

# 2024 Legislative Report • 47th District



**Rep. Chris Stearns**

**Olympia Office:**

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Dear Constituents,

I am honored to connect with you as your representative for the dynamic communities of the 47th Legislative District. Our recent legislative efforts have been both impactful and promising, and I'm excited to share some key highlights with you.

In the 2024 legislative session, our focus was clear: to support all communities, nurture our planet, and bolster our economy. With a robust agenda, 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.

I'm excited to share our achievements and our commitment to maintaining Washington's leadership in addressing societal needs and fostering economic prosperity.

## **INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES:**

Our dedication to community development and infrastructure enhancement knows no bounds. We've successfully secured critical funding for transformative projects that will shape the trajectory of our district. The revitalization of the Auburn Ave. Theater and the establishment of the Downtown Plaza stand as testaments to our commitment to breathing new life into our urban centers. These initiatives not only promise to foster community engagement and cultural enrichment but also serve as economic catalysts for local businesses and residents alike. Similarly, investments in Kent, such as the creation of the East Hill Park, underscore our unwavering dedication to providing accessible recreational opportunities that enhance the quality of life for residents of all ages. I'm also proud to have secured \$1M for a new King County Law Enforcement helicopter, which will be particularly important in summer search and rescue throughout our district and beyond.

## **TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

Exciting developments are underway in our district, thanks to secured funding for major transportation projects aimed at enhancing connectivity and infrastructure. Initiatives like the Highway 18 widening project and the Gateway Project (Highway 167 North & South) are poised to revolutionize travel safety and efficiency for commuters while bolstering economic activity along key corridors. Furthermore, our commitment to sustainability and accessibility shines through initiatives like funding for EV charging infrastructure for Muckleshoot, ensuring that our district remains at the forefront of progressive transportation solutions.

## **PRIORITIZING PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Ensuring the safety and well-being of our communities is a non-negotiable priority. Initiatives such as Initiative 2113, which refocuses attention on police pursuits, are vital steps toward restoring local decision-making authority in law enforcement policies. By emphasizing public safety while addressing concerns about reckless behavior among drivers, we're proactively safeguarding our neighborhoods. While House Bill 2211, aimed at supporting law enforcement projects, didn't pass this year, rest assured that I remain steadfast in my commitment to addressing public safety concerns and supporting the invaluable work of our law enforcement agencies.

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### **INVESTING IN EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:**

Education serves as the cornerstone of opportunity, and I'm proud to champion initiatives that expand access to quality education and workforce training. The passage of my Native American Apprenticeship Assistance bill marks a significant stride toward empowering working Native American families by providing financial aid for apprenticeship programs. These initiatives not only foster economic growth and prosperity but also cultivate a skilled and resilient workforce prepared for the challenges of tomorrow. Additionally, investments in innovative projects like the Advanced-Technology Nuclear Reactor project underscore our commitment to fostering innovation and cultivating a competitive workforce in emerging industries.

### **BIPARTISAN COLLABORATION FOR PROGRESS:**

In Olympia, I've made it a priority to bridge the partisan divide and seek common ground on critical issues. It's clear that Washington state needs more power – and more clean power in particular. Collaborative efforts with my GOP colleague Rep. Stephanie Barnard resulted in securing \$25 million in funding for a future advanced-technology nuclear reactor, demonstrating the power of bipartisan cooperation in delivering tangible results for our district. As we

move forward, I remain steadfast in my commitment to working across the aisle to address the challenges facing our community and enact meaningful change that benefits all residents.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Looking ahead, I am filled with optimism and determination to continue advocating for the best interests of our district. Together, we possess the power to build a brighter, more prosperous future for all residents of the 47th Legislative District. Your ongoing support and trust in my leadership are deeply appreciated. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns—I am here to serve you.

Sincerely,

Rep. Chris Stearns

