

LOOKING AHEAD 42ND

Whether it is improving safety, supporting students and workers, responding to flooding and extreme weather, or investing in the infrastructure our communities depend on, this session was about delivering real results for the people of Whatcom County.

Thank you to everyone who reached out, shared ideas, and stayed engaged throughout session. Your input helps shape this work every day, and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve you.

It is an honor to represent the 42nd Legislative District.

Sincerely,



The past eight years serving as your State Representative and then as your State Senator have been an honor. My favorite part has been the people. I have loved meeting so many of you, getting to know the many nooks and crannies of Whatcom County and learning about all the other communities in Washington State and how we work together to make our state government work.

It is hard to sum up eight years in a couple of paragraphs. It will take some perspective to look back and articulate all the important lessons I've learned, but I will say this: Democracy feels more real than ever. The threats facing democracy, as worrisome as they are, only prove that we still have a voice, we can still make a choice. Democracy is as strong as we want it to be. When we participate, when we pay attention, when we are willing to work together and be creative, we are stronger than any challenge. Democracy may be imperfect but only because human beings are imperfect. That isn't a fatal flaw. Democracy reflects the people it serves. Democracy is at its best when we are at our best.

People keep asking me what I'm going to do now. Of course, I still have a full-time job at WWU but know what, I don't plan on going anywhere. Now that I've seen so much more of this community, I want to be more present in it. I want to volunteer more with my kids' schools, spend time with many of the wonderful people I have met, and use the knowledge that I've gained in the legislature to help community members access government, solve problems and continue building an economy that works for everyone.

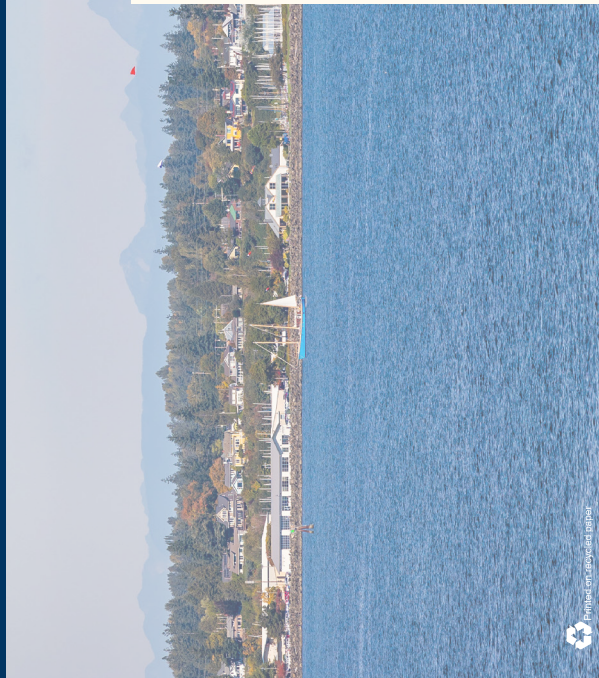
Sincerely,



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42nd Legislative District 2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

Sen. Sharon Shewmake
Rep. Joe Timmons



LD42

2026 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Sen. Sharon Shewmake



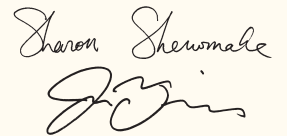
Rep. Joe Timmons

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We are excited to share what we accomplished during the 2026 Legislative session and how they are making a difference here in the 42nd Legislative District.

Year, we stayed focused on practical solutions to improve our communities, help our students and working families succeed, strengthen our infrastructure, and bring meaningful investments to Whatcom County.

— Sharon & Joe



STAY IN TOUCH

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42ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

LEGISLATIVE WINS FOR SAFETY, STUDENTS, AND WORKING FAMILIES

Every year, we work to pass legislation to make our communities stronger and support our students and families.

HB 2532 addresses the misuse of nitrous oxide, particularly among children and young adults, by banning the sale of flavored products currently being sold over the counter while preserving legitimate professional uses, such as in medical and dental settings. This bipartisan law is an important step to protect public health and community safety.

Another important win was HB 1570, which expands collective bargaining rights for Western Washington University student employees. This legislation gives student workers a stronger voice and helps improve working and learning conditions on campus.

We also worked on HB 2588 to better support counties that operate vehicle ferries, like Whatcom County. This update gives local leaders more flexibility to keep ferries running reliably and meet the needs of the people who depend on them every day, including our partners in the Lummi Nation. It is about making sure these essential routes continue to connect communities, support local economies, and reflect the voices of those who rely on them most.



These are practical, targeted policies that will make a real difference in people's daily lives, and we are proud that they passed the Legislature and were signed into law by Governor Ferguson.

FLOOD MITIGATION AND DISASTER RESPONSE

Flooding continues to impact families, farms, tribal communities, and infrastructure across Whatcom County, and it remains one of our top priorities.

During this session, we made important investments to improve local flood mitigation projects, strengthen emergency preparedness, and support disaster response efforts so communities are better prepared for and able to recover from extreme weather events.

We secured major support for the Nooksack Integrated Floodplain Project, helping advance long-term flood resilience for communities across the region. Families, farms, small businesses and communities are exhausted from years of Nooksack River flooding. We've seen the strain it puts on the community. Last year, both of us helped place sandbags, remove waterlogged insulation, and deliver meals to those in times of need. It's an honor to help but the best way to help by is reducing the flood risk. Over \$13 million in capital dollars will go towards funding flood risk reduction projects such as levies to protect Whatcom County.

We also made progress toward elevating Slater Road, a critical connection for the Lummi Nation, Ferndale, Lummi Island, Cherry Point and surrounding communities. Floods which cut off access in the area pose public safety, mobility, and emergency response challenges. Improving that corridor will make our communities more resilient, keeping people connected when it matters most.

TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS

Transportation is about more than roads. It is about families getting where they need to go safely, workers getting to their jobs, lowering the cost of goods by moving them more efficiently, and keeping communities safe and connected during emergencies.

This year's supplemental transportation budget includes essential investments in transportation infrastructure preservation and maintenance. We must honor our commitment to protect the roads, bridges, and infrastructure Washingtonians rely on every day.

We were also pleased to help secure \$3 million that was moved up from a future biennium to begin work on the Slater Road elevation project in Whatcom County. This is a critical investment that will help ensure the Lummi Nation and surrounding communities can maintain access during flooding events.

INVESTING IN WHATCOM COUNTY COMMUNITIES

This year's supplemental capital budget includes meaningful investments in projects across the 42nd Legislative District that will strengthen public safety, expand housing, improve infrastructure, and support the community spaces people rely on every day.

In total, the budget includes more than \$37.6 million for the 42nd District.

These are the kinds of investments that make a real difference close to home, from helping communities prepare for emergencies and flooding, to improving treatment access, supporting people experiencing homelessness, and ensuring our local infrastructure can keep up with growing needs.

Key investments include:

- \$13.05 million for the Nooksack Integrated Floodplain Project composed of several major investments in long-term flood risk reduction, resilience, and community safety in the Nooksack Watershed
- \$11.35 million for the Whatcom County Crisis and Treatment Center
- \$8 million for pathways to affordable homeownership in Ferndale
- \$1.7 million for the Everson Community Center and Emergency Response Facility
- \$1.03 million for a permanent homeless day shelter in Bellingham
- \$1 million to move the Whatcom County Fire District 1 station serving Everson, Nooksack, Deming and the Nooksack Indian Tribe out of a floodplain
- \$515,000 to renovate the City of Lynden Wastewater Treatment Plant
- \$515,000 for a cultural center in the heart of Bellingham led by the Children of the Setting Sun
- \$392,000 for the Blaine Downtown Parklet Improvements Project enhancing public recreation spaces
- \$103,000 for the Engedi Refuge Counseling Center to help victims of human trafficking heal and build safe, happy lives

