

2026 End of Session Report

The Voice of
Washington
Counties



Table of Contents

Legislative Session Overview . 3

County Legislative Priorities. . 4

Bill Outcomes & Budget 8

General Government

- Taxes 8
- Labor Relations 8
- Elections 9
- Risk Management . . 9
- Administration 10
- Finance 10

Public Health

- Public Health 11

Housing & Permitting

- Housing 12
- Permitting 13

Natural Resources, Environment, & Land

- Land Use 14

- Natural Resources . 14
- Wildfire 14
- Energy 14
- Timber 15
- Solid Waste Management . . .15
- Cannabis 15

Transportation & Infrastructure

- Safety and Operations. . 16
- Public Works Procurement . .16
- Planning 16

Public Safety & Human Services

- Juvenile Detention & Rehabilitation 17
- Human Services . . . 17
- Public Safety & Criminal Justice . 17

Policy and Legislative Relations Staff18

Legislative Steering Committee 19

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 6346 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.

Policy and Legislative Relations Staff



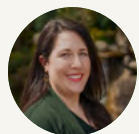
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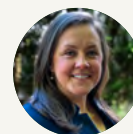
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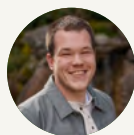
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Legislative Steering Committee



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

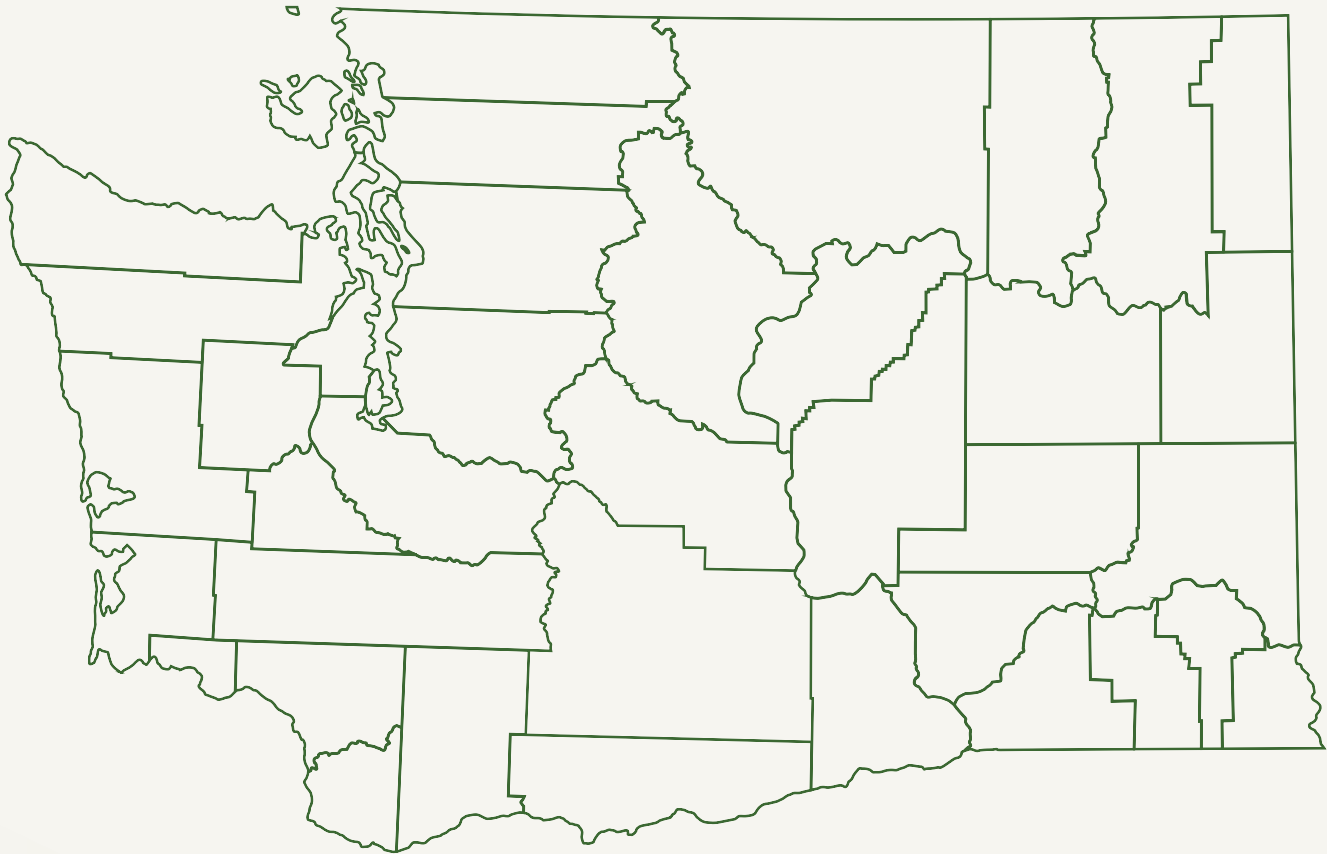
Tom Handy
Whitman County, Commissioner (Alternate)

Amanda McKinney
Yakima County, Commissioner

LaDon Linde
Yakima County, Commissioner (Alternate)



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