



Representative
Jesse Johnson



State Representative Jesse Johnson

2021 Legislative Update • 30th Legislative District

Friends and neighbors,

When the Legislature kicked off the 2021 session back in January, we knew we wanted to focus on four areas: **COVID-19 response, economic recovery, racial equity and justice, and climate change.** I'm proud to report that we passed historic legislation this year that delivers on all four of these areas and helps our communities recover from the pandemic.

It's been a tough year. Families, small business owners, students, educators and frontline workers have all felt the public health and economic hardships of COVID-19. Additionally, our communities have come together to demand police reform and accountability. The Legislature responded by providing those hurt most by the pandemic the resources they need to get back on their feet, and by taking steps toward ensuring everyone is safe and protected.

Inside, you'll find an update on the state budgets and bills I introduced and supported this session. I'll keep pushing for a better, stronger and more inclusive Washington state. It's an honor to represent the people of the 30th Legislative District in Olympia.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jesse Johnson



COMMUNITY FOCUS

COVID-19 Response and Recovery

There's no doubt that the pandemic has taken a toll on our communities. That's why we passed a budget that expands our response to COVID-19 and **helps Washingtonians recover better off and more supported** than they were a year ago. We did that by:

- Boosting public health and vaccine distribution
- Paying back due rent for struggling families
- Providing unemployment insurance tax relief
- Expanding food assistance programs
- Investing in early learning and child care
- Getting cash to those with immediate need

The Legislature also passed bills I supported to expand the working families tax rebate so 400,000 taxpayers in Washington state are eligible for a tax credit of \$300 to \$1,200 per year, and exempt businesses from paying state taxes on COVID-19 relief funds.

Investments in Our Community

I worked with my seatmates Sen. Claire Wilson and Rep. Jamila Taylor to push for funding in this year's budgets for projects in our district. I'm proud we secured:

- \$500,000 for pre-apprenticeship programs for Federal Way students
- \$250,000 for after-school and summer learning programs
- \$75,000 for community organizations serving youth of color
- \$3 million for new workforce affordable housing units in Federal Way
- \$900,000 to replace the Redondo Pier in Des Moines
- \$82,000 to plan and develop a new Federal Way youth resource center
- \$200,000 for the little league fields in Federal Way





FEDERAL WAY TRANSIT CENTER

Serving the Communities
of the 30th Legislative District

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NEW LAWS SERVING YOU

Police Reform and Accountability

Over the past year, I have worked with community leaders, families impacted by police violence, advocates, law enforcement officers and my fellow lawmakers to lift up all voices and hear all sides on police reform. The outcome was three bills I introduced and passed to change how law enforcement interacts with the communities they are hired to protect and serve.

These bills **ban dangerous police tactics** like chokeholds, neck restraints and no-knock warrants and require officers to use de-escalation tactics and **make deadly force a last resort**. I also championed legislation to **ensure kids have access to an attorney** before they waive any of their constitutional rights when contacted by law enforcement.

Law enforcement's highest value must be protecting and preserving human life. Black and brown communities deserve it,

Washington state deserves it, and the Legislature is now requiring it. This is how we move forward, build trust and help end the cycle of discrimination.



Supporting All of Us

The Legislature also passed bills I was proud to support that:

- Provide food and cash assistance to families in need
- Make child care more affordable and accessible
- Get rid of school lunch copays for students eligible for reduced-price meals
- Expand assistance for college students experiencing homelessness and those previously in foster care
- Ensure school staff have access to anti-racism and diversity, equity and inclusion training
- Expand the Main Street Program, a state effort to revitalize rural downtown areas, support small businesses and bolster economic recovery
- Make sure businesses and families have access to high-speed internet
- Establish a cap-and-invest system to lower greenhouse gas emissions and a clean fuel standard to reduce emissions from transportation fuels

