

Sen. Lisa Wellman • Rep. Tana Senn • Rep. My-Linh Thai

## Transportation Budget Highlights

The \$9.8 billion, two-year transportation plan makes investments in each part of the state to keep people and goods moving.

Here are a few highlights for the 41st district:

- **Widening I-405 & I-90 to SE 8th St.:** This project will construct one additional lane in the northbound and southbound directions between I-90 and SE 8th St to reduce congestion on I-405.
- **Renton City Entrance:** In conjunction with the rebuilding of the I-405/NE 44th St interchange, the budget includes new signage and a “green-scaped” entrance into the City of Renton.
- **Wilburton Trestle:** The historic Wilburton Trestle is getting new life as a recreational trail. Funding will help make this key piece of the Eastside Rail Corridor a reality.
- **Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan:** Funding is provided for the development of a master plan for the Aubrey Davis Park on Mercer Island.

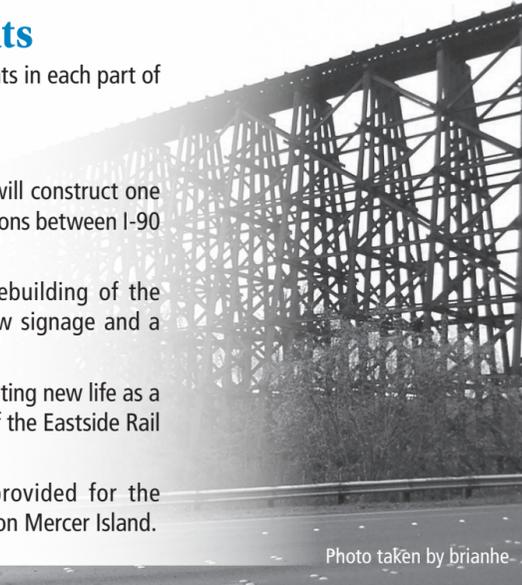


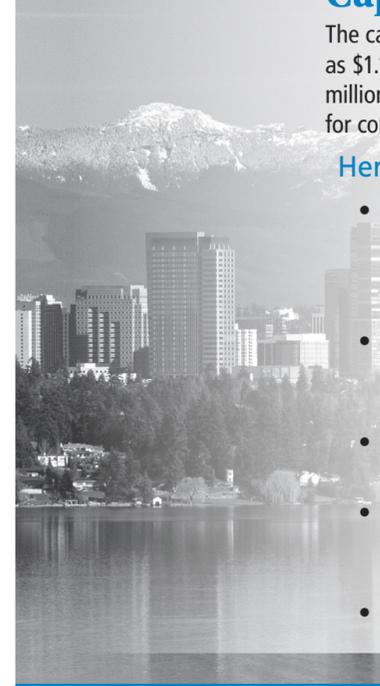
Photo taken by Brianhe

## Capital Budget Highlights

The capital budget makes large investments in buildings and public infrastructure such as \$1.1 billion for public schools; \$927 million for public colleges and universities; \$155 million for affordable housing; \$463 million to help salmon and orcas; and \$117 million for community behavioral health facilities.

Here are a few highlights for the 41st district:

- **Hero House:** Hero House helps build community and supports adults living with mental illness so they can find and stay employed, locate affordable housing and live independently. Funding is provided to help build out their job placement and career center for greater access.
- **Bellevue College:** Funding to start work on a new Center for Transdisciplinary Learning building. This space will house the information and business technology, computer science, interior design, art and engineering programs.
- **Wilburton Hill Park:** Funding for a synthetic sports field renovation, so young people can get outside and play sports year-round.
- **Downtown Bellevue Gateway:** Funding for the Gateway into Downtown Park, to help provide a transition from busy downtown Bellevue to the more tranquil environment of the Park.
- **Glen Coulon Memorial Beach Park:** Funding for upgrades to play equipment.



Senator  
Lisa Wellman  
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## Report on the 2019 Session

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  - Health Care & Wellness

## Report on the 2019 Session

41<sup>st</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Sen. Lisa Wellman • Rep. Tana Senn • Rep. My-Linh Thai

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We are writing to you following a historic legislative session, marked by progress on a wide range of issues that will help the 41st District and people throughout the state. From health care to education to climate change, we passed laws designed to address Washingtonians’ most urgent concerns.

And we did it on time. This was the first 105-day session completed on time in 10 years. Not coincidentally, this was also the second year of Democratic control of the House, Senate and Governor’s mansion.

In this newsletter, we will outline several ways the 41st Legislative District delegation worked to make our communities healthier, prosperous and more connected.

If you have questions or comments about these topics or other things going on in Olympia, or your neighborhood, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Sen. Lisa Wellman

Rep. Tana Senn

Rep. My-Linh Thai



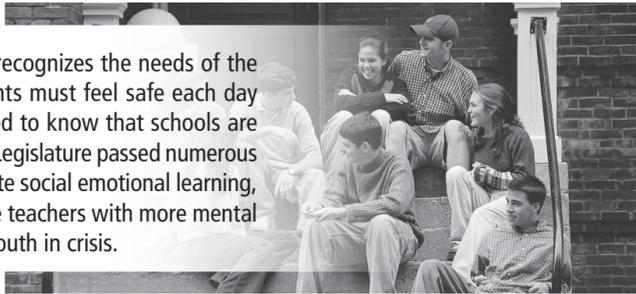
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# Report on the 2019 Session

41<sup>st</sup>  
LEGISLATIVE  
DISTRICT

## School Safety

A safe and supportive learning environment that recognizes the needs of the whole child is critical to academic success. Students must feel safe each day when they enter their classrooms and parents need to know that schools are doing everything they can to protect their kids. The Legislature passed numerous bills to improve schools' response to threats, promote social emotional learning, protect transgender students from bullying, provide teachers with more mental health training, and restrict access to firearms by youth in crisis.



## Special Education

This year we passed a bill sponsored by Sen. Wellman to create incentives for districts to use more inclusive environments for students receiving special education services. In addition, the legislature allocated an additional nearly \$50 million to fund the safety net for school districts that demonstrate significant extra needs.



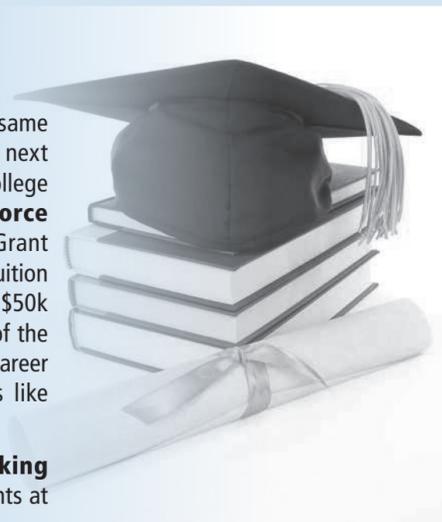
## Early Learning

For our littlest learners, access to early learning dramatically increases their kindergarten readiness and social emotional skills. We changed eligibility criteria to ensure kids qualifying for free or reduced lunch also qualify for ECAEP—a critical early intervention program. We also boosted childcare rates and increased access for hundreds across the state.

## Washington students for Washington jobs

College is increasingly unaffordable for most families. At the same time, employers in our state need to fill 740,000 jobs in the next five years. In order to help meet this demand and address college affordability for Washington students, we passed the **Workforce Education Investment Act**. The Washington College Grant (previously known as the State Need Grant) will provide free tuition to any public college in Washington for families making up to \$50k a year, and partial assistance to families making up to 100% of the state median income (\$92k a year). The legislation also funds career pathways and increases capacity for high-demand degrees like computer science, engineering and nursing.

Additionally, we removed the work requirement for the **Working Connections Child Care** program for full-time student parents at community and technical colleges.



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## Environmental wins: Clean electricity, protecting orcas

This was a breakthrough session for the environment. With the passage of 100% Clean Energy, we're putting our state firmly on the path to a clean energy future by eliminating fossil fuels from our electrical grid. We'll phase out coal by 2025 and by 2045 have a fully clean energy grid from renewable and zero-emission sources like wind, solar and hydropower.

A major focus this year was on orca and salmon recovery efforts. They were boosted this year by legislation to protect our Salish Sea from oil spills, protect critical habitat that orcas and the Chinook salmon they feed on need to survive, and reduce noise and disturbance from marine vessels so that orcas can find enough food.

## Affordable housing for everyone

Washington is facing an affordable housing crisis. The high cost of housing in urban centers is forcing people to move out of their communities and further away from jobs, schools and other opportunities. And there are many people who are living in unstable situations or being pushed into homelessness.

To help senior citizens and veterans stay in their homes, we made desperately needed changes to the **property tax exemption program**. Previously there was a statewide \$40,000 income limit for the exemption, which did not work for King County residents where the median income is nearly \$90,000. The exemption will now be adjusted based on the median income of the county.

This year the legislature passed a bill to help local governments produce **transitional and supportive housing**, using up to \$400 million in bonding capacity. We also made important reforms to our broken eviction process and provided longer advanced notices of rent increases—**helping prevent homelessness in the first place**.

We also passed **condo liability reforms** to help increase the number of entry and mid-level condos being built. Condos have traditionally been an important part of the housing market – an opportunity for first time homebuyers to start building equity and an option for seniors who are looking to downsize. Rep. Senn's bill makes changes to condo liability laws to help spur affordable condo construction.



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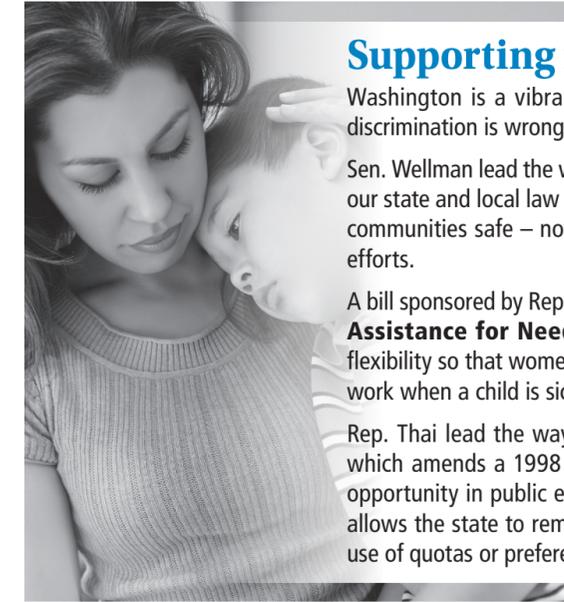
## Supporting families and opportunity for all

Washington is a vibrant, welcoming state with a diverse population. We believe discrimination is wrong and that everyone deserves a fair opportunity.

Sen. Wellman lead the way on the **Keep Washington Working Act**, to help ensure our state and local law enforcement resources are focused on keeping our people and communities safe – not unnecessarily diverted for federal immigration enforcement efforts.

A bill sponsored by Rep. Senn ends permanent disqualifications from the **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families** program. This will provide desperately-needed flexibility so that women fleeing domestic violence, families needing to take a day off work when a child is sick, and others do not lose benefits during hardship.

Rep. Thai lead the way on the passage of the Initiative to the Legislature, **I-1000** which amends a 1998 initiative, I-200. I-200 is a failed policy that has denied fair opportunity in public employment, contracting, and education for too many. I-1000 allows the state to remedy discrimination for underrepresented groups, without the use of quotas or preferential treatment.



## Health Care Long-Term Care

Most people will need long-term care at some point in their lives, but few have savings to pay for it. Instead, many will see their life savings and property consumed to pay the costs. This year, Washington became the first state in the nation to enact a **Long Term Care Trust Act**, which establishes an insurance program to help households deal with the ballooning costs of long-term care.

## Behavioral Health and Reproductive Rights

Through historic investments, the legislature is **expanding community behavioral health beds and community-based treatments**, ensuring the safety of state hospital patients and staff, and improving the way the criminal justice system works with people experiencing behavioral health disorders.

There is also funding for a **new behavioral health teaching hospital** through the University of Washington Medical School, which will help address the workforce shortage in this area.

We also protected access to **reproductive health care** for our most vulnerable communities, including prohibiting service denial on the basis of gender identity or expression.

