This budget was made possible by \$650 million in one-time funding from the state operating budget, \$305 million in bond revenue and \$329 million from the Biden administration's Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act funds.

Major statewide investments include:

- \$439 million for housing, including \$300 million for rapid capital acquisition of housing and \$15 million for homeless youth projects.
- \$111 million for behavioral health



- \$224 million for early learning, public schools, and higher education, including \$22 million in grants to distressed schools
- \$100 million to expand broadband internet service around the state
- \$101 million in clean energy projects

Funding for the 24th District includes:

- \$3.25 million in Behavioral Health Community Capacity Grants to Jamestown S'Klallam in Sequim
- \$500,000 for the Learning to Grow early learning facility in Elma
- \$500,000 for the Clallam Joint Emergency Services facility in Port Angeles
- \$2 million for Woodley Place by Bayside Housing & Services in Port Hadlock
- \$250,000 for the Field Arts and Events Hall
- \$235,000 for the Northwest Kidney Centers Port Angeles Clinic
- \$1.5 million for the Point Hudson Breakwater Project
- \$2.977 million for the Clallam Bay Correctional Facility utilidor mechanical and electrical system repair
- \$855,000 for the Port of Port Angeles Stormwater Project



- \$65,000 for the Upper Indian Creek Fish Screen Removal
- \$100,000 for the Arvid Creek Bridge Design
- \$100,000 Butler Mill Bridge Replacement
- \$75,000 for the Cedar Creek Bridge Repair
- \$100,000 for the EF Dickey River Bridge Design
- \$25,000 for the Shale Creek Concrete Bridge Repair
- \$200,000 for Sollecks High Bridge
- \$100,000 for the Susie Creek Bridge Repair
- \$1 million for the Upper Quinault River Restoration Project
- \$335,000 for day use facilities and trail development at Anderson Lake

More information about the capital budget can be found at leap.leg.wa.gov, and projects can be mapped at the county or legislative district level at fiscal.wa.gov

The budget agreement was offered as a striking amendment to **Senate Bill 5651**. It passed the House 98-0 and the Senate 49-0.

Rep. Chapman - 24th Legislative District



Transportation

This session we passed a historic transportation budget package that will help move Washington forward. This budget was a collaborative effort, from working with stakeholders and local elected officials, to hosting over 90 listening sessions with constituents across the state. The package is an investment in Washington's transportation infrastructure, including some significant investments for our district.

One of the biggest is the expansion of the US 101 between Sequim and Port Angeles, by adding a lane in each direction we'll be able to make the road safer, reduce traffic delays, and improve capacity. I was glad to see this project get funded this year.

We also invested in our ferry system, with funding for 4 new boats, electrification of current vessels, fleet preservation, and operations funds. We know that vessels can't run without a crew, so we've allocated funding for workforce development, recruitment, and retention to help us meet current and future demand.

Finally, we're continuing to invest in culvert replacement to restore salmon and steelhead runs. These fish are an iconic part of our state, from fishing and the maritime industry to feeding orca. Opening up culverts to grow their habitat ensures they'll still be around for our children and grandchildren.

I'm particularly proud that we were able to make all these investments without an increase to the gas tax.

Public Safety

One of my priorities this session was making changes to the police reform legislation we enacted last year. I'd heard from constituents and local law enforcement about pieces that needed clarification or updating to ensure that our law enforcement officers are able to do their jobs. We passed a couple bills this session to address those concerns:

HB 1719 – Clarifying law enforcement use of military equipment: This bill ensures that law enforcement officers can still use less-lethal alternatives like bean bag rounds or less lethal munitions launchers. There was ambiguity in the original legislation that left some agencies with questions about their use, that ambiguity is now fixed.

HB 1735 – Police use of force for community caretaking calls: Some law enforcement agencies felt that last year's legislation prevented them from assisting designated crisis responders or mental and behavioral health specialists with involuntary treatment or other community caretaking work. This legislation clarifies that they can use force in these circumstances subject to the same reasonable care standard as applies in other circumstances.

HB 2037 – Clarifying police use of force policy: We heard feedback from law enforcement agencies that they wanted a clear definition of physical force, this legislation provides that. It also allows officers to use force, subject to the reasonable care standard, to stop someone from fleeing a temporary investigative detention or Terry stop.

In addition to these changes, we've also made investments to ensure that our Washington State Patrol Troopers are paid a salary that's competitive with other law enforcement agencies. Raising wages will help bolster our recruitment and retention efforts, as well as send a message to our troopers that we value their work.



Tax breaks for small businesses

We know that the last two years have been particularly challenging for our small businesses. I was proud to support legislation this year that will increase the Business and Occupation (B&O) Tax Credit for small businesses. This means that 125,000 small businesses across our state will see lower B&O taxes or may not even have to file at all. This bill provides permanent relief to many of the mom & pop small businesses in our district, and I'm hopeful we can make more progress on this when we come back next session.

I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve you all in this position, and as always please reach out to my office with any questions, concerns, feedback, or more.

24th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT MAP



24th Legislative District

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24th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



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Committees

- Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (Chair)
- Health & Long Term Care
- Ways & Means



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Committees

- Capital Budget (Chair)
- Appropriations
- Health Care & Wellness



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Committees

- Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources (Chair)
- Transportation