

# 2023-2024 Legislative Report

## 29th District



Representative  
*Sharlett Mena*

### Committees:

Environment & Energy (Vice-Chair)  
State Government & Tribal Relations  
Transportation

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Friends and Neighbors,

It is truly an honor to serve as your representative. In my first term, I have worked to uplift your stories and strived for the solutions you and our community deserve. Read on for a summary of the 2023-2024 Biennium including new policies and significant investments in our neighborhoods.

### My First Year

During the 2023 legislative session, I responded to the needs of our community by prioritizing housing affordability, behavioral health access, workforce development, community safety, and protection of abortion rights. Building on previous budgetary investments, we aimed to address pandemic-related challenges, particularly for marginalized communities. Notably, my colleagues and I championed bills to increase housing supply and address past discrimination in homeownership. To lead on reproductive protections as other states regress, we passed robust protections for reproductive and gender-affirming care including protections for health data privacy. Finally, the legislature advanced environmental and racial equity policies, such as supporting sustainable infrastructure with investments from the Climate Commitment Act and enhancing voting rights through my legislation, House Bill 1048.

### My Second Year

The 2024 legislative session was equally productive, despite being only 60 days long compared to 105 days the previous year. We tackled key issues like housing supply, childcare, and climate change with over 373 bills, most of which passed with bipartisan support. Focus areas included increasing housing affordability, improving childcare access, and addressing the fentanyl crisis. We also took action to continue utilizing the Climate Commitment Act and Capital Gains Excise Tax to fund public schools, early learning programs, and air quality improvements. While challenges remain, the 2024 session was nothing short of impactful as we progressed at securing Washington's future as a leader in various fields.

### My Bills Signed Into Law 2023-2024

- HB 1047:** Protects adults and kids by banning dangerous chemicals from personal care products.
- HB 1048:** Provides voters tools to create fair elections in their own communities.
- HB 1085:** Reduces plastic pollution in our environment and microplastics in our water.
- HB 1329:** Prohibits utility shutoffs during extreme heat events.
- HB 1533:** Protects the privacy of survivors of domestic violence, stalking, and harassment.
- HB 1758:** Streamlines hatchery maintenance permits to support salmon.
- HB 1905:** Expands protections for workers from discrimination in pay and opportunity.
- HB 2000:** Strengthens international partnerships through strategic planning.
- HB 2414/SB 6009:** Outlaws the deadly restraint known as hog-tying by law enforcement.

We made more progress over the last two years than I can fit in this newsletter, but there is always more to do. I've enjoyed getting back out in the community, hearing your concerns, and working hard to address the most pressing challenges before us. Thank you for your partnership in uplifting the 29th Legislative District and supporting a healthy and prosperous future for us all.

Sincerely,





# Representative Sharlett Mena

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## 2023-2024 Legislative Report 29th District

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### 2023-2024 Legislative Report – 29th District

#### Capital Budget

Building a brighter future for Washingtonians, the biennial **\$9 billion** and supplemental **\$1.3 billion** Capital Budgets prioritize critical community needs like affordable housing, behavioral health facilities, school construction, and healthcare. Here are some projects funded in our district:

- **\$129k** for Pierce Center for Arts & Technology.
- **\$2.8 million** to modernize transmission and distribution of Tacoma Public Utilities' grid.
- **\$38 million** to expand fire service training at Bates Technical College.
- **\$3.9 million** for an affordable housing and clean up grant program at the 35th St. landfill.
- **\$103k** for a BIPOC Farm Fresh Hub & Technical Assistance Program at Eloise's Cooking Pot Food Bank.



#### Operating Budget

The "**Resilient Washington Budget**" for 2023-25 prioritizes critical services including:



- **\$2.2 billion** for K-12 education.
- **\$1.8 billion** for long-term care.
- **\$1.1 billion** for behavioral health.
- **\$1 billion** for public health.
- **\$684 million** for natural resources.
- **\$590 million** for children and families.
- **\$519 million** for housing and homelessness.
- **\$397 million** for human services.
- **\$382 million** for college and workforce development.
- and **\$253 million** for public safety and legal aid.

These investments address challenges faced by marginalized populations, reinforcing our state's resilience. The supplemental budget furthers our commitment to address substance use disorder.

#### Transportation Budget

The **\$14.6 billion** 2023-25 Transportation Budget builds on past successes and prioritizes a sustainable future. It tackles community needs like highway delays, traffic safety, and emissions reduction, while investing in ferries, multi-modal transportation, and pedestrian safety.

This people-first budget allocates funds for infrastructure maintenance, fish passage improvements, cleaner ferries, active transportation, and rail freight projects. It also offers free ferry rides for youth and uses technology for safer work zones.

The 2024 supplemental budget allocates additional funds to combat speeding and impaired driving. Additionally, **\$196 million**, sourced from the Climate Commitment Act, funds clean energy projects in underserved communities.



For more information on all three state budgets, visit [fiscal.wa.gov](https://fiscal.wa.gov).