

# 2026 End of Session Report

The Voice of  
Washington  
Counties



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2026

## Legislative Session Overview

The 2026 legislative session completed the second half of the state's two-year, or biennial, regular legislative session. Called the "short session," it lasted only 60 days, compared to the 105-day first half, or "long" session. Historically, short sessions were intended to address supplemental budget issues and shortcomings identified in policies already implemented, but modern short sessions have been used more frequently to continue working on, and even introduce, major policy initiatives. This session included several new, major policy proposals.

Even though the Legislature passed a significant tax increase last session to help close a forecasted \$10-\$12 billion deficit, it entered this session faced with an additional \$2-\$3 billion budget deficit, driven, in large part, by the state's expanding liability associated with tort claims. While revenue forecasts during the session improved the short-term fiscal outlook slightly, most of the focus remained on the supplemental state budgets and new proposals for new revenue and cuts to expenses.

The session's results were a mixed bag for counties. Progress continued on legislative priorities, with the passage of key bills on housing, fiscal relief, and fiscal sustainability. Counties also checked off some key wins in other areas, including public health, clean energy-related property taxes, and transportation. Several policies opposed by counties did not move forward. Still, other priorities continued to go unaddressed by the legislature, and some bills were passed, including a new state income tax bill, which hurt counties financially.

The session ended on time again, declaring sine die (Latin for "without day," essentially stating the legislative session was ended without setting another date to meet) on Thursday, March 12th. While the state supplemental budgets included significant cuts, some of which will further negatively impact counties, most state-shared revenues were preserved. As this is an election year for all House members and half of the Senate, legislative attention will shift to campaigning until the primary and general elections are complete.

# County Legislative Priorities

After a moderately successful 2025 legislative session for county priorities, the Legislative Steering Committee updated the WSAC 2025-26 Legislative Agenda with a multi-faceted priority for County Fiscal Relief. The new Fiscal Relief priority was added to the remaining agenda items from the previous session that were yet to be accomplished.

## Fiscal Relief



**The Challenge** – Counties are facing many of the same fiscal challenges as the state. Revenues are stagnant or even declining while costs continue to rise. All the while, service demands are growing.

**The Fix** – Support the following strategies: 1. Support local providers for county jail medical services; 2. Create more flexibility for county procurement requirements; 3. Protect local governments with reasonable liability limits on state-mandated services; 4. Improve the new tax increment financing program; 5. Implement state labor policy for local governments.

### OUTCOMES

**HB 2566** would have implemented recommendations from the 2021 Local Government Public Works Contracting report and increased the purchasing process thresholds in RCW 36.32.245.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **FAILED**

**HB 2451** implements several updates to the state's tax increment financing program, including designating counties as potentially impacted taxing districts, requiring mitigation for financial losses, and improving transparency and public participation in the designation of new tax increment areas.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **PASSED**

**SB 6239** would have created an alternative voluntary process for all tort claims against state and local governments and a mandatory process for older claims.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **FAILED**

**SB 6135** would have required arbitrators to consider a local government's financial ability to pay the compensation and benefit provisions of a collective bargaining agreement in binding interest arbitration cases.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **FAILED**

**HB 2502** would have amended several statewide sales tax exemptions by removing the local portion of the sales tax from the exemption.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **FAILED**

## County Transportation System Viability



**The Challenge** – Counties are responsible for nearly half of our state’s roads and bridges, but the system in place for providing resources to maintain them is inadequate.

**The Fix** – Support the following strategies: 1. Lift the property tax cap from 1% up to a maximum of 3%, depending on population growth and inflation; 2. If a Road Usage Charge (RUC) is implemented, provide distributions based on system ownership and need while allowing for local control of how the revenue can be spent; and 3. Provide new grant authority and funding for the County Road Administration Board (CRAB), Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board, and Reducing Rural Roadway Departures Program.

### OUTCOMES

**\$1.2 million** starting in 2026 for the new CRAB Local Road Program.

## County Housing Strategies



**The Challenge** – Many of the homes our state needs to improve housing access and affordability will not be built in cities. In our state, 34% of residents live in unincorporated areas. However, counties have limited tools to address the housing crisis.

**The Fix** – Support the following strategies: 1. Authorize detached accessory dwelling units (ADUs) outside urban areas; 2. Expand access to the Multi-family Tax Exemption (MFTE) program; 3. Invest state funding in developing infrastructure that supports housing development; and 4. Provide funding for counties to offer pre-designed and approved housing plans.

### OUTCOMES

**HB 1345** authorizes detached ADUs outside of urban growth areas on all residential lots with certain requirements.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT**    Outcome: **PASSED**

**HB 2539** would have implemented a new local tax on short-term rentals. Funding from the tax could have been used to support affordable housing.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT**    Outcome: **FAILED**

## Fiscal Sustainability



**The Challenge** – Counties are the least financially diversified governments in the state. Property tax, with its limited growth potential, is our main revenue source.

**The Fix** – Support the following strategies to improve county fiscal health: 1. Revise the 1% annual property tax growth limit to 3%; 2. Implement a local graduated REET; 3. Implement a county utility tax; and 4. Allocate a greater share of cannabis revenue to local governments.

### OUTCOMES

**HB 2442** proposed several new revenues for county governments, including a new sales tax for child services, a new property tax for public health clinics, and bifurcation of the veterans' and mental health/developmental disabilities levies from the general fund levy. It also included and increased flexibility with existing revenues. A new county utility tax was originally included in the bill but was removed during the session process.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **PASSED**

## Public Defense Reform



**The Challenge** – The state must provide adequate funding to meet existing and future requirements for trial court public defense. Counties cannot continue to shoulder the vast majority of this burden alone.

**The Fix** – Provide state funding sufficient to ensure counties can meet the constitutional right to effective access to justice through effective legal representation.

### OUTCOMES

**HB 1592/SB 5404** would have made the state and counties each responsible for 50% of the current costs of public defense and 100% of the future costs. The bill also made technical changes to the public defense administration, including allowing the Office of Public Defense (OPD) to provide direct services upon a county's request and requiring OPD to collect additional data. The bill was amended to remove the requirements for state funding, but still retained the technical changes.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **FAILED**

## Historic Tax Policy Changes

### ESSB 5814 Tax on Millionaires

The 2026 Legislative Session truly was one for the record books, as the legislature passed a new income tax. Dubbed “The Millionaires Tax,” **ESSB 6346** imposes a 9.9% tax on all income above \$1 million per year. The bill also includes tax relief for small businesses through expanded B&O tax exemptions. Additionally, new sales tax exemptions were approved as part of the bill, including exemptions on personal hygiene products, diapers, and over-the-counter drugs, and the repeal of various sales taxes on professional services enacted in 2025 as part of **ESSB 5814** (2025). The bill goes into effect beginning 1/1/2029.

While the Governor has publicly stated his support for and intent to sign **ESSB 6346**, we likely won’t know the ultimate fate of this policy for some time. There is a strong reason to believe the bill will face legal challenges from anti-tax groups, and there’s been a rumor of a citizens’ initiative effort to overturn it. The legislature decided to pass this controversial policy only two years after passing I-2111, which banned state, county, and local governments from imposing or collecting any new personal income taxes.

The original version of the bill included substantial funding for local government public defense. However, the final version stripped out all local government support while the sales tax exemptions remain in the bill, costing counties more than \$173 million per year. Intent language was included in the bill, and the 4-year budget outlook included \$200 million for mitigating local government revenue losses. However, the \$200 million is to be split among counties, cities, and transportation districts, and it likely won’t cover any entity’s lost revenue.

### E3SHB 1960 Renewable Energy Excise Tax

The Legislature also passed another important tax bill impacting counties in 2026. Likely one of the more complex bills of the session, **E3SHB 1960** changes the current method for taxing clean energy projects by state and local governments from a property tax to a per-megawatt, nameplate-capacity-based excise tax. This bill was the direct result of WSAC’s efforts to change the current tax system for clean energy projects due to the impacts the projects were imposing on rural county property taxpayers.

Under current property tax rules, clean energy projects pay substantial property taxes to the counties where they operate. However, over time, most of that property tax burden gets shifted away from the project and onto the other local property taxpayers, resulting in substantial property tax increases for everyone else in the taxing district. The cause is the personal property tax and the ability for the project to depreciate its personal property value, while at the same time, local taxing districts are authorized to add that personal property value as a one-time increase, as if it were new construction of real property. The majority of the value of clean energy generation projects is in equipment legally defined as personal property.

**E3SHB 1960** exempts future projects and creates a pathway for existing projects to convert to a new tax system in which the projects’ personal property is exempt from property taxes and the projects instead pay a per-megawatt, nameplate-capacity-based excise tax to both the state and the county. This new system will prevent future projects from shifting their tax burden over time, creating a flatter, more predictable tax payment system. Counties can also qualify to receive 75% of the state’s share of the new tax if they meet certain requirements.

# Bill Outcomes & Budget

## General Government



### Taxes

**HB 2097** would have authorized counties to impose a business and occupation tax not to exceed .0020%.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **FAILED**

**HB 2528/SB 6211** would have made the adoption of REET 2 a councilmanic option for counties and cities that choose to plan under the GMA.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **FAILED**

**HB 2559** would have authorized local governments to impose a new short-term rental tax of up to 4% to fund affordable housing programs.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **FAILED**

**SB 5650** would have authorized counties to impose up to a 2% excise tax on retail sales of cannabis products. The tax would have to be approved by voters.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **FAILED**

**SB 6231** removes the sales tax exemption for data centers for refurbishment. This applies to both the state and local portions of the tax.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **PASSED**



### Labor Relations

**HB 1571/SB 6180** would have added heart disease as a presumptive occupational disease for all law enforcement officers.

WSAC Position: **OPPOSE** Outcome: **FAILED**

**HB 2105** establishes a list of rights and protections related to I-9 audits and investigations. Employers are required to notify employees of notices of audits received or any concerns regarding an employee's file related to I-9 requirements.

WSAC Position: **CONCERNS** Outcome: **PASSED**

**HB 2137/SB 5972** would have removed the 70,000 population requirement for local government correctional employees to receive interest arbitration rights in collective bargaining.

WSAC Position: **OPPOSE** Outcome: **FAILED**

**HB 2611** would have required all employers to pay overtime for every hour worked over 40, effectively implementing a 32-hour work week statewide.

WSAC Position: **NEUTRAL** Outcome: **FAILED**

**SB 5043** would have added post-traumatic stress disorder as a presumptive occupational disease for correctional workers.

WSAC Position: **NEUTRAL** Outcome: **FAILED**



## Elections

**HB 1710** imposes new requirements on counties that have violated the Voting Rights Act, the 15th Amendment to the US Constitution, or any voting-related violation of the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution or the Washington State Constitution in the last 25 years, requiring preclearance for any action that may impact the voting rights of a protected class.

WSAC Position: **CONCERNS** Outcome: **PASSED**

**HB 1750** creates guidelines for voter suppression and dilution claims under the Washington Voting Rights Act.

WSAC Position: **CONCERNS** Outcome: **PASSED**

**HB 2210** would have authorized jurisdictions to adopt ranked-choice voting by 12/31/2032, subject to specific requirements.

WSAC Position: **NEUTRAL** Outcome: **FAILED**



## Risk Management

**HB 2393/SB 6307** would have clarified that state and local governments are not liable for inmate injuries resulting from voluntary controlled substance use when the inmate is held in a correctional facility and was lawfully searched upon admission.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **FAILED**

**SB 6239** would have implemented an alternative process for tort claims against state and local governments. The new process would have been mandatory for older claims and voluntary for others.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **FAILED**

## General Government (continued)



### Administration

**HB 2333/SB 6095** would have made harassing an elected official under certain circumstances a class C felony. Allows elected officials to request that their personal addresses not be published or disclosed in public records.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **FAILED**

**HB 2460** would have required the county legislative authority to appoint to vacant partisan offices from the same political party as the vacating incumbent.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **FAILED**

**SB 5098** would have outlawed the possession of firearms at county parks and properties where children are likely to be present, public buildings, and county fairs. Counties would have been required to provide notifying signage.

WSAC Position: **OPPOSE** Outcome: **FAILED**



### Finance

**HB 2034** ends the current LEOFF 1 retirement fund, replaces it with identical benefits and beneficiaries, funds it at 110% of estimated costs, and utilizes the surplus in varying ways. It includes a study to consider taking over the local government responsibilities for the ongoing medical costs of retirees. The bill doesn't go into effect until 2029 and not without IRS approval.

WSAC Position: **NEUTRAL** Outcome: **PASSED**

**HB 2451** makes changes to the recently passed statewide TIF laws, identifying counties as potentially impacted taxing districts, requiring public hearings, and providing more specificity on project lists.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **PASSED**

**HB 2543** increases some County Clerk fees and adds new fees for recordings, video, digital exhibits, and more.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **PASSED**



### Budget Highlights

The majority of all state-shared revenues were kept intact in the state supplemental budgets. The one exception is the cannabis excise tax, which was cut slightly.

**\$50 thousand** was included in the supplemental operating budget for the state to convene a task force on state and local government tort claims.

**\$200 million** was set aside in the 4-year operating budget outlook to provide funding to local governments to offset a portion of the losses resulting from the sales tax exemptions in SB 6346.

**\$5.5 million** added to the supplemental operating budget 911 account to provide financial assistance to counties.

## Public Health



### Public Health

**HB 2242** protects access to preventive healthcare services, which helps avoid higher costs and reduced access later. It updates state authority to ensure people can continue receiving needed services and gives the state more flexibility to make vaccine decisions independent of federal guidance. **This was a WSALPHO priority issue.**

WSALPHO Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **PASSED**

**HB 2532** addresses nitrous oxide misuse, which is becoming a serious public health issue, causing injuries, deaths, and rising addiction among youth and young adults.

WSALPHO Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **PASSED**

**HB 2183** would have required counties covered by the Growth Management Act to create extreme heat response plans with specific steps for planning, implementation, outreach, and data.

WSALPHO Position: **CONCERNS** Outcome: **FAILED**

**SB 5990** aimed to help ease rural workforce shortages by letting a registered nurse or physician assistant serve as a local health officer.

WSALPHO Position: **CONCERNS** Outcome: **FAILED**

**SB 6291** strengthens the environmental health workforce by extending the supervision period for non-certified on-site wastewater reviewers to four years. **This was a WSALPHO priority issue,** working with stakeholders and legislative leaders in both chambers to secure unanimous passage.

WSALPHO Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **PASSED**

**HB 2442** expands county revenue options by adding a new sales tax for children and families, broadening uses of local housing sales taxes, and allowing a property tax for public health clinics, helping stabilize funding for community health programs.

WSALPHO Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **PASSED**

## Budget Highlights

**Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS):** Local health jurisdictions sought to reduce two proposed cuts to FPHS funding, which totaled \$50 million: a proposed cut to the state general fund and an FPHS Account funding gap caused by last year's unexpected shift of vapor tax revenue. WSALPHO was able to combat proposed general fund cuts by having both Chambers keep the state general fund appropriation whole. Additionally, WSALPHO supported several proposed legislative fixes to the FPHS Account, culminating in a solution in HB 2675, which would have redirected tobacco-related taxes and tied future funding to inflation. However, the Chambers failed to concur on final bill changes, HB 2675 did not pass, and the governmental public health system now faces a **(\$21 million) reduction.**

Group B Water Systems: **(\$500 thousand) was eliminated** in the Department of Health's budget.

Opioid & Overdose Response: Several prevention and community-based programs were reduced through the state general fund. These programs enhance and complement behavioral health treatment strategies. **Reductions included** cuts to Naloxone distribution to first responders, Health Engagement Hubs, Street Medicine Project, and education outreach and campaigns.

**\$10 million** to sustain 988 crisis response services and significant funding increases to expand Cascade Care, support the Medicaid Access Program, and launch the Rural Health Transformation Project in response to new federal Medicaid requirements.

Cuts to the Health Equity Zones Initiative **(\$1 million)**, the Birth Equity Project **(\$1.1 million)**, and DOH's Watch Me Grow outreach program **(\$1.4 million).**

# Housing & Permitting



## Housing

**HB 1717/SB 5591** would have created a local option sales tax incentive for affordable housing developments.

WSAC position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **FAILED**

**HB 1859** requires local governments to develop policies to implement a density bonus if they receive a request from a religious organization for an affordable housing development on the organization's property.

WSAC position: **CONCERNS** Outcome: **PASSED**

**HB 1974** authorizes public corporations, public housing authorities, and certain nonprofit entities, if authorized by a city or county ordinance or resolution, to operate land bank authorities.

WSAC position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **PASSED**

**HB 2269** expands the wastewater systems that must serve middle housing in limited areas of more intensive rural development in rural counties to include large, on-site sewage systems.

WSAC position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **PASSED**

**HB 2489** would have prohibited local governments from enforcing laws that criminalize, penalize, or otherwise prohibit a person from engaging in life-sustaining activities on public property unless the local government demonstrated that adequate alternative shelter space was available at the time and place of the conduct, with certain exceptions.

WSAC position: **CONCERNS** Outcome: **FAILED**

**SB 6026** requires non-rural counties to allow residential development in commercial and mixed-use zones within a UGA that is contiguous with a city with a population over 30,000, and prohibits requirements for first-floor retail in more than 40% of areas zoned for commercial use.

WSAC position: **CONCERNS** Outcome: **PASSED**

**SB 6027** establishes additional flexibility for local and state housing funds to be used for operations and maintenance activities associated with permanent supportive housing, and directs state agencies to prioritize maintaining existing services that face federal funding cuts over new programs.

WSAC position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **PASSED**



## Permitting

**HB 1254** would have required that the entirety of the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code, rather than selected portions of the code, be adopted and incorporated into the state building code upon the completion of a statewide wildfire hazard map and base-level wildfire risk map for each county.

WSAC position: **CONCERNS** Outcome: **FAILED**

**HB 1654/SB 6064** would have allowed fire protection districts or regional fire protection service authorities with more than \$10 million in revenue over the preceding three years to assume responsibility for administering and enforcing the International Fire Code within their jurisdiction.

WSAC position: **OPPOSE** Outcome: **FAILED**

**HB 1818/SB 5633** would have rewritten Chapter 58.17 RCW, overhauling the current state statute governing the parcel subdivision process and removing the public hearing requirement for long plats.

WSAC position: **CONCERNS** Outcome: **FAILED**

**HB 2266** prohibits certain development regulations within an urban growth area that have a preclusive effect on the siting of permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, and emergency shelters.

WSAC position: **NEUTRAL** Outcome: **PASSED**

**SB 5609** specified that, as a condition of using the categorical exemption for project review under the Growth Management Act, a local government must adopt a local ordinance related to archaeological and cultural resource protection that meets standards determined by the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

WSAC position: **CONCERNS** Outcome: **FAILED**

**SB 6015** required Commerce to develop and publish model ordinances to streamline local implementation of permit-ready plans and required each planning county and city to adopt the model ordinances or substantially similar ordinances.

WSAC position: **CONCERNS** Outcome: **FAILED**

## Budget Highlights

**\$88 million** increase in the Washington State Housing Trust Fund.

**\$15 million** in contingency funding to backfill potential losses of federal Continuum of Care funds.

Funding to implement climate change elements of local comprehensive land use plans is maintained at **\$22.544 million**.

**\$500 thousand** for grants to local governments to update the permit process.

**\$400 thousand** for Commerce to develop a housing accelerator framework in conjunction with local governments.

# Natural Resources, Environment, & Land



## Land Use

**HB 2129** would have allowed agritourism activities (broadly) on agricultural land under current public health, safety, and building code requirements. The bill prohibited treating agritourism activities as “conditional uses,” or requiring additional fees or permits.

WSAC position: **OPPOSE** Outcome: **FAILED**

**HB 2316** would have prohibited environmental protections or mitigation requirements that would inhibit the development of property in the UGA with shrub steppe associated vegetation.

WSAC position: **OPPOSE** Outcome: **FAILED**

**HB 2201** would have required a county’s comprehensive plan and development regulations applicable within an urban growth area to conform to those of the city within the urban growth area, with certain exceptions.

WSAC position: **OPPOSE** Outcome: **FAILED**



## Natural Resources

**SB 5360** defined the terms “knowing/knowingly” and “negligent/negligently” and, using those terms, added first, second and third degree felony and gross misdemeanor violations of the Water Pollution Control Act, the Clean Air Act, and Hazardous Waste Management (70A.300). While exemptions were added for activities in compliance with permit requirements, concerns remained about unintended consequences for public employees acting in good faith.

WSAC position: **OPPOSE** Outcome: **FAILED**



## Wildfire

**SB 6242** would have given counties the authority to enter into shared stewardship agreements with federal agencies engaged in land management to maintain and manage fuel breaks on federal land up to one mile on either side of any road.

WSAC position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **FAILED**

**SJM 8015** requests that the federal government wildfire agency reorganization be delayed until fire activity subsides and that the consolidated U.S. Wildland Fire Service (USWFS) be fully staffed and operational by April 1, 2026, with the unification process conducted carefully to protect community safety, natural resources, and wildland firefighter health without reducing future firefighting capacity.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **PASSED**



## Energy

**E2SHB 1960** exempts commercial solar and wind energy projects from personal property tax, replacing it with a per megawatt-nameplate-based capacity tax.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **PASSED**

**SB 6355** creates the Washington Electric Transmission Authority to support upgrades to and expansion of the electric transmission system statewide. The authority is required to make payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) to counties to offset property tax losses and require that at least half of the Board of Directors reside east of the Cascade Mountains.

WSAC position: **NEUTRAL** Outcome: **PASSED**



## Timber

**HB 2117/SB 5838** would have added a tribal member to the Board of Natural Resources, changing the makeup of the board and increasing the number of members to seven.

WSAC Position: **CONCERNS** Outcome: **FAILED**

**HB 2170/SB 5999** would have allowed DNR to enter into ecosystem services contracts on all lands it manages.

WSAC Position: **CONCERNS** Outcome: **FAILED**



## Cannabis

**HB 2315/SB 6195** were written to address “oversupply” in the cannabis market, primarily targeting “dormant” licenses. WSAC identified potential to align licensing with local land-use ordinances across the three license types and requested amendments to address this.

WSAC position: **NEUTRAL** Outcome: **FAILED**



## Solid Waste Management

**HB 2018** was introduced on behalf of WSAC and would have increased the current Solid Waste Collection Tax by 2.5% gradually over five years to support local government solid waste programs.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **FAILED**

**HB 1607/SB 5502** would have created a deposit return program for qualifying beverage containers.

WSAC Position: **CONCERNS** Outcome: **FAILED**

**HB 2031** would have expanded the existing Paint Care program to include more paint products, such as aerosol and thinners.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **FAILED**

**2SHB 1420** would have created an extended producer responsibility program for clothing and other textile materials.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **FAILED**

**2SSB 5965/HB 2233** would have banned the use of plastic bags at grocery stores and other retail outlets while excluding take-out from restaurants. It would have also increased the pass-through fee for disposable bags to \$0.15 in 2028 and \$0.18 in 2030.

WSAC Position: **NEUTRAL** Outcome: **FAILED**



## Budget Highlights

**\$50 thousand** was included in the supplemental capital budget for DNR to project revenues from trust lands for the next five fiscal years.

**\$60 million** was added to the supplemental operating budget for wildfire response, forest restoration, and community resilience (1168 funding).

# Transportation & Infrastructure



## Safety and Operations

**E2SSB 6066** allows a county, city, town, or WSDOT, to create a crash prevention zone by identifying public roads where the incidence of collisions resulting in serious injuries or fatalities is greater than expected for similar roads or highways, as appropriate.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **PASSED**



## Public Works Procurement

**SHB 2420** increases the Small Works Roster contract limits to the following amounts: \$530,000 or less on June 30, 2027; \$560,000 or less from July 1, 2027, to June 30, 2028; \$590,000 or less from July 1, 2028, to June 30, 2029; \$620,000 or less from July 1, 2029, to June 30, 2030; and \$650,000 or less beginning July 1, 2030.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **PASSED**

**SB 5176** aimed to ensure prompt payment to contractors and subcontractors.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **FAILED**

**SB 5061** would have required that public works contracts stipulate that the hourly minimum wage for laborers, workers, or mechanics must be adjusted each year to ensure that the wage is not less than the latest prevailing rate of wage in effect at the time the work is performed.

WSAC Position: **NEUTRAL** Outcome: **FAILED**



## Planning

**ESSB 5374** would have amended RCW 36.81.121, requiring counties to coordinate with tribal governments when preparing their Comprehensive Transportation Programs.

Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **FAILED**

**HB 2172** would have incorporated workgroup recommendations following a Washington State Transportation Commission process to update the statute allowing for route jurisdiction transfer and abandonment.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **FAILED**

## Budget Highlights

**\$375 million** diverted from the Public Works Assistance Account to the Operating Budget and backfilled with a total of **\$379.5 million** in bonds (plus **\$10 million** in CCA for December storm response).

**\$30 million** for CRAB to establish a temporary loan program to provide financial assistance for county transportation infrastructure damage and impacts from the December 2025 weather events.

**\$22 million** to continue the Federal Fund Exchange Pilot Program through the 2025-27 biennium.

**\$5 million** to help counties complete federal bridge load rating requirements.

## Public Safety & Human Services



### Juvenile Detention & Rehabilitation

**HB 2389/SB 6062** would have allowed the state to transfer youth to county facilities when state institutions exceed certain capacity and require counties to supervise certain youth after early release from state facilities.

WSAC Position: **OPPOSE** Outcome: **FAILED**

**HB 2713** proposed imposing a 1% B&O tax on privately operated detention centers in Washington State.

WSAC Position: **CONCERNS** Outcome: **FAILED**

**HB 2456** proposed establishing a juvenile firearm early intervention alternative for individuals charged in juvenile court with unlawful possession of a firearm in the 2nd degree, where, if the participant successfully completes certain conditions, the charge is dismissed.

WSAC Position: **NEUTRAL** Outcome: **FAILED**



### Human Services

**SHB 1390** removes references to the Community Protection Program from statute effective January 1, 2027. Requires the Developmental Disabilities Administration to develop and implement a plan to transition all individuals participating in the Community Protection Program into other services or programs by December 31, 2026.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT** Outcome: **PASSED**

**SHB 2688** attempted to change the multiplier for the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers program funding formula from aligning with the special education excess cost multiplier for pre-kindergarten students to a set multiplier of 1.00.

WSAC Position: **OPPOSE** Outcome: **FAILED**



### Public Safety & Criminal Justice

**ESSB 5925** allows the attorney general to issue civil investigative demands (CIDs) to produce documents and answer questions when investigating possible violations of the United States Constitution, the Washington State Constitution, law enforcement Keep Washington Working Act requirements, wage laws, the Washington Law Against Discrimination, and the City and County Jails Act.

WSAC Position: **CONCERNS** Outcome: **PASSED**

**2SSB 5880** allows certain private laboratories to perform blood or breath tests for impaired driving offenses. Requires a city or county to contract with a private laboratory to address witness interviews and litigation procedures prior to submitting evidence to the laboratory for analysis.

WSAC Position: **OPPOSE** Outcome: **PASSED**

**SSB 6296** attempted to expand the list of people who may petition for a person's initial detention under the Involuntary Treatment Act and to expand notification requirements when a facility releases a person who was committed after dismissal of felony charges. It also created processes for reviewing compliance with orders to surrender firearms and modified processes and requirements for less restrictive alternative treatment and assisted outpatient treatment.

WSAC Position: **CONCERNS** Outcome: **FAILED**

## Public Safety & Human Services (continued)

### Budget Highlights

A **one-time increase of \$3 million** added in FY 27 to support early intervention and prevention services for truant and at-risk youth (Becca funding). This additional funding must be used to fund staff who provide services directly to youth, not for general court staff.

**\$5 million** is appropriated to DCYF for the purposes of establishing a secure juvenile detention facility on the east side of the Cascades.

**10% reduction** to the Recovery Navigator Program (this results in a cumulative reduction of 30 percent for the biennium).

**20% reduction** to Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) grant funding.

**30% reduction** to Clubhouse Program Grants.

**\$3.8 million** in new funding is provided to support operations of a 23hr crisis stabilization facility in Thurston County, as part of the Trueblood Settlement.

**(\$10 million) reduction** to Developmental Disabilities Community Services (DDCS) as a result of an anticipated underspending in the family support, employment, and day programs for the current biennium.

**(\$1.3 million) reduction** to Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) for the School-to-Work program to align with current spending projections.

There are **no reductions** to the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) 0-3 multiplier.

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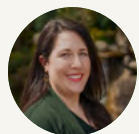
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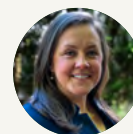
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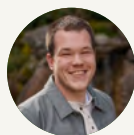
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# Legislative Steering Committee



**38** counties involved

**Carolina Mejia, Co-Chair**  
Thurston County Commissioner

**Kevin Overbay, Co-Chair**  
Chelan County Commissioner

The Legislative Steering Committee (LSC) is responsible for preparing and recommending a proposed legislative agenda for each biennial legislative session. The LSC monitors the events of each legislative session and is empowered to adopt policy relating to legislation, executive branch policies and operation, and the activities of other organizations and associations.

## LSC Roster

**Dan Blankenship**  
Adams County, Commissioner

**Chris Seubert**  
Asotin County, Commissioner

**Michael Alvarez**  
Benton County, Commissioner

**Jerome Delvin**  
Benton County, Commissioner (Alternate)

**Kevin Overbay**  
Chelan County, Commissioner

**Mike French**  
Clallam County, Commissioner

**Michelle Belkot**  
Clark County, Councilor

**Glen Yung**  
Clark County, Councilor (Alternate)

**Marty Hall**  
Columbia County, Commissioner

**Richard Dahl**  
Cowlitz County, Commissioner

**Steve Ferell**  
Cowlitz County, Commissioner (Alternate)

**Dan Sutton**  
Douglas County, Commissioner

**Marc Straub**  
Douglas County, Commissioner (Alternate)

**Zack Trudell**  
Ferry County, Commissioner

**Stephen Bauman**  
Franklin County, Commissioner

**Justin Dixon**  
Garfield County, Commissioner

**Rob Jones**  
Grant County, Commissioner

**Georgia Miller**  
Grays Harbor County, Commissioner

**Janet St. Claire**  
Island County, Councilmember

**Heidi Eisenhour**  
Jefferson County, Commissioner

**Christine Rolfes**  
Kitsap County, Commissioner

**Katie Walters**  
Kitsap County, Commissioner (Alternate)

**Cory Wright**  
Kittitas County, Commissioner

**Ron Ihrig**  
Klickitat County, Commissioner

**Sean Swope**  
Lewis County, Commissioner

**Scott Hutsell**  
Lincoln County, Commissioner

**Sharon Trask**  
Mason County, Commissioner

**Jon Neal**  
Okanogan County, Commissioner

**Jerry Doyle**  
Pacific County, Commissioner

**Lisa Olsen**  
Pacific County, Commissioner (Alternate)

**John Gentle**  
Pend Oreille County, Commissioner

**Robyn Denson**  
Pierce County, Councilmember

**Jani Hitchen**  
Pierce County, Councilmember (Alternate)

**Ryan Mello**  
Pierce County, Executive

**Anita Gallagher**  
Pierce County, Executive (Alternate)

**Jane Fuller**  
San Juan County, Councilmember

**Ron Wesen**  
Skagit County, Commissioner

**Peter Browning**  
Skagit County, Commissioner (Alternate)

**Brian Nichols**  
Skamania County, Commissioner

**Megan Dunn**  
Snohomish County, Councilmember

**Jared Mead**  
Snohomish County, Councilmember (Alternate)

**Dave Somers**  
Snohomish County, Executive

**Annika Vaughn**  
Snohomish County, Executive (Alternate)

**Al French**  
Spokane County, Commissioner

**Mark Burrows**  
Stevens County, Commissioner

**Carolina Mejia**  
Thurston County, Commissioner

**Wayne Fournier**  
Thurston County, Commissioner (Alternate)

**Lee Tischer**  
Wahkiakum County, Commissioner

**Gunner Fulmer**  
Walla Walla County, Commissioner

**Bertha Clayton**  
Walla Walla County, Commissioner

**Kaylee Galloway**  
Whatcom County, Councilmember

**Barry Buchanan**  
Whatcom County, Councilmember (Alternate)

**Satpal Sidhu**  
Whatcom County, Executive

**Art Swannack**  
Whitman County, Commissioner

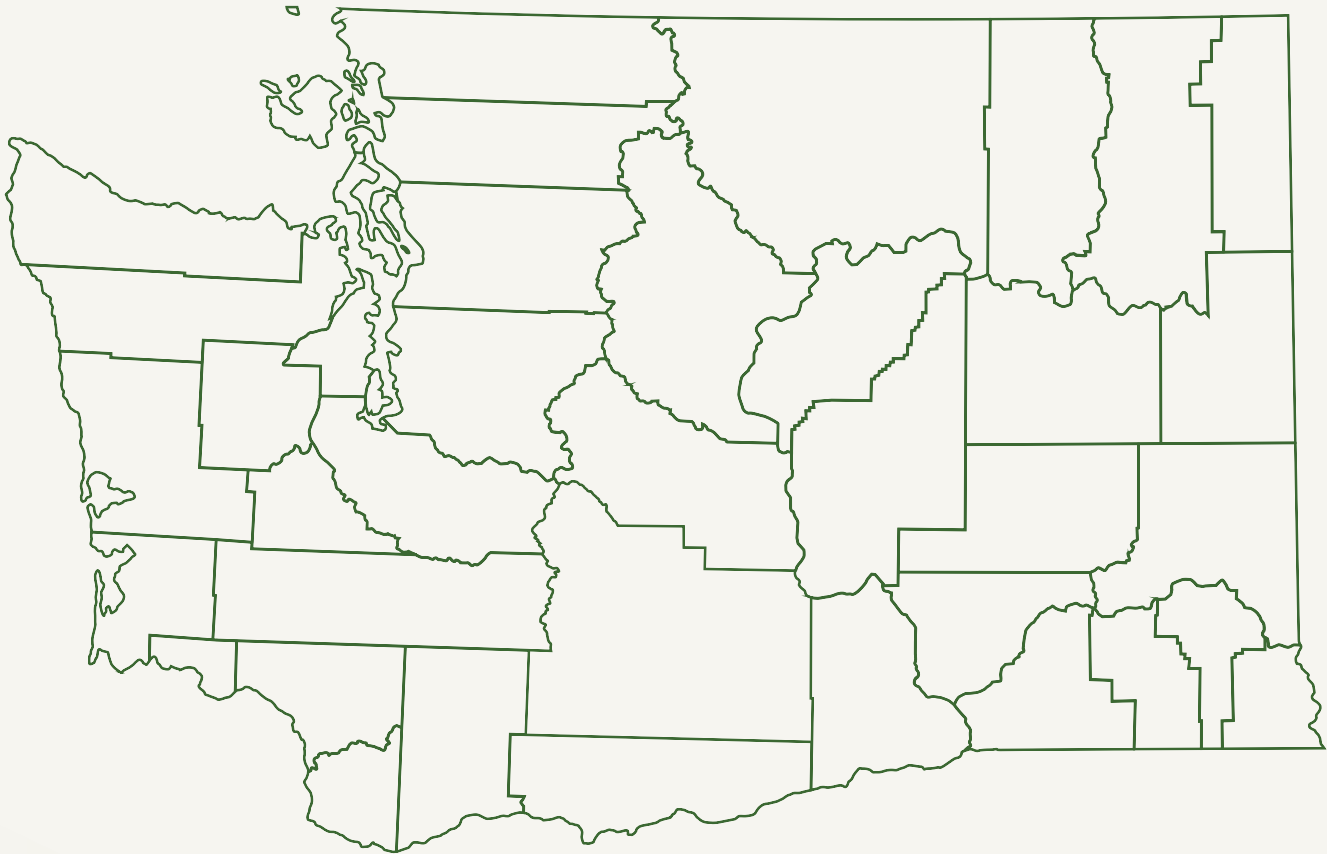
**Tom Handy**  
Whitman County, Commissioner (Alternate)

**Amanda McKinney**  
Yakima County, Commissioner

**LaDon Linde**  
Yakima County, Commissioner (Alternate)



**WASHINGTON**  
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