2026 LEGISLATIVE REPORT *to the* 5TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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Dear friends and neighbors,

The 5th Legislative District is one of the fastest-growing regions in our state, and with that growth comes both tremendous opportunity and real challenges. Families across our communities are working hard to build stable lives, but too many are feeling the pressure of rising costs in housing, child care, groceries, transportation and health care.

This year's legislative session focused on a clear set of priorities: helping Washingtonians afford their basic needs, passing a balanced and sustainable budget and protecting the values and services our communities rely on during a time of uncertainty.

A central focus of our work was affordability. We took meaningful steps to ease financial pressure on families, strengthen support for working people and make our tax system more fair and functional. At the same time, we worked to ensure that essential services like education, health care and child care remain strong and accessible for every Washingtonian, regardless of income or background.

We also made significant progress on the housing crisis facing our region. Too many families are being priced out of the communities they call home, and too many young people are wondering whether they will be able to stay here at all. This session, we advanced solutions aimed at increasing housing supply, improving affordability over time and making it easier to build the kinds of homes our growing communities need.

Protecting public safety, strengthening accountability and ensuring transparency in government also remained key priorities. We supported efforts to modernize laws so they keep pace with new challenges, protect individual rights and reinforce trust between communities and public institutions. In addition, we continued working to safeguard Washingtonians from broader federal uncertainty by protecting access to health care, supporting immigrant communities and workers, preserving data privacy and ensuring that science and evidence remain at the center of public policy.

Across every issue, our work is guided by the same values: strong public schools, safe and welcoming communities, a healthy environment and an economy that works for everyone—not just those at the top.

We know there is still much more to do, but we are proud of the progress made this session and we remain committed to continuing that work alongside you.

Thank you for your engagement, your trust and your advocacy. It is an honor to represent you.

Sen. Victoria Hunt

Rep. Zach Hall

Rep. Lisa Callan

2026 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Legislative Update from Rep. Hall

It's a privilege to serve the 5th Legislative District and represent the communities I've called home my entire life. As a first-term legislator, I came to Olympia focused on listening, learning and delivering practical results for our communities. This session, I worked to address the issues I hear about most from constituents: managing growth, improving infrastructure and helping families keep up with rising costs.

The 5th District continues to see rapid growth, bringing both opportunity and strain. Increased traffic, housing demand and pressure on energy systems require thoughtful, coordinated solutions. I supported balanced state budgets that invest in the services people rely on while maintaining long-term sustainability.

In the operating budget, we prioritized funding for public education, behavioral health care and programs that help families manage the rising cost of living. Even in a challenging budget environment, protecting these core services remained essential.

The transportation budget makes meaningful investments for our region—prioritizing the preservation and maintenance of existing roads and bridges, improving traffic safety and making targeted upgrades to reduce congestion. This includes continued progress on the State Route 18 widening and safety project, a critical investment to reduce accidents and improve reliability along a corridor many in our community rely on every day. I also supported maintaining funding to keep this project on track, while continuing to advocate for strong, long-term investment in infrastructure across our state. As a member of the Transportation Committee, I worked to ensure the needs of fast-growing communities like ours were part of these decisions.

I also serve as vice chair of the Environment & Energy Committee and on the Local Government Committee, where I've focused on policies that help communities grow responsibly—balancing development with environmental stewardship and long-term planning.

This session, I was proud to sponsor several bills that are now law and will make a real difference for Washington families.

HB 2296 encourages utilities to invest in energy-saving upgrades for homes and rental buildings. It allows utilities to cover the upfront cost of high-efficiency improvements, like heat pumps, with customers repaying the cost gradually through their monthly utility bill. This "pay-as-you-save" approach makes upgrades more affordable, lowers overall energy use and helps households save on their energy bills.

HB 2575 modernizes environmental reporting requirements by eliminating outdated mandates, reducing unnecessary paperwork and helping state agencies operate more efficiently while maintaining strong environmental standards.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to represent the 5th District and to bring your voice to Olympia. Please don't hesitate to reach out to my office — your input helps guide the work we do on your behalf.

Sen. Hunt | Rep. Hall | Rep. Callan

Legislative Update from Rep. Callan

It's an honor to serve in the 5th District and represent our communities in eastern King County. As we entered the 2026 session, many of our communities were rebuilding. This past year, road construction and bridge damage caused headaches and altered how we moved around. Then, as soon as we cut the ribbon on our repaired bridge ,we were dealt with historic flooding. I am deeply grateful and proud for how our communities lifted each other up and made it through. So, fittingly, this session was the one where I took on a new role serving as chair of the Capital Budget Committee and allocating funds for vital construction projects across the state.

The projects funded in the capital budget usually don't make it to the evening news or receive above-the-fold headlines in the big newspapers. They do, however, get attention in our local papers and get mentioned at the dinner table. They provide the important third spaces where our friendships are forged and provide vital services like emergency response. They provide jobs and allow our skilled tradespeople to be on the job site in their backyard. To put it simply, the projects in what we call the "happy budget" provide the backbone of community.

This year, the projects funded in our district include an emergency generator for a local public works shop and emergency radio infrastructure for first responders. Both will help navigate extreme weather situations like what we saw in the fall and help meet response needs. We funded increasing capacity and building improvements for the Maple Valley and Snoqualmie Valley Food Banks. The importance of this lifeline has only increased with rising costs and supply chain disruptions. Cherished community projects were also supported: the Snoqualmie Canoe Cultural Center, that will allow our tribal partners to honor their heritage, bridge repairs for the historic Snoqualmie Railway, and facility investments for the Enumclaw History Museum.

Outside of the capital budget my legislative work focused on providing all students and young people with what they need to be successful. It is our imperative duty to provide the children of this state with a quality education. This includes working to improve outcomes for students with learning differences, giving teachers the tools they need to reach their students, and helping to connect those struggling with things like anxiety, depression, and substance use disorder with the services that will help them thrive.

The bills I passed this session are:

- **HB 1795-** Provides clearer definitions of what and how restraint can used in schools, including the ban of harmful and deadly restraint methods. Keeping our little ones from running into the parking lot is necessary, but using restraint holds that block air or blood flow is not. Supporting our educators with clear definitions and training keeps our kiddos and our educators safe.
- **HB 2225-** Creates protections for minors and sets standards and regulations for AI companion chatbots. Having a "relationship" with chatbots without guardrails has caused harm ranging from encouraging eating disorders, emotional manipulation into unhealthy relationships, and advice with instructions on self-harming. This law will save lives.
- **HB 2429-** Helps youth, young adults, and their families get access to mental health services and to treat substance use disorder. Washington ranks at the bottom of states where youth have what they need to be successful. This legislation will change that.
- **HB 2338-** Adds community-scale projects as eligible project types for funding from the Low-Income Weatherization Program. As we saw in December, these projects are essential for helping our communities navigate extreme weather brought about by climate change.
- **HB 1796-** Updates school capital levy financing tools, allowing more ways for school districts to maintain and manage space needs in our schools in cost-effective ways for the taxpayer.
- **HB 2254-** Along with restored funding, this legislation ensures the Youth Behavioral Health Referral Line and Psychiatric Assistance Line for providers maintains its current service levels getting youth and families access to the behavioral health care they need.

These bills along with our capital budget projects have Washington and our district looking towards a future that works for everyone.

5TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Legislative Update from Sen. Hunt

It is an honor to serve as your state senator and represent our communities. As our region continues to grow, we face increasing pressure on housing, infrastructure, energy systems and the overall cost of living. This session, I focused on strengthening the core systems people rely on every day while also working to improve long-term affordability.

As part of that effort, we made Washington's tax system fairer by adjusting the tax structure to require more contribution from the wealthiest while reducing B&O taxes for small businesses and reinvesting those dollars into priorities like free school breakfast and lunch.

This session we also passed legislation to modernize Washington's electric grid to meet rising demand and support a reliable, affordable clean energy future. I was proud to sponsor **Senate Bill 6355**, which creates the Washington Electric Transmission Authority to improve how our state plans and builds critical electric transmission infrastructure. This new coordinating body will bring utilities, tribes and energy partners together to expand transmission capacity, upgrade existing infrastructure and improve long-term planning to ensure a more reliable and affordable grid for ratepayers. At its core, this work is about ensuring Washington's energy system is prepared for future growth while keeping costs manageable for families and businesses.

Alongside this investment in our energy future, I sponsored a set of measures focused on safety, resilience and stronger public systems, including:

- **SB 6054**, which supports wildfire preparedness and fire-resistant building practices that help communities reduce risk before disasters occur.
- **SB 6197**, which strengthens training and licensing requirements for plumbing contractors to ensure safer work, protect public health and support a skilled and stable workforce.
- **SB 6188**, which updates asbestos safety training for workers in older buildings to reduce exposure risks and improve long-term health protections.
- **SB 5982**, which improves coordination and planning tools for consumer-owned utilities to strengthen reliability, long-term infrastructure planning and transparency for ratepayers.

Your 5th Legislative District Legislators Working Together For You

Washington families face real pressure — from rising costs and housing shortages to growing demands on infrastructure and federal actions that impact our communities. This session, we focused on helping Washingtonians afford basic needs, protecting our values and investing in long-term solutions to make our state stronger and more resilient.

Pushing Back Against Federal Overreach

We acted to protect Washingtonians from federal overreach and strengthen transparency, privacy and accountability in government interactions. This included banning law enforcement — including federal immigration agents — from concealing their identity during routine public interactions to ensure accountability and trust **(SB 5855)**. We protected sensitive voter data from unnecessary federal access **(SB 5892)** and reinforced immigrant worker protections by requiring greater transparency during federal workplace enforcement actions **(HB 2105)**. We also limited automated license plate reader data use **(SB 6002)** and clarified rules to prevent impersonation of law enforcement officers **(HB 2165)**.

Public Safety

We strengthened public safety by addressing emerging threats and reinforcing professional standards. This includes cracking down on AI-generated child sexual abuse material **(SB 5105)** and ensuring law enforcement leaders meet clear ethical standards **(SB 5974)**. Our focus is on preventing harm, improving accountability and maintaining public trust in systems charged with protecting communities.

Housing

This session, we advanced solutions to increase supply, reduce barriers and improve housing stability. We updated zoning rules to allow more homes on underused land **(SB 6026)**, streamlined permitting to speed construction **(HB 2418)** and preserved affordable housing while expanding shelter and supportive housing **(SB 6027, HB 2266, HB 1687)**. We ensured renters receive flood risk disclosures **(SB 6237)**, promoted smaller and accessible units **(SB 5156)** and supported community partners expanding affordable options **(HB 1859)**. Together, these steps help more Washingtonians find a place to call home.

Affordability

Making life more affordable was central this session. The Millionaires Tax **(SB 6346)** strengthens funding for schools, health care and child care while cutting taxes for small businesses and expanding relief for working families. We eliminated sales taxes on essentials like diapers and over-the-counter medications, expanded the Working Families Tax Credit, increased small business relief and made school meals free for all students. We also created a statewide energy bill assistance program for low-income households **(HB 1903)** and expanded property tax relief for seniors, people with disabilities and veterans **(SB 6162)**. These actions help families stay housed, healthy and financially stable.

Environment & Energy

As Washington grows, we must ensure energy is reliable, affordable and future-ready. This session, we modernized and expanded our electric transmission system **(SB 6355)**, improving planning, utility coordination and capacity for more clean energy. This strengthens grid reliability, reduces long-term costs and supports a clean energy future.

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Your 5th Legislative District Delegation