

2021-2022 Biennium Review

47th DISTRICT • KING COUNTY



Debra Entenman

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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COMMITTEES:

- College & Workforce Development (Vice Chair)
- Civil Rights & Judiciary
- Transportation



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The past two years have been extremely challenging and momentous. From a global pandemic, economic fallout, shutdowns, remote schools, a historic civil rights movement to increasing climate catastrophes, there has been no shortage of challenges and opportunities.

Last year, in the face of these massive challenges, the Legislature passed the historic Washington Recovery Budget. This budget included massive investments in emergency rental and utility assistance meant to keep people in their homes, provided unemployment insurance tax relief to small businesses, expanded food programs to ensure children did not go hungry, and invested in our early learning and childcare systems so that families could eventually return to work. By investing in one another we were able to prevent a wave of evictions and are building a stronger Washington where we can all recover together.

This year, our budgets focused on those that need it most. While we are recovering, too many workers and small businesses are still dealing with the fallout from the pandemic and an uneven recovery that isn't working for all of us. This year's budget makes smart, strategic investments for Washington's families, workers, and small businesses. Some highlights of this year's budget include money to stabilize our public school funding, an increase to the Business & Occupation tax credit for most businesses (and all small businesses), grants for hospitality businesses and arts and cultural organizations, and a record amount of funding to build or purchase new low-income or permanent supportive housing.

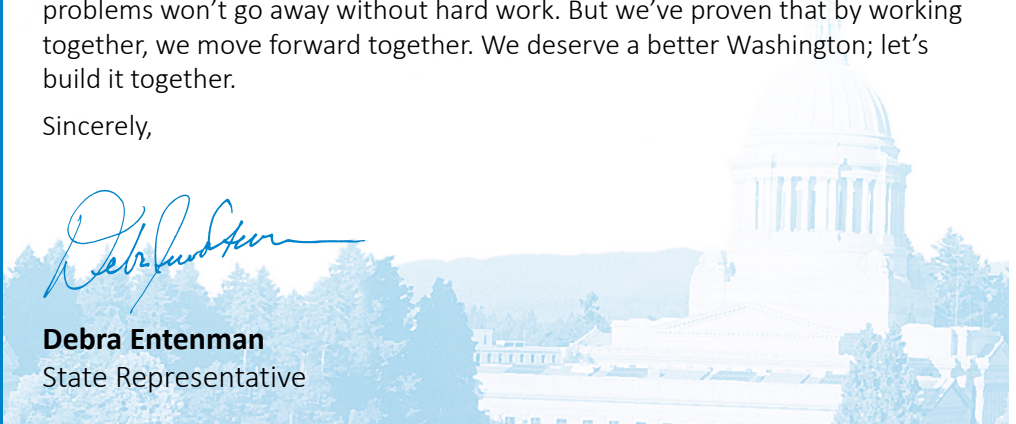
However, our investments in the future are only good for the state if they are sustainable. That is why this budget dramatically increases our state reserves to ensure we are ready for whatever lies ahead. Over the next three years, our reserve estimate will grow to roughly 12.4 percent of our annual revenue. That is even greater than the 10 percent reserves recommended by the state treasurer to preserve our state's strong bond rating. That will lead to cost-saving through lower interest rates for state-issued debt to pay for critical infrastructure and transportation projects.

Please read on to learn more about local projects funded as well as legislation I have passed over the last two years. Things won't change overnight, and problems won't go away without hard work. But we've proven that by working together, we move forward together. We deserve a better Washington; let's build it together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debra Entenman".

Debra Entenman
State Representative



Local Projects Funded in this Year's Budget

Resource Center of Auburn - \$1,500,000

The City of Auburn runs a weekly resource center for low-income and homeless residents. This center brings together service providers from a broad spectrum to provide a one-stop shop for services. Services include healthcare, legal assistance, education, food, public health, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Pipe Lake Water Quality Improvement Project in Covington - \$319,000

Pipe Lake is located between Covington and Maple Valley. Working in conjunction with the King County Department of Natural Resources, those cities are continuing a multi-year effort to eradicate the Hydrilla weed from Pipe Lake.

Green River College Infrastructure - \$133,000

Community colleges are the backbone of our higher education system. Green River College is our local two-year institution. This year's capital budget includes money for maintenance and infrastructure upkeep at the college. Our students deserve to learn in facilities that are well maintained.

Move Ahead Washington Transportation Package

This session the Legislature passed a new 16 year, \$17 billion transportation package, Move Ahead Washington. It delivers historic investments to **preserve our roads, reduce carbon emissions, and provide safe, accessible, and affordable options to get around.**

House Democrats hosted **over 90 listening sessions** to hear the top transportation priorities from communities across the state. Preserving and maintaining existing infrastructure and finishing projects that have already been started were two of the top priorities that emerged from those listening sessions. To that end, this package invests an unprecedented \$3 billion into preserving our existing infrastructure and completing projects already in the works.

Importantly, this package does not raise the gas tax. This is a people-oriented proposal that doesn't pass costs onto working families. Especially after the economic hardships of the pandemic, it was important that we fund these investments without an increase in the gas tax.

Fighting Climate Change and Inequality for a Brighter Future

Tomorrow's generations are counting on us to take meaningful action to address climate change. Today, communities of color, low-income, and rural communities bear the brunt of traffic, pollution, and displacement caused by previous transportation policies. Communities of color have also been historically excluded from the family-wage jobs associated with transportation construction.

Our package takes decisive action against climate change by putting \$5.4 billion toward electrification and the expansion of affordable, accessible options to get from point A to point B. Our community deserves diverse choices so we can use what works for us—whether walking, rolling, driving, or riding—while reducing our carbon footprint. One major portion of the package will make transit (including ferries) free for riders under the age of 18. Not only will this provide increased opportunities for young people to get around, but it will help introduce a new generation to different transportation options.

Move Ahead Washington re-prioritizes disinvested neighborhoods and renews our moral obligation to do better for BIPOC, rural, and low-income communities. We're funding projects that expand reliable transit services, create bike and pedestrian routes, and increase opportunities for good jobs in the transportation sector. Our package also directs 35% of funds from the Climate Commitment Act into projects serving disinvested neighborhoods and communities often left out of the policymaking process.



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Offering Victims of Human Trafficking a Hand Up (HB 1748)

Human trafficking is a shameful crime that robs victims of their dignity and rights. Across the state and around the globe, women, men, and children are exploited by traffickers every day.

This session, I sponsored and passed **HB 1748** to help victims of human trafficking get back on their feet. Under this legislation, victims of human trafficking will be eligible for the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program and the Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD) program. The Housing and Essential Needs program provides assistance to low-income individuals with disabilities who are unable to work for an extended period of time due to physical or mental disabilities. The Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD) program allows eligible, low-income individuals to obtain financial assistance.

This bill builds on previous legislation that qualified victims of human trafficking and their family members for state assistance programs including the Food Assistance Program, the State Family Assistance Program, and Medical Care Services. By aligning the HEN and ABD programs with other state programs we are providing a hand up to some of the most vulnerable in our society, victims of human trafficking.

Tax Relief for Kent and Auburn Taxpayers (HB 1521)

In 2017, the Legislature stopped mitigating lost revenue from a change in sales tax policy. Unfortunately, cities with large warehousing and manufacturing centers, like Kent and Auburn, still rely on those funds to pay for road maintenance and public safety. Warehousing and manufacturing centers are some of the largest economic drivers in the state, but they bare higher road maintenance and public safety burdens.

Last year, the Legislature passed my bill to create the Warehousing and Manufacturing Job Centers Account to provide mitigation funds for communities that were impacted. Our communities should not have to foot the bill for services that benefit the entire state. This new account will ensure that Kent and Auburn taxpayers get the tax relief they deserve and that our warehousing and manufacturing centers can continue to power Washington's economy.



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Rep. Debra Entenman

47th DISTRICT

Office of Independent Investigations (HB 1267)

Last year, in the wake of nationwide protests for police accountability and the botched investigation into the death of Manuel Ellis, I introduced legislation at the Governor's request to create an Office of Independent Investigations. Modeled on a similar office in Ontario, Canada, it will conduct thorough, independent, and rigorous investigations into uses of deadly force by law enforcement officers. Too often we have seen unacceptable violence from police brushed aside or not properly investigated. This leaves family members devastated and damages the community's trust in law enforcement. We must have accountability when an officer unnecessarily kills a member of the community. Simply put, we cannot have police investigating other police.

This new office will be the first of its kind in the United States. It will consist of regional teams that can respond to uses of deadly force to secure the scene and process evidence. This agency will have no other law enforcement

role and staff will be trained in the history of racism in policing, tribal sovereignty, implicit and explicit bias, intercultural competency, and a racial equity lens. The teams will also have a focus on communicating with the family of the person killed and the community. By creating a completely independent office, we can begin to rebuild trust between the communities most impacted by police violence and our law enforcement.

