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Committees:

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- Community Safety
- State Government & Tribal Relations
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Committees:

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT TO THE 46TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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46TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 6:00-8:00 PM

SEN. JAVIER VALDEZ

REP. DARYA FARIVAR

REP. GERRY POLLET

NATHAN HALE HIGH SCHOOL - PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
10750 30TH AVE NE
SEATTLE, WA 98125



**SENATE
DEMOCRATS**

HOUSE DEMOCRATS





LEGISLATIVE REPORT TO THE 46TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Dear friends and neighbors,

The 2025 legislative session was one of the most challenging in recent memory. A significant budget shortfall — driven by rising costs, growing needs, and a tax structure in urgent need of reform — forced us to confront difficult choices about our state's future.

Together, we championed progressive revenue proposals aimed at protecting core services and investing in our communities. Our goal was to ensure continued access to health care, food assistance, quality public education, and more. While the final budget reflects many of these values, it also includes painful cuts

to programs that serve people across Washington. Because we were not able to pass as many progressive revenue tools as needed, the budget does not go as far as it should to support our public schools and the students who rely on them.

Even so, we took meaningful steps forward. We passed legislation that makes our tax system fairer, ensuring those with the most contribute more to protecting what really matters to our communities. This progress enabled us to make historic investments in affordable housing, advance gun safety laws, improve public health, and strengthen protections for workers and families — critical steps in a time of national uncertainty and growing need. We also passed a rent stabilization law to protect tenants from sudden, excessive rent hikes — a major step forward in promoting housing security for our communities.

We're proud of the work we accomplished, and we're mindful about where we need to keep pushing. Through it all, we've been grounded by the values and voices of the 46th District — and we're deeply grateful for your advocacy, feedback, and trust.

Thank you for continuing to engage with us and for holding us accountable. We're honored to serve you.

Sen. Javier Valdez

Rep. Darya Farivar

Rep. Gerry Pollet



Sen. Javier Valdez · Rep. Darya Farivar · Rep. Gerry Pollet

Senator Javier Valdez

This session, I focused on delivering legislation that makes a real impact for the 46th District — strengthening our communities, fighting for fairness, and improving the lives of Washingtonians.

As chair of the Senate State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections Committee, I sponsored **SB 5077** to expand automatic voter registration and simplify online registration, making it easier for more people to participate in our democracy.

I also led efforts on **SB 5101**, which expands workplace protections for victims of hate crimes and bias incidents. No one should ever have to choose between their job and their safety. This law ensures workers can take leave or request accommodations when they or their loved ones are targeted.

With the passage of **SB 5118**, we're breaking down barriers for internationally trained doctors to practice here in Washington. Since 2021, more than 40 of these doctors have already treated more than 35,000 patients, many in underserved communities. This law removes unnecessary hurdles while ensuring we maintain high medical standards.

After hearing directly from many of you about the need for better train service, I proudly sponsored the Senate companion to **HB 1837**, which passed the Legislature. This bill will make Amtrak Cascades faster, more frequent, and more reliable by 2035, especially between Seattle, Portland, and Vancouver, B.C.

I also introduced **SB 5098** to ban firearms in public spaces where families and children gather — like fairgrounds and parks. While it didn't pass this year, I'll keep fighting for the safety of our communities.

These are the victories we've fought for — fighting for justice, creating opportunity, and building a future where every Washingtonian has a fair shot at success. As we move forward, I will continue working tirelessly to address the needs of our communities, push for further progress, and ensure that every Washingtonian has the tools and support they need to thrive.



Rep. Darya Farivar

This session, I was honored to advance legislation that brought real, people-centered change to Washingtonians. In a challenging year, we took important steps to improve access to justice, strengthen health care systems, and protect essential services across the state.

HB 1112, now law, removes Seattle's outdated residency requirement for pro tempore judges, easing delays in Seattle Municipal Court and improving access to justice for all residents. We also passed **HB 1130 to expand equitable access to developmental disability services**, and **HB 1395**, streamlining background checks for home care workers and helping prevent unnecessary disruptions to vital care. We also passed **SJM 8004**, urging Congress and the president to make universal health care a reality. This memorial affirms what we know to be true: health care is a human right.

One of the most meaningful moments of the session was co-sponsoring **HR 4661**, honoring Ayşenur Ezgi Eygi — a beloved Seattle community leader and fearless human rights activist, who was tragically killed while working for justice abroad. Her memory calls us to act with purpose and compassion.

While broader juvenile justice reforms stalled, I remain committed to building a legal system that heals, not harms — and centers the voices of those most impacted.



Legislative Report to the 46th Legislative District

Rep. Gerry Pollet

My top priorities for this session — with our budget deficit growing to \$12 billion — were to:

- Adopt progressive revenue solutions to make our tax system fairer and more reliable to avoid cutting essential health care, food security, housing and disability services.
- Increase public school funding to fully fund special education and ensure that Seattle and other districts do not have to lay off thousands of educators and go into the equivalency of bankruptcy.
- End the “unconscionable and unconstitutional cap” on how many children with disabilities the state funds in each school district for special education.



In a historic civil rights victory — and after years of my advocacy — the Legislature finally passed a bill to end the unconscionable and unconstitutional cap on the number of students with disabilities for whom the state funds special education. The legislation includes a “down payment” on the massive underfunding of special education based on a formula I developed with school districts, State Superintendent Chris Reykdal and advocates across the state. This is critical help for Seattle and other districts to solve deficits.

I was the prime sponsor and co-sponsor of proposals to make our tax system fairer and more reliable — including funding dedicated to public schools and local public safety. Our final balance incorporates some of these, including closing massive business tax loopholes that I have worked to eliminate for many years. I helped develop the plan to avoid massive tuition hikes and preserve college financial aid programs. Unfortunately, the final budget includes painful cuts, even cutting back on maternal postpartum health care and large cuts to the University of Washington and other colleges and universities.

The Legislature passed my proposal to ensure that the state monitors air pollution in our lowest-income, most racially diverse communities where life expectancy is lower due to pollution, including Lake City and Northgate in the 46th District, and Seattle's Duwamish Valley.

We also — finally — passed rent-stabilization and transit-oriented development bills. To protect residential neighborhoods from a proposal that would have allowed convenience stores to locate on any residentially zoned block, the Appropriations Committee unanimously adopted my amendment to prohibit such stores from selling nicotine products and to allow cities to regulate lit signage and exterior advertising in these neighborhoods.

Please join me as I continue to hold weekend morning drop-in discussions online or in person around the district. Email me for upcoming meetings.

Investments in the 46th District

We're proud to deliver funding that directly supports our district — creating local jobs, strengthening small businesses, and upholding our values of putting people first. A few of these investments include:

- **\$7 million** to build a 10-story high-rise on 45th Street, featuring 150+ affordable homes, community amenities, retail spaces, and a public Urban Rest Stop with restrooms.
- **\$1.5 million** to establish a state-of-the-art cultural center in Lake City.
- **\$798,000** for renovating outdated restrooms at the Wallingford Boys & Girls Club.
- **\$2 million** to expand WELD Seattle's transitional housing and services, including job training and counseling, to help individuals rebuild their lives and reduce recidivism.
- **\$5 million** for safety and mobility improvements on Aurora Avenue North, including wider sidewalks, upgraded lighting and protected crossings, all aimed at reducing crashes and increasing safety for pedestrians and cyclists.
- **\$3 million** to electrify parts of Route 48 for electric bus service.
- **\$22.5 million** to improve multi-modal connectivity between SR-522, I-5, and I-405.
- **\$16 million** to widen and enhance the Burke-Gilman Trail, improving transit access.
- **\$6.2 million** to boost speed and reliability along the RapidRide J Line corridor.
- **\$7 million** to support essential behavioral health programs and services for potential and former Trueblood class members.

Even in uncertain times, our responsibility is clear: to protect what matters, respond to today's needs, and to keep building a future where every Washingtonian can live with dignity, stability, and equitable access to opportunity.

