

STAY IN TOUCH



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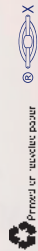
38th Legislative District

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38th Legislative District 2024 UPDATE

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2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW



Rep. Julio Cortes



Rep. Mary Fosse



Sen. June Robinson

Dear friends and neighbors,

The Washington State Legislature recently concluded its 2024 legislative session, and despite it being a short 60-day session, it was a great success, with so many policy and budget wins for our community! We ended on time, with a balanced budget, and no new taxes. We all continued to work together to tackle the issues facing our state head on — like housing, workforce issues, community safety, behavioral health, public education and more — and are extremely proud to represent the great 38th Legislative District. Thank you for your continued engagement and support!

— June, Julio & Mary

38th Legislative District

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BUILDING HEALTHIER & SAFER COMMUNITIES

We prioritized addressing the fentanyl and opioid crisis, expanding our state's skilled behavioral health workforce, protecting our youth, and providing workforce pathways out of incarceration:

- Invested over \$339 million in our behavioral health system. This includes money to operate the new Olympic Heritage Behavioral Health Hospital, support the UW Behavioral Health Teaching Facility, and help youth with complex behavioral health needs.
- \$215 million toward substance use disorder treatment, education, awareness, and outreach.
- Protected the lives of students by requiring public schools to stock opioid overdose reversal medication (**SB 5804**), and ensured that colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education will provide fentanyl test strips, naloxone, as well as education, prevention, and awareness programs (**HB 2212**).
- Passed legislation making sure young adults who are discharged from inpatient behavioral health treatment programs have access to crucial support and housing so they don't risk falling into homelessness (**HB 1929**).
- We took steps to protect sexual abuse survivors (**HB 1618**) and ended the practice of child marriage (**HB 1455**).
- Allowed courts to consider the age of a young person rather than the date the case is filed for individuals under the age of 18. This prioritizes rehabilitation and fairness while addressing the backlogs in juvenile justice proceedings (**HB 2217**).
- Created an external oversight committee of the Department of Corrections to improve the quality and availability of construction-trade apprenticeship-related training programs at correctional facilities, and better prepare incarcerated individuals to successfully reenter the community and achieve economic stability (**HB 2084**).

A HOME FOR EVERYONE

We made progress on housing efforts aimed at building our supply, stabilizing costs, and supporting those in need:

- Invested \$230 million for housing programs, homelessness prevention, and supporting tenant rights and homeownership programs.
- Created more flexible and affordable housing options by legalizing co-living (**HB 1998**), creating a Workforce Housing Accelerator Program (**HB 1892**), & incentivizing conversion of existing commercial structures to residential housing (**SB 6175**).
- Expanded protections and support for mobile home park tenants (**SB 6059**).



SUCCESS FOR EVERY CHILD

We prioritized families, youth, and education this session, making great improvements to childcare access and affordability, while supporting our hardworking education workforce:

- Secured an additional \$335 million for K-12 education and took another step toward meeting the goal of fully funding special education by increasing the special education cap from 15% to 16% (**HB 2180**).
- Invested \$72 million for more paraeducators who provide critical supports for students with disabilities and those in need of extra help (**SB 5882**) and we provided \$45 million to expand the number of students eligible for free meals.
- Made historic investments in school construction, increasing state support from \$271 to \$375 per square foot — a total increase of \$79 million.
- Helped address the growing demand of early learning by passing legislation to provide a dedicated revenue source to help build more facilities (**HB 2195**) and dedicated \$115 million toward early learning and high-quality childcare.
- Removed administrative barriers and increased access to early childhood education and care by streamlining eligibility for families for programs like Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) and ECEAP, if they receive basic food assistance (**HB 1945**).
- Supported our youth in the foster care system by extending services to 18-21 year-old individuals as they transition into adulthood (**SB 5908/HB 2218**).
- \$2.3 million to allow more childcare providers to operate during nonstandard hours to improve access for working families who need it.

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

The 2024 supplemental transportation budget continues to invest in critical projects, like:

- I-5/NB Marine View Dr. to SR 529 corridor and interchange
- I-5/116th St. NE, 88th St. NE and SR 528/Marine Dr. interchange
- Future rebuild of the US 2 trestle
- SR 526 corridor
- North Broadway Pedestrian Bridge

HEALTHY PLANET, STRONG ECONOMY

We took great steps toward promoting clean air for our children and clean energy for our communities, while ensuring our neighbors don't take on the cost burden, and we have a plan for our workforce needs:

- Provided utility bill assistance that will bring cost relief to an estimated 750,000 households.
- Enhanced restitution for environmental crimes (**SB 5884**).
- Passed legislation to adopt zero-emission school buses throughout our state (**HB 1368**).
- Supported the development of geothermal energy (**SB 6039**).
- Passed major decarbonization bills to make sure our state's largest utility has the tools to manage the transition to clean energy without disproportionately impacting low-income families (**HB 1589**), and increased incentives for accelerated energy efficiency retrofits in our largest buildings under the Early Adopter Incentive Program (**HB 1976**).
- Funded a workgroup and study to assess the education and employment needs of the electrical transmission workforce in Washington, to ensure that we are prepared for the substantial new transmission capacity needed to meet our population and climate goals.

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Together we secured \$8.9 million to fund the following projects here at home:

- Repairs throughout the Marysville School District to ensure our students have a safe environment to learn.
- Development of the Snohomish County Early Learning Coalition's leadership team to identify ways we can strengthen the early learning community in our county.
- Latino Educational Training Institute (LETI) Incubator for Family Success project in Everett. This facility will offer a variety of programs designed to meet the diverse needs of Latino families.
- Cascade High School's School-based Health Center
- Everett High School's School-based Health Center
- Community Health Center of Snohomish County's Dental Clinic
- Everett Museum of History elevator installation
- Marysville Riverwalk Sports Complex

We were also able to secure funds in the supplemental operating and capital budgets to support the needed upgrades to fields at Lumen Stadium, the University of Washington and Seattle University and for grants to statewide destination marketing organizations that will support small and medium businesses throughout our entire region for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.