

36TH DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE REPORT

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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36TH DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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State Senator
Noel Frame



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Liz Berry



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Dear friends and neighbors,

This session we faced significant challenges: a budget deficit caused by inflation, increased demand on state services, threats to federal funding and impacts of tariffs, and declining revenue growth due to our state’s unfair and outdated tax system.

Despite that, we stood with parents, students and educators to advocate for new funding for our public schools and expanded levy authority, **giving Seattle Public Schools an additional \$22.9 million**. These significant improvements include:

- Removing the arbitrary cap on special education funding and adding \$775 million over the next four years
- Funding Local Effort Assistance for low-income districts with \$200 million in new funding
- Adding \$215 million for materials, supplies, and operating costs (MSOC)
- Providing school districts a per pupil enhancement of \$52 million
- Maintaining funds for school meals and electronic benefits transfer (EBT) cards for kids in the summer at \$45 million

It is our honor to serve you in the Legislature. Our contact information is included in this newsletter – please reach out to us if you have questions, ideas, thoughts, concerns, or just want to invite us to a community event. Hope to see you in the neighborhood!

Best wishes,

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36th District Legislative Report

Rep. Julia Reed

Building for Washington’s Future: More Housing and Better Transportation

As a legislator, my top priority has been addressing Washington’s housing crisis, particularly its impact on young people, growing families, and seniors. One of the biggest needs we have in our state is simply more housing supply, which is why I’m thrilled that Transit Oriented Development (HB 1491) was signed into law. This bill will **create more housing around transit stops, increasing our available housing while creating dense walkable neighborhoods that keep us healthy**. In addition to growing our housing supply, it’s also essential that we provide people stability in their existing housing. That’s why I’m proud we also passed the rent stabilization bill (HB 1217) that will **keep tenants secure in their housing, safe from exponential rent increases**.



Improving our public transit is key to Washington’s future. This session we were able to take real steps towards getting the reliable interstate Amtrak Cascades rail service we deserve (HB 1837). This bill sets measurable goals for reliability, frequency, and travel times, and requires that these goals are incorporated into Washington State Department of Transportation’s (WSDOT) improvement plans for the system. Having the transportation department finally **prioritize frequent, reliable train service on the Cascades corridor** will reduce traffic on I-5 and help reduce emissions from idling vehicles stuck in traffic. Reliability is also something we must improve with our Washington State Ferry service, and key to that is recruiting and retaining enough staff to run our system. That’s why this session we added **protections for our ferry workers to keep them safe from customer harassment and assault** on the job (SB 5716/HB 1616) – unfortunately a growing concern for these hardworking state employees. Our ferry workers are doing everything they can to keep our ferries running on time, and they deserve to know we have their backs.

With the World Cup coming to Seattle in 2026, we must be ready for the large influx of visitors coming to our district. By making updates to current liquor laws and **allowing for 21+ year old patrons to freely walk around secured spaces like fenced events at the Seattle Center** after purchasing a drink (HB 1515) we improve event safety and actually reduce irresponsible consumption. No more rushing a drink so you can get out of the small beer garden and back to the main event, and no more risk of being trapped in a cordoned off area if there should be an emergency. With the large crowds we are expecting from all around the world, we need to be ready **to create the best and safest atmosphere possible** at our crown jewel event space.

Rep. Liz Berry

A Safer, Cleaner and More Prosperous Washington for All

Like all parents, I’m worried about the harms of plastic pollution to our waters, our wildlife and our little ones. That’s why I’m thrilled to pass the Recycling Reform Act (HB 1150/SB 5284), landmark legislation that will incentivize companies to move towards more **sustainable packaging and reduce plastic waste**. The policy will **increase recycling in Washington by 26% and make our recycling system more affordable, convenient and equitable for all**.



The number one cause of death for children and teens in America is gun violence. Before a play date, parents ask if firearms are safely locked up. Every time we drop off our kids at school, we hope they come home. It doesn’t have to be this way. My bill to establish a Permit to Purchase system (HB 1163) is a **commonsense policy that will reduce gun violence, curb illegal gun trafficking and ensure firearms are only in the hands of responsible gun owners**. I know all too well the pain of losing a loved one to gun violence and won’t stop fighting to keep our communities safe.

As a lifelong consumer rights advocate, I’m excited that we finally passed legislation that ensures **repair services for your electronic devices, like smartphones and computers, are accessible and affordable** (HB 1483), and we expanded those rights to people with disabilities who rely on **mobility equipment like wheelchairs** (HB 1826). We also **prohibited collection agencies from reporting medical debt to consumer credit agencies and bureaus** (HB 1632) because consumers dealing with a health crisis shouldn’t be worried about debt saddling them with long-term credit issues.

36th District Legislative Report

Sen. Noel Frame

Fixing Our Upside-Down Tax Code and Protecting Kids from Abuse

Throughout my legislative career, **fixing our upside-down and antiquated tax code has been one of my top priorities**. This year I was deeply involved in some of the most important and challenging tax policy work we’ve seen in decades.

With our major budget challenge going into this session, we had two main goals: 1) protect essential services from cuts and make new, needed investment in public schools, and 2) take a balanced approach in doing so, including new progressive revenue options that better reflect our modern economy.

Overall, we largely succeeded. We chose not to accept an irresponsible, all-cuts budget and invested significantly more in public education. And we did so through new revenue, including **updates to make our capital gains and estate taxes more progressive**, and business and occupation tax surcharges on some of the world’s largest corporations. My proposed wealth tax was a cornerstone of initial legislative budget proposals and passed the State Senate. Though not ultimately adopted, the fight is far from over and **we’ll be back next year to push it across the finish line**.

I’m also proud that the Legislature finally passed my bill to make members of the clergy mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect (SB 5375). This took 20 years of work, starting with our own 36th District legislators Mary Lou Dickerson and Jeanne Kohl-Welles, and finally we’ve stepped up, closed this loophole, and protected children. I know this is a tough subject for some people, especially those with deep religious views. I respect that, but **this bill is about the state’s secular responsibility and the public interest of protecting children and ending cycles of abuse**. When kids ask for help, we need to be sure that they get help, and that’s what this bill achieves.



Investing In Our District

We worked hard to win funding for critical investments in infrastructure here at home in the capital and transportation budgets, including:

- \$10 million to support **affordable housing development at Fort Lawton near Discovery Park** by funding necessary utility connections like sewer, water, and electrical.
- \$6.2 million for renovations at **Lawton Elementary School in Magnolia**.
- \$3 million to help safely and cleanly deconstruct the **F/V Pacific Producer fish processing vessel** moored at Fisherman’s Terminal.
- \$1.4 million for the **new Maker & Innovation Lab project at the Pacific Science Center**.
- \$7.1 million to **improve transit access and service along Harrison Street and Mercer Avenue**.
- \$4.2 million to improve the **Seattle Center monorail station**, and additional money to make improvements for **Metro routes 40, 43, 44, and 48**.
- \$5 million for **safety projects along North Aurora Avenue**.
- Funding community art and cultural development projects, like the **Woodland Park Zoo Forest Trailhead exhibit**, renovations at the **Whim W’Him Contemporary Dance Center**, lighting renovations at **Charlotte Martin Theatre at the Seattle Children’s Theatre**, and security fencing and lighting at the **Ballard Boys and Girls Club**.

