

## 2024 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW • 11<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT



The Museum of Flight, Seattle. Space Shuttle Columbia astronaut and Washington state native, Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson at the northern point of the 11th district.

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Rep. Steve Bergquist



Rep. David Hackney



# Serving the 11<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

# REP. BERGQUIST and REP. HACKNEY 2024 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW • 11<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT

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## 2024 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW • 11<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT



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Dear Neighbors,

In the 2024 legislative session, our focus was clear: to support all communities, protect our environment, and build our economy. We passed 373 bills addressing crucial issues like housing stability, childcare accessibility, and the fentanyl crisis.

Our efforts led to significant investments in homelessness services, early learning facilities, and behavioral health infrastructure. We also prioritized combating climate change by allocating substantial funding to clean energy initiatives through the Climate Commitment Act.

Community safety was paramount, with bills addressing traffic hazards, catalytic converter theft, and gun violence. Additionally, we championed inclusivity by safeguarding reproductive rights, promoting diversity in education, and enhancing hate crime statutes.

We demonstrated effective governance with 80% of bills passing with strong bipartisan support. Crafted with input from diverse voices, these bills tackle critical issues facing our communities.

Notably, our housing and childcare legislation aims to provide stability and support for families. And our efforts to combat the fentanyl crisis are focused on prevention, education, and treatment. We're also proud of our clean energy initiatives and commitment to equity, with bills promoting equal pay, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and representation for marginalized communities.

Reflecting on this session, we're optimistic for the future and we're determined to continue this work together. We are really excited for many important investments in our Renton, Tukwila and Kent communities. Thank you for your support and partnership as we build a better, brighter future for all Washingtonians!

Thank You,

Rep. Bergquist

Rep. Hackney

### Behavioral Health

Accessible and effective behavioral health services are critical for our community's well-being. To address gaps in care and expand capacity, we've implemented key initiatives and investments that will directly impact our district.

When Cascade Behavioral Health hospital abruptly closed last year, our State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) was able to step up and take on running a new facility, helping those most vulnerable and in need. Olympic Heritage Behavioral Health is not only a proactive step toward expanding state-run bed capacity for behavioral health patients but has also resulted in the creation of over 200 new jobs in the 11th legislative district alone. With plans to add a minimum of 72 beds and many more jobs by June of this year. We're committed to improving the quality and accessibility of behavioral health services so that people in our community can more quickly and effectively receive the help that they need!



### Civic engagement for our next generation of leaders



We secured funding in our budget for civic tours of our State Capitol building for all 4th graders in the Renton and Kent School Districts and all 5th graders in the Tukwila School District. Students were given the opportunity to learn, in person, about how our state government operates.

Many classes took advantage of the opportunity by writing persuasive letters to their State Legislators and other leaders. I was able to turn that increased civic engagement into additional funding to help create 49 Legislative District Student Youth Councils across our state that, if all goes well, will start in the 2025/26 school year.

Please check out my website for more in-depth information on all of the childcare, early learning, k-12 and Higher Education work we have accomplished, including extending the Renton Promise and qualifying even more families for affordable childcare and free schooling for many 3 and 4 year olds. My site also includes resources and links to help you find out if you qualify for any of these amazing state funded opportunities!

[Scan my QR Code in our Stay In Touch section for education resources information](#)

### Improving Public Safety

In the 2024 legislative session, we've achieved significant milestones in enhancing public safety and accountability. Initiative 2113 stands out as a critical success, addressing concerns surrounding law enforcement pursuits by restoring local decision-making authority while upholding best practice standards. This initiative empowers communities to tailor pursuit policies to their unique needs, ensuring a balance between pursuing suspects and prioritizing public safety. As we continue collaborative efforts with law enforcement and community stakeholders, our commitment to fostering safer communities remains unwavering. Additionally, House Bill 2357 responds to the urgent need to retain experienced Washington State Patrol (WSP) troopers. With the WSP facing a shortage of troopers and numerous potential retirements, HB 2357 establishes a state patrol longevity bonus pilot program, incentivizing senior troopers to remain in service. Similarly, Senate Bill 6242 highlights ongoing efforts to support law enforcement by removing financial barriers for local governments in recruiting and training officers. While there's still work to be done, our dedication to ensuring public safety and supporting our law enforcement agencies remains steadfast.

### Housing Affordability

We understand the challenges facing our community when it comes to finding affordable housing. Despite our economic growth, housing prices have become a significant barrier for many families and individuals. In 2023, we made historic strides, investing in the creation of 13,200 affordable homes and expanding emergency housing options for 2,300 people experiencing homelessness. However, the need persists, evident in rising eviction rates and increased vulnerability among renters. It's evident that we must intensify our efforts, aiming to create over a million affordable housing units by 2044.

To confront this challenge, we've consistently increased funding since 2013, reaching a total of over \$1 billion in the 2023-25 budgets. This includes a substantial \$400 million for the Housing Trust Fund, dedicated to constructing and preserving affordable units. I want you to know that I am steadfast in my commitment to finding real solutions for housing and homelessness in our community, ensuring that every Washingtonian has a place to call home.

Some other bills we passed include:

- Workforce Housing Accelerator Program (HB 1892): A program designed to speed up the construction of affordable workforce housing statewide.
- Residential Housing Regulations (HB 2071): Simplifying regulations to make it easier to build multiplex housing options like triplexes and quads.
- Co-living Housing (HB 1998): Promoting community-oriented housing models suitable for diverse demographics.
- Occupancy Limits (HB 1054): Preventing arbitrary occupancy limits imposed by HOA's.
- Existing Structures/Tax (HB 2308/SB 6175): Incentivizing the conversion of commercial structures into housing.
- Mobile Home Community Sales (HB 2421/SB 6059): Providing homeowners with more opportunities and assistance in mobile home communities.

### Joint Projects in the 11th Legislative District: Empowering Our Communities

In the spirit of collaboration and community empowerment, the 11th Legislative District has seen significant investments in various projects aimed at enhancing infrastructure, education, and community well-being. The recently enacted 2023-25 Capital Budget reflects our commitment to supporting local initiatives and addressing pressing needs across our district. Here are some of the funded projects:



- **Community & Technical College System:** \$4,859,000
  - Talbot Hill Reservoir Park Sport Courts: \$350,000
- **Community Project Grants:**
  - Aristo Healthcare Services: \$2,000,000
  - Renton Public Square: \$1,485,000
  - Sam Chastain Trail: \$500,000
  - Tukwila Community Center HVAC Replacement: \$515,000
  - Tukwila Immigrant & Refugee Wadajir Land Acquisition: \$2,250,000
  - Outdoor Fields LED Retrofit and Solar Installation: \$500,000

These projects reflect a diverse range of investments, from enhancing educational facilities to improving community infrastructure and promoting environmental sustainability. Each allocation underscores our commitment to fostering vibrant and resilient communities throughout the district.

### Support for Refugees and Asylee Seekers in Washington

Amidst the escalating humanitarian crisis, we're dedicated to providing support and assistance to refugees in Washington. With a special focus on Tukwila's Riverton Park United Methodist Church refugee camp, we've allocated \$25 million in the state budget to support the Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA). This funding will provide immediate relief, with an additional \$5 million designated for King County and \$2.5 million directly allocated to Tukwila both to provide Housing opportunities and supports for those most in need.

These initiatives demonstrate Washington's solidarity and commitment to standing with vulnerable communities, ensuring they have the resources and support needed to thrive. It usually takes over a year for asylee seekers to obtain work permits allowing them to find jobs and be able to afford housing and essentials as they await the outcome of their asylum cases. Together, we're building a more inclusive and compassionate future for all residents of the 11th Legislative District.