



Snohomish County

End-of-Session Report

March 25, 2024

Overview of the 2024 Legislative Session

The Washington State Legislature convened the 2024 Legislative Session for 60 days, starting January 8th and concluding March 7th. Democrats held strong majorities in both the House of Representatives, 58 to 40, and the State Senate, 29 to 20. Leading up to beginning of the session, Democrats in the [House of Representatives](#) and [Senate](#) outlined their priorities for the 2024 session – investing in behavioral health, responding to climate change, increasing gun control, continuing housing efforts from 2023, and improving special education. As the session progressed, the realities of session lasting a mere 60 days and being immediately followed by a challenging November 2024 election cycle quelled ambitions.

Democrats have had control over the Governor's Office and both chambers of the Legislature for several years and have adopted many policies that Republicans have objected to. In response, in 2023, conservative Republicans mobilized to collect the necessary signatures to file a historic number of initiatives to the Legislature - six. Each of the six initiatives push back on policies advanced by the Democrats in recent years including repealing the Climate Commitment Act, repealing the capital gains tax, allowing taxpayers to opt-in to the payroll tax that funds the Long Term Care Act, increasing parental rights and access to K-12 curriculum and student records, prohibiting the state or local governments from enacting an income tax, and allowing police officers to engage in vehicular pursuits on more occasions. For each initiative, the Legislature could choose whether to 1) adopt the initiative; 2) adopt an alternative to appear on the November ballot alongside the initiative; or 3) take no action and allow the initiative to advance to the November ballot for voter consideration. Initiatives adopted by the Legislature can be amended by future legislatures with a simple majority vote. Initiatives approved by voters at the ballot can only be amended with a 2/3 vote of the Legislature for two years after approval.

The Legislature chose to adopt three of the initiatives as part of an overarching strategy to increase the odds that voters will reject the remaining three initiatives. The Legislature adopted the following three initiatives:

- [I-2111](#) (prohibiting income tax)
- [I-2081](#) (parental rights)
- [I-2113](#) (vehicular pursuits)

The Legislature did not take action the following three initiatives and they will appear on the November ballot:

- [I-2117](#) (repealing the Climate Commitment Act)
- [I-2109](#) (repealing the capital gains tax)
- [I-2124](#) (opt out of Washington's long-term care retirement program)

As the second year of the two-year legislative biennium, 1,105 bills introduced during the 2023 session that were not passed into law were carried over for consideration during the 2024 session. In addition to those bills that carried over, an additional 1,560 bills were introduced. Of these, the Legislature passed 376 bills into law. A session can sometimes be defined by what did not pass; this year, several significant policies did not get across the finish line including capping rent rates, lowering the blood-alcohol-content for drunk driving, increasing the real estate excise tax to fund housing, increasing the 1% cap on property tax levies to 3%, and more.

In addition to considering the Initiatives to the Legislature and proposed legislation, the Legislature adopted supplemental budgets, making changes to the 2023-25 biennial budgets adopted during the 2023 legislative session. See the budget summary section for more information on the adopted budgets.

One of the major challenges facing the Legislature was the Climate Commitment Act, or Washington State cap-and-trade system for carbon emissions. The Legislature approved the Act in 2022, and the first auctions under the program started in 2023 generating significantly more revenue than was forecasted. This excess in revenue was countered with Initiative-2117, proposing to repeal the Act. Legislators balanced this by allocating Climate Commitment Act funds to several projects and programs but making those appropriations contingent on voters rejecting Initiative-2117.

Following the conclusion of the 2024 legislative session, legislators will transition to focusing on the November 2024 elections. All members of the House of Representatives and roughly half the members of the State Senate will face re-election. The end of the 2024 session brought about several announcements of legislators that do not plan to seek re-election:

- Senator Sam Hunt (D-Olympia) has served in the Legislature since 2000; Rep. Jessica Bateman has announced that she will run for the Senate seat, creating an open House seat.

- Senator Andy Billig (D-Spokane) has served in the Legislature since 2010; Rep. Marcus Riccelli has announced that he will run for the Senate seat, creating an open House seat.
- Senator Karen Keiser (D-SeaTac) has served in the Legislature since 1995.
- Senator Lynda Wilson (R-Vancouver) has served in the Legislature since 2015; Rep. Paul Harris has announced that he will run for the Senate seat, creating an open House seat.
- Representative JT Wilcox (R-Yelm) has served in the Legislature since 2011.
- Representative Joel Kretz (R-Wauconda) has served in the Legislature since 2005.
- Representative Spencer Hutchins (R-Gig Harbor) has served in the Legislature since 2023.
- Representative and former Speaker of the House Frank Chopp (D-Seattle) has served in the Legislature since 1994.

There are also several legislators who have announced they plan to run for higher office, and as a result will not be seeking re-election to their positions:

- Senator Mark Mullet (D-Issaquah) is running for Governor. Rep. Bill Ramos plans to run for the position, leaving an open House seat.
- Senator Kevin Van De Wege (D-Sequim) is running for Commissioner for Public Lands. Rep. Mike Chapman (D-Port Angeles) plans to run for the position, leaving an open House seat.
- Representative Jacquelin Maycumber (R-Republic) is running for the 5th Congressional Seat.
- Representative Kelly Chambers (R-Puyallup) is running for Pierce County Executive.

Still yet, there are legislators who are running for a statewide position but if they are unsuccessful in winning those races will be able to return to the Senate to continue out the remainder of their term (two more years). If they are successful, an appointment process will occur after the November 2024 elections to fill their seats prior to the January 2025 Legislative Session.

- Senator Manka Dhingra (D-Redmond) is running for Attorney General.
- Senator Patty Kuderer (D-Bellevue) is running for the Office of Insurance Commissioner.
- Senator Emily Randall (D-Bremerton) is running for the 6th Congressional Seat.
- Senator Drew MacEwen (R-Shelton) is running for the 6th Congressional Seat.
- Senator Rebecca Saldana (D-Seattle) is running for Commissioner for Public Lands.

Look toward filing week, May 6-10 for more news about who is choosing to file for state legislative offices. Filing week will be followed by the August 6th primary election, and the November 5th general election.

Between legislative retirements and re-election efforts, the Legislature will see yet another re-arranging of the deck chairs prior to the 2025 session. Following the November 5th general election, the Legislature will make new chair and committee assignments for the 2025-27 biennium.

Budget Highlights

Summary of 2024 Supplemental Budgets

The Legislature adopted 2024 supplemental budgets, which make mid-biennial budget adjustments to the 2023-25 budgets that were adopted in April 2023.

Operating Budget: The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget (click [here](#), labeled “As Passed Legislature”) spends \$1.1 billion to maintain existing programs, and an additional \$1 billion to fund new policy expenditures. The existing programs with the largest increase in cost include Medicaid medical assistance, the Food Assistance Program, K-12 enrollment, and compliance with the *Trueblood* case judgment. The largest new policy expenditures occurred in education and behavioral health.

Capital Budget: The 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget (click [here](#), labeled “As Passed Legislature”) allocates \$1.3 billion in total funds, with \$130.6 million from debt limit bonds and \$1.2 billion from other resources including \$688.4 million in Climate Commitment Act accounts and \$307.5 million from the Common School Construction Fund. Several of the appropriations are contingent on voters rejecting I-2117. The budget also does not appropriate revenue generated from the capital gains tax beyond November 2024.

Transportation Budget: The 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget (click [here](#), labeled “As Passed Legislature”) spends a total of \$14.6 billion, including \$340 million from Climate Commitment Accounts, which are contingent on voters rejecting I-2117. Funds were predominantly spent on projects already scheduled to receive funding during the 2023-25 biennium. This spending reflects a 0.8 percent decrease in traditional transportation revenues from what was originally forecasted for 2023-25.

Workgroups/Studies Newly Established in the 2024 Budgets

Review of Juvenile Rehabilitation Program: \$400,000 is allocated in the Supplemental Operating Budget (page 4) for the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee to review the Department of Children, Youth, and Families juvenile rehabilitation program. Report is due by June 30, 2026.

Legal Financial Obligations Study: \$165,000 is allocated in the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget (page 18) for the Washington State Center for Court Research of the Administrative Office of the Courts to continue the study on legal financial obligations charge by superior courts and courts of limited jurisdiction. Preliminary report is due November 30, 2024; final report is due by June 30, 2025.

Riparian Habitat: The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates an additional \$824,000 (page 27) to a 2023 task force on riparian habitat to convene a group of interested members of the Legislature to provide the task force with background information regarding recommendations submitted to the 2024 Legislature, and to support the development of implementation proposals. Report is due November 15, 2024.

Task Force on Extremism and Mass Violence: The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$247,000 (page 56) to the Attorney General's Office and the Department of Health to form a task force to provide recommendations to establish a comprehensive public health and community-based framework to combat extremism and mass violence. The report must be completed in the 2025-2027 biennium.

Multijurisdictional Drug Task Forces: \$50,000 is appropriated (page 94) to coordinate three roundtables to review policies, regulations, and fiscal investments regarding multijurisdictional drug task forces. Report due June 30, 2025.

Manufactured and Mobile Home Park: \$250,000 is allocated to conduct a study on funding structures to preserve manufactured and mobile home communities and nonprofit or cooperatively run affordable housing projects. Report due June 30, 2025. (page 102 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Calculation of Area Median Income: \$250,000 is allocated to the Department of Commerce to evaluate alternative methods for calculating average median household income. Report is due June 30, 2025. (page 108 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Off-Shore Wind Supply: \$250,000 is provided for a study to assess strategies necessary to engage in the offshore wind supply chain. The study is contingent on voters rejecting I-2117. Preliminary report due June 30, 2025; final report due November 30, 2025. (page 126 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Agritourism: \$250,000 is allocated to provide a study on how other states regulate and permit agritourism and to bring the advocates of interested groups together to resolve outstanding issues about permitting in agricultural areas, the sale of beer, wine, and cider, and the use of agricultural buildings for agritourism purposes. Report due to the Legislature by June 30, 2025. (page 153 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Department of Housing: \$250,000 is allocated to the Office of Financial Management to provide recommendations on the method and format for studying the transition to a Department of Housing. Report is due December 1, 2024 (page 180 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Vehicular Pursuit Data Collection: \$400,000 is allocated to the Office of Financial Management to contract with a consultant to collect, review, and analyze data related to vehicular pursuits and to compile a report. The report must include recommendations to

the Legislature on what data should be collected by law enforcement agencies throughout the state so that the Legislature and other policymakers have consistent and uniform information necessary to evaluate policies on pursuits. The report is due June 30, 2025. (page 178 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Broadband Universal Communications Report: \$75,000 is allocated to report on recommendations for updating the statutes pertaining to the universal communications services program. The report shall include the most efficient and cost effective technologies available to meet the state's broadband goals in rural areas. Report is due December 1, 2024. (page 204 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Earthquake and Tsunami Resilience: \$361,000 is allocated to conduct a study regarding statewide building code and construction standards pertaining to earthquake and tsunami resilience and recommendations for functional recovery of buildings and critical infrastructure directly following an earthquake. A preliminary report is due June 1, 2025 and a final report is due May 1, 2026. (page 208 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Electronic Title and Registration Study: \$150,000 is provided to the Department of Licensing to complete a study on the feasibility of implementing a process for the electronic submittal of title and registration documents within the current vehicle licensing model. The report is due to the Governor and the Legislature by September 1, 2025. (pages 47-48 of the 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget).

Transportation Planning Workforce Study: \$1 million is provided to the University of Washington's Washington State Transportation Center for several workforce training investments. Notably, \$81,000 is provided for the Center to conduct a statewide survey and analysis assessing workforce shortages for civil engineers, land surveyors, and related disciplines. An action plan and recommendations, developed with the House and Senate Transportation Committees, are due to the Legislature December 1, 2024. (page 4 of the 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget).

Zero-Emissions Electric Vehicle Infrastructure: WSDOT is directed to provide a report to the Transportation Committees of the Legislature estimating current biennial and future carbon reduction impacts resulting from zero-emission electric vehicles and supply equipment infrastructure funded by legislative investments by June 30, 2025. (page 5 of the 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget).

Road Usage Charge Next Steps: The Washington Transportation Commission completed a statewide road usage charge (RUC) pilot program, "Forward Drive," in 2023. \$250,00 is provided to the Commission to carry out engagement with Washington stakeholders on the results of the completed pilot program to inform next steps towards implementing a road usage charge. Recommendations must be submitted to the Legislature by December 1, 2024. (page 28 of the 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget).

Road Usage Charge/Dept. of Licensing: \$50,000 is provided for the Department of Licensing to conduct a study on the feasibility of implementing and administering a per-mile fee program. The study must identify staffing and resources needed to implement the program, and any possible technical investments. The final study is due to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31, 2025. (page 49 of the 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget).

Passenger Only Ferry Service: \$500,000 is provided for WSDOT to contract with a third party to evaluate options for the state to return to providing passenger only ferry service to support existing ferry service routes. The study must focus on the routes recommended for further 2020 study by PSRC on passenger only ferry service and well as San Juan County interisland service. The progress report is due October 30, 2024 and the final report is due June 1, 2025. (page 101 of the 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget).

Ferry 75 Workgroup: \$100,000 is provided for the Joint Transportation Committee to convene a workgroup in advance of Washington State Ferries (WSF) 75th Anniversary on June 1, 2026. The workgroup will review ferry funding requirements and options to increase dedicated funding sources for the ferry system. The final report is due to the Governor and Transportation Committees of the Legislature by June 1, 2026. (page 23 of the 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget).

Ferry Economic Impacts Study: \$140,000 is provided to the Western Washington University Center for Economic and Business Research to complete an economic study focused on several factors surrounding the Washington State Ferry System. The study must include impacts on a statewide and systemwide basis, on all 10 routes of service provided by Washington State Ferries. The study must specifically analyze the direct economic impacts of Washington State ferry system spending, and include peer-reviewed, estimated ranges of indirect impacts on economic activities supported by ferry fleets' movement in relation to tourism, labor, and commerce. The study must include a review of key factors impacting the overall economy of both the ferry-served communities and the state economy, which may include impacts on housing, health care costs and access, emergency response, climate resilience, and small business. The study is due to the Governor's Office and Transportation Committees of the Legislature by December 31, 2024. (page 7-8 of the 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget).

Legislative Agenda Items

Addressing the Drug Epidemic

Snohomish County placed a high priority on advocating for both preventative and remedial actions to address the epidemic of drug use. This aligned well with the Legislature's priorities for the session as both political parties acknowledged the growing fentanyl crisis in Washington State and passed legislation particularly targeted at young populations. A number of bills were enacted this session, along with significant investments targeting these issues:

Fentanyl Education: [House Bill 1956](#), sponsored by Representative Mari Leavitt (D-28th LD), directs the Secretary of Health to develop, implement, and maintain a statewide drug overdose prevention awareness campaign. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is required to develop, update, and distribute substance use prevention and awareness materials to schools. The OSPI must also update educational learning standards to include knowledge related to opioids and other life-threatening drug use. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$2.6 million to this bill and [Senate Bill 5906](#) (page 495-496), \$334,000 (page 675), \$125,000 (page 712), and \$75,000 (page 743) for the implementation of this bill.

Opioid Prevention Education: [House Bill 2112](#), sponsored by Representative Greg Nance (D-23rd LD), requires public and private institutes of higher education to provide opioid and fentanyl prevention education and awareness information to students. Higher education institutions must also provide naloxone and fentanyl strips, along with training for staff and residence halls on usage. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$412,000 (page 771), \$232,000 (page 793), \$232,000 (page 804), \$95,00 (page 807), \$22,000 (page 811), \$97,000 (page 822), and \$122,000 (page 828) for the implementation of this bill.

Opioid Education Campaign: [Senate Bill 5906](#), sponsored by Senator Lynda Wilson (R-17th LD), requires the Department of Health (DOH) to develop an ongoing drug overdose campaign, and to conduct a feasibility study for an opioid overdose prevention hotline. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$2.6 million (page 495-496) to implement this bill and [House Bill 1956](#).

Opioid Overdose Reversal Medication in Schools: [Senate Bill 5804](#), sponsored by Senator Patty Kuderer (D-48th LD), requires all schools to carry one set of opioid overdose reversal medication and adopt related policies. Reversal medication must be added to each school's first aid kit, and it instructs schools to include at least one location of the medication on the school's emergency map. Schools are also required to adopt an opioid-overdose policy. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$745,000 to the Department of Health for the purchase of naloxone and fentanyl test strips, for distribution to high schools and public institutions of higher education. The Department is encouraged to expand existing bulk purchasing and distribution arrangements with educational service districts. (page 489 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Child Opioid Exposure: [Senate Bill 6109](#), sponsored by Senator Claire Wilson (D-30th LD), establishes that a determination of imminent risk of physical harm to a child may include endangerment with high-potency synthetic opioids from a parent or guardian. Courts are required to give great weight to the lethality of and public health guidance regarding high-potency synthetic opioids during certain stages of child welfare proceedings where the court is determining whether a

child should be removed from a parent. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$479,000 (page 20), \$1,108,000 (page 23), \$156,000 (page 25), \$384,000 (page 496), \$3,490,000 (page 540), \$3,179,000 (page 562), and \$1,600,000 (page 562) for the implementation of this bill.

Drug Task Forces: \$2.7 million is allocated to continue to provide grant funding to local multijurisdictional task forces that previously received funding through the federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program. (page 94 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget). An additional \$50,000 is appropriated to coordinate three roundtables to review policies, regulations, and fiscal investments regarding multijurisdictional drug task forces. A report is due June 30, 2025.

Community Treatment: \$4.25 million is allocated for grants to community providers to increase opioid treatment program services, and new or additional funding is allocated for a large number of community treatment facilities that will provide opioid treatment (pages 23-26 of the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget).

Naloxone Vending Machines: \$900,000 is allocated to purchase dispensing machines for distribution of naloxone, fentanyl test strips, and other public health supplies. (page 417 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Community-Based Teams: \$1.5 million is allocated to establish high-intensity community-based teams serving people with opioid use disorder. The Health Care Authority is directed to prioritize funding to augment existing field-based teams funded with federal state opioid response grants. (page 415 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Rapid Methadone Induction Pilot Program: \$2 million is allocated to implement rapid methadone induction pilot programs to serve clients in hospitals electing to provide this service on an inpatient basis. (page 417 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Street Medicine Teams: \$5 million is allocated for the Health Care Authority to contract with five street medicine teams that rapidly assess and address the acute and chronic physical and behavioral health needs of homeless people. Funding is directly provided to King County, the City of Spokane, the City of Tacoma, the City of Everett, and Kitsap County. (page 217 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Tribal Opioid Response Task Force & Educational Materials: \$480,000 is allocated for a Washington state tribal opioid and fentanyl response task force. The task force shall review the laws and policies related to opioid and fentanyl use, illicit sale of opioids and fentanyl, jurisdictional authority, tribal exclusionary authority, and any related impacts affecting American Indian and Alaska native

people. A report is due June 30, 2025. (page 420 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget). An additional \$2 million is allocated for a tribal opioid prevention campaign to inform and educate tribal communities about opioid misuse prevention, overdose response, and treatment. (page 425 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget). The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is allocated \$900,000 to administer a pilot program to adopt opioid and fentanyl abuse prevention materials and resources. (page 750 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Naloxone for First Responders: \$1.25 million is allocated to the Department of Health to purchase a dedicated supply of naloxone for first responders across the state. (page 462 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget). An additional \$400,000 is allocated to provide increased support for EMS and fire departments in their opioid prevention efforts, including naloxone, leave-behind programs, overdose response communication, and staffing costs for community-based paramedics serving as navigators for education, resource, and follow-up supports. (page 487 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Health Department Awareness Campaigns: \$2 million is allocated to the Department of Health to administer grants to local health jurisdictions for opioid and fentanyl awareness, prevention, and education campaigns. An additional \$750,000 is allocated to Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to develop a comprehensive model toolkit that includes prevention, education, awareness, and policy strategies to address local opioid and fentanyl crisis response needs. (page 489 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Naloxone for Public Libraries: \$133,000 is allocated to the Department of Health to maintain a supply of naloxone for public libraries. (page 490 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Opioid Treatment for Incarcerated Individuals: \$4.458 million is allocated for opioid treatment for incarcerated individuals. Each and every single individual transferring into the department of corrections custody on full confinement is provided medications for opioid use disorder if they were on medications for opioid use disorder in jail or out of custody prior to their transfer to the Department of Corrections. (page 515 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Funding Transportation Priorities

Given the struggles in the state's Transportation Budget, Snohomish County anticipated that it might need to mount a significant defensive action in support of previously funded projects. While resources were in fact scarce, the final Supplemental Transportation Budget largely left projects in Snohomish County intact. The project schedule that accompanies the budget each year moved out funding for two projects on State Route 9 (the Marsh Road to 2nd Street project, and the State Route 204 Intersection project), but

these changes were driven by construction realities, not budget pressure. Neither project will be impacted by the budget change.

For the second year in a row, Snohomish County worked with the Legislature to include proviso language directing the State Department of Transportation to transfer rights of way on four frontage roads to County ownership. All segments have been maintained by the County for many years with the understanding that all properties had been deeded to the County decades ago. However, there are no records that the transfer was legally recorded. Governor Inslee vetoed this language from the 2023 Biennial Transportation Budget, and with the support of budget leaders and the Snohomish County delegation it was again included in the 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget.

Riverview Sports & Entertainment Facility Capital Budget Request

Snohomish County supported the City of Marysville's request for project planning and design of a 150,000 square foot indoor youth sports facility and entertainment center near the City's downtown core. The final Supplemental Capital Budget included the full request of \$309,000.

Additional Legislative Issues

Effective Dates

Unless otherwise noted, bills approved by the Legislature are effective 90 days from the adjournment of the legislative session. For 2024, that would make most bills effective June 6, 2024.

Public Safety

The Legislature continues to grapple with how best to balance police accountability with public safety. Within the Democrat caucus, some legislators want to advance more police accountability and reform measures while others would prefer to modify previously enacted reforms and invest in hiring more law enforcement personnel. This divide was pronounced during the 2023 session but became more entrenched during the 2024 session with the emergence of a bi-partisan, bi-cameral public safety caucus led by moderate Democrats. With the tension between these factions, only modest public safety proposals passed into law this session.

Initiative 2113 (Vehicular Pursuits): Initiatives to the Legislature are proposed changes to state law sponsored by the people of Washington. [House Bill 1054](#) from the 2021 session established a statewide standard for when police officers can engage in vehicular pursuits which included what factors must be considered when determining to engage in a pursuit and banning firing a weapon upon a moving vehicle unless necessary to prevent imminent threat. [Senate Bill 5352](#) from the 2023 session made further changes to the statute, expanding the list of eligible reasons to engage in a pursuit under the reasonable suspicion evidentiary threshold, direction as to when to end the pursuit and a requirement that the pursuing officer must have completed emergency vehicle operators'

course. [Initiative-2113](#) allows an officer to engage in a vehicular pursuit if they have reasonable suspicion to believe the driver has violated the law. The initiative makes no other changes to the vehicular pursuits law.

Vehicular Pursuit Data Collection: \$400,000 is allocated to the Office of Financial Management to contract with a consultant to collect, review, and analyze data related to vehicular pursuits and to compile a report. The report must include recommendations to the Legislature on what data should be collected by law enforcement agencies throughout the state so that the Legislature and other policymakers have consistent and uniform information necessary to evaluate policies on pursuits. The report is due June 30, 2025. (page 178 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Law Enforcement Recruitment & Retention: Law enforcement advocates, including the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, advocating for increased funding to hire law enforcement officers. [House Bill 2231](#) proposed providing cities and counties with a credit against the state sales tax to fund officers, while [House Bill 2211/Senate Bill 6076](#) would have authorized cities and counties to councilmanically increase the sales tax to fund public safety. While introduced, none of these proposals advanced significantly through the legislative process. Even more modest proposals, such as [Senate Bill 6242](#), permanently eliminating the 25% city/county cost share for sending officers to the Basic Law Enforcement Academy did not advance. However, this change was temporarily funded in the budget and is in effect July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. During the 2023 session, the Legislature established regional academies to augment the Burien Criminal Justice Training Commission. In 2024, the Legislature provided further direction to expedite the siting and development of facilities by changing the location of a regional facility from Skagit County to Snohomish County.

Basic Law Enforcement Academy Donations: [Senate Bill 6301](#), sponsored by Senator John Lovick (D-44th LD), allows the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) to accept donated money or properties for the purpose of carrying out CJTC's statutory purposes.

Flexibility for Hiring Law Enforcement Officers: [Senate Bill 6157](#), sponsored by Senator John Lovick (D-44th LD), allows Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) residents to apply for civil service and law enforcement positions. Agencies who hire DACA recipients are protected from liability for breach of contract if there is a change in federal law related to DACA recipients. [House Bill 1530](#), sponsored by Representative Julio Cortes (D-38th LD), allows law enforcement agencies to hire lawful permanent residents. [Senate Bill 5424](#), sponsored by Senator John Lovick (D-44th LD), allows law enforcement officers to work part-time hours. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$99,000 to the Department of Retirement Systems for the implementation of Senate Bill 5424 (page 185 of the Supplemental Operating Budget).

Police Accountability Efforts: Police accountability advocates continued to push for measures to hold police accountable for their actions. Several bills from the 2023 session carried over for consideration in the 2024 session but did not pass into law, including [House Bill 1579](#), establishing independent prosecutions to align with the new Office of Independent Investigations that was established in 2021. Also, [House Bill 1445](#), authorizing the Attorney General’s Office to bring actions against local law enforcement agencies for violations of the law and [House Bill 1025](#), establishing a civil cause of action for officer misconduct. The Legislature did approve two noteworthy accountability bills:

Did Not Advance: In addition, several Legislators continued to push policies to decriminalize certain actions, including jay walking ([Senate Bill 5383](#)), and dismissal of misdemeanors following completion of court ordered conditions ([House Bill 1994](#)). While the Legislature considered these proposals, neither advanced out of their chamber of origin. With passage of the initiative, the Legislature did not move forward [House Bill 2390](#), sponsored by Representative Clyde Shavers (D-10th LD), which would have created a new crime for attempting to elude a police vehicle.

Emphasis Efforts for Specific Crimes: The Legislature considered specific bills to address noteworthy areas of emphasis, including [Senate Bill 5160](#), regarding retail theft. Legislation related to catalytic converters, graffiti, and others made it across the finish line:

Catalytic Converters: [House Bill 2153](#), sponsored by Representative Cindy Ryu (D-32nd LD), deters the theft of catalytic converters by establishing new felony and gross misdemeanor crimes for trafficking, processing, selling, or offering to sell stolen catalytic converters. To determine if selling a catalytic converter is stolen or not, VIN numbers can be written on catalytic converters before a legal sale if the buyer requests it. Only licensed scrap processors are allowed to disassemble or de-can a catalytic converter. The Washington State Patrol is required to conduct periodic inspections of licensed purchases of catalytic converters that have been removed from vehicles. The 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget allocates \$46,000 (page 37) to the Washington State Patrol for the implementation of the bill.

Speed Safety Camera Systems: [SB 6115](#), sponsored by Senator Curtis King (R-14th LD), is Department of Transportation (WSDOT) request legislation. The bill modifies the administration, penalty structure, and enforcement of speed safety camera system violations in state highway work zones. It requires the WSDOT to make a website to educate the public about the speed safety camera system. The WSDOT is also required to conduct a public awareness campaign to inform the public of the use of speed safety camera systems during the 30-day period after the first speed safety camera system is put in place and requires speed safety camera systems to be processed in the same manner as parking infractions generally. The 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget allocates \$38,000 to implement this bill (page 49).

Organized Retail Crime: The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$1,000,000 for a pilot program to respond to organized retail crime. A report due June 15, 2025. (page 103 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

DNA Testing: \$500,000 is allocated for local jurisdictions to conduct DNA testing for unidentified remains and for those remains that failed to yield a CODIS match. The purpose of this funding is to provide sufficient funding to eliminate the backlog of unidentified remains awaiting testing. (page 654 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Courts/Public Defenders/Prosecutors: Leading up to session, counties – especially those in Eastern Washington – indicated a challenge in recruiting public defenders and prosecutors. In response, legislators introduced a variety of ideas including incrementally increasing the state’s contribution to public defense costs over time ([Senate Bill 5773](#)) and creating a state program to assist local governments with public defense costs ([House Bill 2202](#)). These are just two of the many proposals that did not advance, below are those that did pass the Legislature.

Public Defense: [Senate Bill 5780](#), sponsored by Senator Nikki Torres (R-15th LD), expands training opportunities for public defense. The bill directs the Office of Public Defense to administer a law student rural public defense program, expand capacity for its defense training academy program, and directs the Criminal Justice Training Commission to provide a similar program for prosecutors and the administration of a law student rural public prosecution program. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$611,000 (page 23) and \$694,000 (page 433) to implement this bill.

The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$442,000 (page 22) for the Office of Public Defense to administer a public defense recruitment program. The program should engage with students at colleges and law schools; provide technical assistance and training to public defense and offer recruitment strategies.

Office of Public Defense: [House Bill 1911](#), sponsored by Representative Jamila Taylor (D-30th LD), amends the statute prohibiting the Office of Public Defense (OPD) from providing direct representation of clients by allowing managing and supervising attorneys within the OPD to provide limited, short-term coverage of initial client consultations if contracted counsel is not available to provide the consultation services. The bill also allows OPD to coordinate with law schools to place law clerks, externs, and interns with OPD contracted counsel, and allows OPD to provide pro bono legal services.

Court Reorganizations: [House Bill 2034](#), sponsored by Representative Cheney (R-18th LD), requires counties and cities to provide the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) with notice of court reorganizations and amends portions of the [RCW 3.50](#) relating to municipal courts. Newly established municipal courts must

wait six months after the notice of intent to create a new court is sent to the Office before having jurisdiction over any matter. A notice of intent to terminate a court must be sent to the office six months in advance of the termination date.

Legal Financial Obligations Study: \$165,000 is allocated in the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget (page 18) for the Washington State Center for Court Research of the Administrative Office of the Courts to continue the study on legal financial obligations charge by superior courts and courts of limited jurisdiction. Preliminary report is due November 30, 2024; final report is due by June 30, 2025.

Jails: In the 2021-23 Operating Budget, a Joint Legislative Task Force on Jail Standards was established to make recommendations on statewide minimum jail standards, over right, and other policy changes to ensure jail conditions meet state and federal constitutional and statutory standards and restore a statewide authority to set minimum jail standards and inspect jails. [Senate Bill 6189](#) was introduced as a result of recommendations from the Task Force. The bill would have created a Jail Oversight Board within the Office of the Governor to monitor jails, investigate and receive complaints, and maintain a statewide jail reporting system. The bill did not advance forward, and generally speaking, very little legislation impacting jails passed into law.

Local Government Cost Recovery for Court Community Supervision Orders: \$270,000 is allocated to contract with a third-party expert to examine jail rates needed by local governments to recover the cost of housing individuals under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections who have violated the conditions of their court community supervision order. Report is due October 1, 2024 (page 509 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Tribal Warrants: [Senate Bill 6146](#), sponsored by Senator Manka Dhingra (D-45th LD), establishes a process for state law enforcement officers to enforce tribal arrest warrants and a process for detention facilities to notify tribal authorities when the release of the person under a tribal arrest warrant is imminent. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$15,000 (page 499), \$90,000 (page 509), and \$3,000 (page 511) to the implementation of this bill.

Incarcerated Individual Communication Rates: \$140,000 allocated to complete market research on incarcerated individual communication rates in the United States. The market research must include detail by state on the amount each state pays to the vendor contracted to provide communications services and rates and rate structures for incarcerated individuals. Report due to the Legislature by December 31, 2024. (page 173 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Juvenile Points in Sentencing: \$100,000 is allocated to the Department of Corrections to complete a comprehensive review of all sentences and identify each inmate whose juvenile points were used in calculating their current offender

score. Each county will receive a list by September 1, 2024 (page 507 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Emergency Management: The following are emergency-management related bills enacted during the 2024 Legislative Session:

County Emergency Management Plans: [Senate Bill 6164](#), sponsored by Senator Keith Wagoner (R-39th LD), requires local organizations that produce a local comprehensive emergency management plan to include a communication plan and expeditious notifications to residents at risk during hazardous materials spills. The bill limits communication and public meetings to only Type 1 and Type 2 hazardous spills. The Department of Ecology is also required to provide the public meetings, rather than the local emergency management organization.

Mutual Aid System: [House Bill 1978](#), sponsored by Representative Alicia Rule (R-42nd LD), includes special purpose districts and junior taxing districts as eligible jurisdictions in the Interstate Mutual Aid System.

Emergency Management Infrastructure Assistance Program: [House Bill 2020](#), sponsored by Representative Joe Timmons (D-42nd LD), is agency-request legislation from the Military Department. It creates a state administered public infrastructure assistance program to provide assistance to counties and tribal governments for costs associated with disaster related response if public infrastructure is damaged during a Governor's emergency proclamation. The bill allows the Military Department to initiate rulemaking to implement the program's funds from county governments to recipients within the county. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$250,000 for the implementation of this bill (page 208).

Earthquake and Tsunami Resilience: \$361,000 is allocated to conduct a study regarding statewide building code and construction standards pertaining to earthquake and tsunami resilience and recommendations for functional recovery of buildings and critical infrastructure directly following an earthquake. A preliminary report is due June 1, 2025 and a final report is due May 1, 2026. (page 208 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Behavioral Health

Leading up to the 2024 Legislative Session, a federal court fined Washington State \$100 million for its failure to comply with a settlement agreement associated with the *Trueblood* court decision. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget reflects paying that fine and continuing to invest in behavioral health by a total of \$660 million. The Legislature also considered ways to increase the behavioral health care workforce by expanding services and training for co-responders as outlined in [House Bill 2245](#). Although this bill did not advance, the Legislature passed the following bills pertaining to the behavioral health care system.

Crisis Relief Center Model: [Senate Bill 5853](#), sponsored by Senator Manka Dhingra (D-45th LD), allows 23-hour Crisis Relief Centers (CRCs) to serve children. This model of care was approved for adults in the 2023 session with the passage of [Senate Bill 5120](#). The bill requires 23-hour CRCs that treat child and adult clients to have separate entrances, internal entrances, spaces, and treatment areas with no contact between the children and adult clients. The Department of Health is directed to create licensure and certification rules for CRCs that provide services to children. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$134,000 for the implementation of Senate Bill 5853 (page 493).

Substance Use Disorder Treatment: [Senate Bill 6228](#), sponsored by Senator Manka Dhingra (D-45th LD), requires health plans to authorize at least 14 days of inpatient or residential substance use disorder treatment on the first utilization review, and at least seven days on subsequent reviews. In an effort to increase behavioral health care providers, the bill caps certification fees for substance use disorder professionals (SUDPs) and SUDP trainees at \$100 until July 1, 2029. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$195,00 (page 195), \$611,00 for fiscal year 2025 and \$462,000 solely for implementing this bill (page 424), \$175,000 (page 495), and \$214,000 for fiscal year 2025 (page 793).

Coordination Between BH-ASOs: [Senate Bill 6251](#), sponsored by Senator Manka Dhingra (D-45th LD), allows behavioral health administrative service organizations (BH-ASOs) to serve as the primary system coordinators within each of the ten regional service areas and convene regional partners and stakeholders to develop protocols for coordination of the behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention system. It requires 988 contact hubs to enter data-sharing agreements with regional crisis lines that include real-time information sharing. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$282,000 for fiscal year 2025 and \$253,000 solely for this bill's implementation (page 424), and \$2.2 million (page 495).

Extending Liability Protections: [House Bill 2088](#), sponsored by Representative Tina Orwall (D-33rd LD), is request legislation by the Health Care Authority. This bill extends liability protections for responders dispatched from mobile rapid response crisis teams and community-based crisis teams and applies to responders transporting patients to behavioral health services. Individuals will have immunity when acting in good faith within the scope of the individual's employment responsibilities.

Siting of Behavioral Health Facilities: Funding is allocated to retain a behavioral health facility siting administrator to coordinate the development of effective behavioral health housing options and provide technical assistance in siting facilities. (page 115 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Olympic Heritage Behavioral Health Campus: The Capital Budget provides \$30 million for the purchase of the Olympic Heritage Behavioral Health Facility, and \$25 million is provided for modernization. (page 87 of the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget). In the Operating Budget, \$134 million is allocated to operate 72 beds and three wards in the facility. \$1.25 million is allocated to conduct a study on the future long-term uses of the Olympic heritage behavioral health campus. (page 175 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

State Behavioral Health Facilities: \$20 million is allocated to operate an additional 30 beds at Western State Hospital. \$9.3 million is allocated to operate an additional 8 beds at Eastern State Hospital. (page 244 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget). An additional \$800,000 in capital funding is provided for rapid bed capacity at the Maple Lane facility. (page 88 of the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget).

Adolescent Facility: \$15 million is allocated to the Department of Social and Human Services to operate a staff secure, voluntary, and transitional treatment facility specializing in services for adolescents over the age of 13 who have complex developmental, intellectual disabilities, for autism spectrum disorder and may also have a mental health or substance use diagnosis. Youth shall enter the facility by their own consent or the consent of their guardian. A preliminary report is due November 1, 2024 and a final report is due June 30, 2025. (page 259 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Trueblood Fines: \$100 million is allocated to pay the court order filed July 7, 2023 issued in the case of Trueblood which requires the department to pay all fines. (page 244 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Community Based Behavioral Health Beds: \$48 million additional is provided for specific facilities in communities across the state. (page 23 of the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget).

Trueblood Phase 3 Facility: \$10 million is provided for a crisis stabilization facility to comply with Trueblood Phase 3 implementation. (page 45 of the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget).

Civil Conversion Cases: \$100,000 is allocated for the research and data analysis to analyze historical trends of admissions for felony civil conversion cases based on behavioral health administrative service organization regions. A report is due November 1, 2024 and shall include a recommendation about how best to predict and model future admissions for this population by region. (page 303 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Pre-Release Services: \$120 million is dedicated to prerelease services for incarcerated individuals including, but not limited to, case management, clinical consultations, medication assisted therapy, community health worker services,

30-day supply of medications, durable medical equipment, medications, laboratory services, and radiology services. (page 328 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Recovery Navigator Services: \$2.5 million is allocated to expand recovery navigator program services. (page 400 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Housing and Homelessness

The 2023 Legislature made historic investments in housing and homelessness programs. The 2024 Legislature built on those investments:

Homeless Housing Programs: \$34 million is allocated to local governments for homeless housing programs and services. Of this amount, \$19 million is allocated to three specific projects. (page 99 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Housing Assistance: \$23,688,000 is allocated for housing assistance, including long-term rental subsidies, permanent supportive housing, and low and no barrier housing beds for unhoused individuals. Priority must be given to individuals with a mental health disorder, substance use disorder, or other complex conditions; individuals with a criminal history; and individuals transitioning from behavioral health treatment facilities or local jails (page 62 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Emergency Housing Assistance: \$2 million is allocated for grants to cities, counties, or nonprofit organizations to support individuals in need of emergency housing assistance. Funds distributed in coordination with the Governor's Office. (page 94 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Homeownership: \$1.5 million is allocated for contracts with organizations to increase homeownership. Additionally, \$500,000 is allocated to the Housing Finance Commission to develop a plan with specific strategies to increase homeownership. (page 97 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Calculating Average Median Household Income: \$250,000 is allocated to the Department of Commerce to evaluate alternative methods for calculating average median household income. Report is due June 30, 2025. (page 108 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Department of Housing: \$250,000 is allocated to the Office of Financial Management to provide recommendations on the method and format for studying the transition to a Department of Housing. Report is due December 1, 2024 (page 180 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Housing Trust Fund: \$11 million is provided in the Supplemental Capital Budget for affordable housing projects through the Housing Trust Fund. This is in addition to the \$170 million provided in the biennial budget. (page 12 of the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget). \$8.5 million is provided for affordable housing projects that serve intellectual or developmental disabilities, in addition to the \$25 million provided last session (page 13 of the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget).

Mobile Home Park Cooperative Grants: \$10 million is provided for grants to the Northwest Cooperative Development Center to provide grants for the acquisition and preservation of mobile of manufactured home cooperative communities. This is in addition to the \$4 million provided last session. In addition, \$3.5 million additional funding is provided to the Center for cooperatives to complete capital improvement processes. This section of the Capital Budget also includes over \$31 million additional dollars for community-specific projects. (page 15 of the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget).

Emergency Shelters: \$20 million is appropriated to acquire, renovate, and prepare property for rapid conversion into enhanced emergency shelters, permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, permanent housing, youth housing, tiny homes or other shelter. \$40 million was provided last session. (page 16 of the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget).

Affordable Housing Repair Grants: \$5 million additional funding is provided for urgent repair grants for affordable housing projects. This is in addition to \$25 million provided in the biennial budget. (page 17 of the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget).

While the Legislature considered several bold policies, such as [House Bill 2114](#), capping rent increases, and [House Bill 2276](#), generating increased revenue through changes to the state real estate excise tax, legislators chose to proceed forward with a more subdued approach. Even more modest proposals including [House Bill 2270](#), proposing to create a Department of Housing separate from the current Department of Commerce; [Senate Bill 5334](#), authorizing cities to impose a 10% tax on short term rentals; [House Bill 2353](#), allowing all counties and cities to utilize the multifamily tax exemption program; and [Senate Bill 6030](#) extending an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) property tax exemption currently available in King County to all counties, did not advance.

Below are those proposals that did pass into law:

Extreme Weather Events: [House Bill 1012](#), sponsored by Representative Mari Leavitt (D-28th LD), provides resources for local governments to provide services during extreme weather events. The Military Department can also purchase temporary shelters to loan out to political subdivisions when assisting with extreme weather events. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$1.5 million for the implementation of this bill (page 207).

Multiunit Residential Buildings Definition: [Senate Bill 5792](#), sponsored by Senator Mike Padden (R-4th LD), excludes buildings with 12 or fewer units that are no more than three stories from the definition of multiunit residential building if one story is utilized for above or below ground parking, or retail space. The bill is intended to address the condominium construction deficit.

Manufactured/Mobile Homes: [Senate Bill 6059](#), sponsored by Senator Noel Frame (D-36th LD), updates notification requirements for notices of opportunity to compete to purchase a mobile home park or a manufactured community. It removes restrictions for tenants who receive assistance from an outside source that exceeds the maximum amount of assistance to which a person is entitled under the Relocation Coordination Programs. The Department of Commerce will also be notified of park closures or conversions.

Affordable Housing /.09 Funds: [House Bill 1987](#), sponsored by Representative Low (R-39th LD), clarifies that rural county sales tax dollars (.09 funds) can be used for land banking and that funds may be used by non-profit providers to construct workforce housing.

Housing Affordability Tax Incentives: [Senate Bill 6175](#), sponsored by Senator Yasmin Trudeau (D-27th LD), establishes a local option sales and use tax deferral for projects that convert commercial buildings to residential purposes and dedicate 10% of the units to households making 80% of the area median income or less. The bill also clarifies that commercial/non-residential buildings being converted to residential under the Multifamily Property Tax Exemption program. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$54,000 for fiscal year 2025 to implement this bill (page 103).

Affordable Homeownership Unit Development: [Senate Bill 6173](#), sponsored by Senator Twina Nobles (D-28th LD), allows local jurisdictions to use revenue from the affordable and supportive housing sales and use tax for housing and services for people whose income is at or below 80% of the median income of the local jurisdiction that imposes the tax. This is applicable only if the affordable housing development is for owner occupied properties.

Housing Authorities: [House Bill 1890](#), sponsored by Representative Emily Alvarado (D-34th LD), allows legislative authorities that have created housing authorities prior to June 5, 2024, to form joint housing authorities composed of two or more city governments without county authorization.

Workforce Housing Accelerator: [House Bill 1892](#), sponsored by Representative Mari Leavitt (D-28th LD), creates the Workforce Housing Accelerator Revolving Loan Fund Program within the Department of Commerce. The Department of Commerce will administer loans to eligible organizations to assist with the development of housing for low-income households.

Property Tax Exemptions for Nonprofits: [House Bill 2012](#), sponsored by Representative Chipalo Street (D-37th LD), allows voter-approved levy lid lifts, and certain city and county funds as qualifying funding sources for a project to receive the nonprofit housing property tax exemption.

Human Services

Through the leadership of Snohomish County's Human Services Department, the County supported two measures that were enacted by the Legislature in 2024:

Streamlining Access to Early Childhood Education and Childcare Programs: [House Bill 1945](#) passed with bipartisan support and provides that the age and income eligibility requirements for the Early Childhood Education Assistance Program and the Working Connections Child Care Program are met for children who receive federal or state basic food assistance.

Expanding Access to Early Childhood Education and Childcare Programs: [House Bill 2124](#) also passed with bipartisan support and will make it easier for families to meet the criteria of the Working Connections Child Care Program.

Immigration and Detention

In recent years, the Legislature has prioritized policies to uplift immigrant and refugee communities, including expanding eligibility to Medicaid. The 2024 session brought about two notable policy changes to support these communities:

Assisting Refugees and Immigrants: [House Bill 2368](#), sponsored by Representative Mia Gregerson (D-33rd LD), requires the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to coordinate state, federal, and local efforts to support the economic and social integration of immigrants and refugees arriving and resettling in Washington. The DSHS will provide refugees with cash assistance, medical assistance, and support services. Additionally, DSHS is authorized to administer services to immigrants who don't qualify for federally funded services. The DSHS will also be the lead agency for the administrative plan for refugee resettlement. Finally, it requires DSHS to coordinate with local, state, federal, and other stakeholders, and for DSHS to engage with impacted communities to determine an equitable funding distribution and contracting process.

Immigration not an Obstacle to Professional Licenses: [House Bill 1889](#), sponsored by Representative Walen (D-48th LD), allows persons to receive professional licenses and certifications regardless of immigration or citizenship status by permitting the utilization of an individual taxpayer number in lieu of a Social Security Number. The 2024 Supplemental Budget allocates \$55,000 to implement this bill (page 651).

Funding: The final 2024 Operating Budget also made several investments to support immigrant and refugee populations:

- \$5 million is allocated to King County to provide transitional and long term housing supports for unsheltered, recently-arrived individuals and families. (page 65 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).
- \$2.5 million is allocated to the City of Tukwila for costs incurred related to unsheltered, recently-arrived individuals and families. (page 69 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).
- \$470,000 is allocated to a Seattle-based community center to assist Eastern European refugees and immigrants to provide short term housing assistance, immigration services, and support to individuals in Washington who fled the Ukraine-Russia conflict.
- \$25 million is provided to the Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance to expand support services for individuals newly arriving to the United States and Washington who do not qualify for federal refugee resettlement program services. Support services include, but are not limited to, housing assistance, food, transportation, childhood education services, education and employment supports, connection to legal services, and social services navigation. (page 298 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Land Use

The 2023 Legislature approved a slew of bills preempting local governments on land use. The 2024 Legislature introduced many bills to continue that trend, but many of them failed to get across the finish line, including: [House Bill 2160](#) regarding transit-oriented development; [House Bill 1245](#) requiring lot splitting; [House Bill 2252](#) allowing businesses in residential areas, and; [House Bill 2474/House Bill 2113](#) requiring Commerce approval of local housing development regulations. The Legislature approved several more modest proposals that still contained preemption of local land use:

Residential Parking: [Senate Bill 6015](#), sponsored by Senator Sharon Shewmake (D-42nd LD), requires cities and counties to allow certain parking configurations to satisfy parking requirements for residential development. For example, the bill states that a city cannot require parking to be enclosed or require a garage or carport, and that parking spaces that count towards minimum parking requirements can be enclosed or unenclosed. Tandem parking must be allowed to count toward parking minimums, and a city may not require parking spaces to be greater than 8 feet by 20 feet, except for parking for individuals with disabilities. It also specifies that the existence of non-conforming gravel surfacing in existing designated parking areas may be used to meet local parking standards for buildings with six parking spaces or less. Additionally, cities may not require off-street parking as a condition of permitting a residential project if compliance with tree retention would otherwise make a proposed residential development or redevelopment infeasible. To implement this bill, the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$57,000 for fiscal year 2025 (page 119).

Co-Living Housing Bill: [House Bill 1998](#), sponsored by Representative Mia Gregerson (D-33rd LD), requires cities and counties to adopt regulations or controls to allow co-living housing. The bill requires cities and counties to allow co-living housing on any lot within an Urban Growth Area that allows at least six multifamily residential units. Additionally, a city or county may not treat a sleeping unit in co-living housing as more than one-half of a dwelling unit for purposes of calculating fees for sewer connections unless the city or county makes a finding, based on facts, that the connection fees should exceed the one-half threshold.

Residential Housing Regulations: [House Bill 2071](#), sponsored by Representative Davina Duerr (D-1st LD), concerns residential housing regulations. The bill directs the State Building Code Council to convene two technical advisory groups: one to recommend changes to apply the Washington State Residential Code to multiplex housing, and another to recommend changes needed to the International Building Code (IBC) to allow dwelling units with less than 190 square feet. Additionally, the Office of Regulatory and Innovation Assistance is directed to develop an optional standard energy code plan set that meets or exceeds all energy code regulations for residential housing, subject to the international residential code. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$225,000 (page 31) and \$180,00 (page 215) for the implementation of this bill.

In addition to those preemptory bills, there are several land use related bills that the Legislature approved to assist local governments:

Limited Areas of More Intensive Rural Development: [Senate Bill 6140](#), sponsored by Senator Shelly Short (R-7th LD), provides an exemption for the square footage requirements for new or existing retail or service space within a limited area of more intensive rural development (LAMIRD), given the area is located at least 10 miles from an existing urban growth area (UGA) and provides an essential rural retail service. The bill also requires that an existing retail or food service space in a LAMIRD at least ten miles from a UGA must not exceed the footprint of the previously occupied space or 10,000 square feet, whichever is greater.

Urban Growth Area Swaps: [Senate Bill 5834](#), sponsored by Senator Shelly Short (R-7th LD) relates to urban growth areas (UGAs). The bill allows counties to conduct a “UGA swap” during the annual review of a comprehensive plan if the county determines that patterns of development have created pressure in areas that exceed the available and developable lands within the UGA. Specific language is included addressing tribal consultation, critical areas, and requiring a two-year waiting period if the swap includes areas designated as agricultural, forest, or mineral resource lands of long-term commercial significance. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$16,000 for fiscal year 2024 and \$46,000 for fiscal year 2025 for implementation of this bill (page 119).

Wildland Urban Interface Fix: [Senate Bill 6120](#), sponsored by Senator Kevin Van De Wege (D-24th LD), is a “fix” to address concerns with past legislation. The bill changes the Wildland Urban Interface Code to make necessary fire safety updates in the state building code standards. The bill requires a revised map of areas at greatest risk of wildland fire, instead of the wildland urban interface which applies much more broadly. Further, it also allows counties, cities, and towns to complete their own map of areas at greatest risk of wildfire when applying these fire safety codes, so long as substantially similar criteria is applied. Counties, cities, and towns issuing commercial and residential building permits in areas identified as high risk or very high risk on the map must only apply the fire safety code considerations in these areas. The State Building Code Council may not adopt more restrictive fire safety requirements than what is included in statute. Finally, the Department of Natural Resources is required to develop a method by which local governments may update the wildfire hazard map and the wildfire risk map. The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$307,000 for fiscal year 2025 to implement this bill (page 636).

Environmental and Land Use Appeals: [House Bill 2039](#), sponsored by Representative Joe Fitzgibbon (D-34th LD), modifies the process for direct review by the court of appeals for decisions issued by environmental boards that relate to clean energy projects. The bill extends, without expiration, the current process for direct review by the court of appeals for decisions issued by the environmental boards that do not relate to clean energy projects. Finally, it authorizes the consolidation of appeals arising out of the same projects when certain criteria are met, and it modifies the jurisdiction of the pollution control hearings board to hear appeals arising from specified environmental laws.

State Building Code Council: [Senate Bill 6291](#), sponsored by Senator Lynda Wilson (R-17th LD), is bi-partisan legislation establishing criteria and altering the process for adopting statewide amendments to the state building code. The bill requires that the State Building Code Council (Council) adopt amendments on a 3-year cycle, in line with their existing 3-year model code adoption cycle. Substantive amendments may only be made once during the update cycle and must meet one of the following criteria: necessary to preserve public health, safety, or welfare; clarifies the intent or application of the state building code; necessary for consistency with federal laws or regulations; directed by the Legislature; corrects errors or omissions; eliminates an obsolete or conflicting regulation. The Council may not adopt amendments that differ substantially from the version of an amendment that is publicly heard. An interim code cycle may only be initiated to consider amendments that correct errors and omissions or eliminate obsolete, conflicting, or redundant regulations. Emergency amendments may be made when necessary to preserve public health, safety, or welfare, or for consistency with state or federal laws or regulations. The Council cannot act on emergency amendments at the meeting in which it is introduced. Additionally, the bill makes several changes to Council membership and

organization, including clarifying that ex officio members do not count towards quorum, for purposes of calling special meetings, or voting thresholds. The bill also allows the Council to appoint technical advisory groups to review petitions for statewide amendments.

Integration of Special Purpose Districts into the Growth Management Act: \$250,000 is allocated to convene a task force to make recommendations to integrate water, sewer, school, and port districts into the Growth Management Act (GMA). Preliminary report due June 30, 2025; final report due December 1, 2025. (page 117 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Permitting Workforce: \$25,000 is allocated to the state board for community and technical colleges to collaborate with a nonprofit, professional association of state, county, city, and town officials engaged in development, enforcement, and administration of building construction codes and ordinances to design and implement training programs to accelerate the hiring of city and county permit technicians. (page 770 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Siting of Permanent Supportive Housing and Emergency Shelter: \$600,000 is allocated for the Department of Commerce to provide technical assistance in planning for and siting permanent supportive housing and emergency housing facilities, including providing dispute resolution services. The Department is tasked with providing a report by March 1, 2025 on which local governments received funding and resolution status for disputes resolved. (page 117 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Transit-Oriented Development: \$250,000 is provided to the Joint Transportation Committee to contract out to complete a review of transit-oriented development conditions in cities in King, Pierce, Spokane, Clark, and Snohomish Counties over 12,500 in population that have at least one major transit stop. The review must look at comprehensive plans, housing-focused tax and fee programs, and development regulations required to be adopted on or before December 31, 2024. It must include examples of local or national best practices for transit-oriented affordable and workforce housing development. The report must include recommendations for state policies to expand transit-oriented development, minimizing displacement of existing communities, and ensuring affordability. The review is due to the Legislature by June 30, 2025. (page 24 of the 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget).

Environment & Natural Resources

The Legislature continued its interest in issues relating to environmental protection and natural resource management. They did not pass [House Bill 2049](#) which would have placed new requirements on packaging producers to participate and fund the collection and management of products through producer responsibility organizations, or [Senate Bill 6143](#), that would have required cities and counties to update critical area ordinances

and ensure their consistency with new salmon conservation and restoration guidelines developed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Notable items that did pass include:

Organic Material Management Systems: [House Bill 2301](#), sponsored by Representative Beth Doglio (D-22nd LD), makes various changes related to organic material management. The bill creates and modifies existing grant programs for projects and programs that reduce food waste, policy implementation, and compost products. Organic material collection requirements in certain jurisdictions and certain businesses are modified. Bin colors for solid waste collection services must be standardized across local governments. The bill also makes technical changes and changes to product labeling. To implement this bill the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$106,000 (page 58), \$1.645 million (page 592), \$1.335 million (page 592), and \$3.176 million (page 644). These investments are contingent upon voters rejecting I-2117.

Forestland Acquisition: \$5.75 million is provided for the acquisition and conservation of structurally complex, carbon-dense forestland in four specific state forests in western Washington. One of those areas is the Stillaguamish watershed in Snohomish County. While an earlier version of the proviso referenced specific areas within the County, the final language is more broad. (page 113 of the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget).

Fish Barrier Removal: \$22 million for culvert replacement projects is provided in the Supplemental Capital Budget which is in addition to the \$48 million appropriated in the biennial budget (page 103). These resources are provided from the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) and are null and void if the CCA is repealed.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Projects: An additional \$25 million is provided through the Supplemental Capital Budget, but is null and void if the CCA is repealed (page 99).

Community Forest Projects: Two additional community forest projects receive \$5.77 million in the Supplemental Capital Budget (page 101). The funding is null and void if the CCA is repealed.

Water Right Mapping: \$206,000 is allocated to develop a statewide web map tool to integrate the Department's water resources management database. The web map must provide the public with an interactive online mapping system focused on water resource data that enables users to access, visualize, and use improved water data. (page 591 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Groundwater Modeling: \$400,000 is allocated to develop a groundwater modeling publication to provide consistency in the Department's evaluation of groundwater models submitted for water right permitting actions and ensure

continued transparency to water right applicants. (page 593 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Municipal Water Conservation Statute: \$298,000 is allocated to the Ruckelshaus Center to evaluate and recommend actions to increase the effectiveness of the state's municipal water conservation statute. Recommendations may be informed by best practices in other states. Report is due June 30, 2025. (page 803 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Carbon & Energy

Much of the climate and energy policy discussion this session was overshadowed by the looming possibility of the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) being repealed if [Initiative 2117](#) is approved by voters in November. Revenues generated by the CCA in the first half of the biennium are invested in a variety of programs and projects that reduce carbon emissions. Most notably, \$150 million is allocated to provide public and private electric utilities with funding to provide bill credits for low-income and moderate-income residential electricity customers to help with the clean energy transition in the amount of \$200 per household by September 15, 2024 (page 148 of the Supplemental Operating Budget). The budget also includes investments that are made with projected CCA revenue that are contingent on Initiative-2117 failing.

A number of notable bills relating to climate policy and renewable energy were debated but did not survive to final passage, including: [House Bill 2051](#) reducing emissions from small engines, and; [House Bill 1433](#) concerning energy labeling on residential buildings. A number of significant measures did pass:

Linking Washington's Carbon Market: [Senate Bill 6058](#), sponsored by Senator Joe Nguyen (D-34th LD), directs the Department of Ecology to facilitate linkage of Washington's carbon market with the California and Quebec carbon market. The intent of linkage is to create a bigger market and theoretically bring down the carbon emission auction prices, leading to lower fuel costs. The earliest the linkage could be facilitated is 2025. The bill takes effect on January 1, 2025, only if Initiative 2117 (I-2117) is not approved by a vote of the people in the 2024 general election. If I-2117 is approved by a vote of the people in the 2024 general election, this act is null and void. To implement the bill, the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$73,000 (page 58), and \$1.8 million—contingent upon voters rejecting I-2117 (page 592).

Clean Buildings: [House Bill 1976](#), sponsored by Representative Mary Fosse (D-38th LD), relates to changing the incentive structure for tier 1 and tier 2 buildings. The Department of Commerce may provide incentives greater than the base incentive payment for upgrading tier 1 and tier 2 buildings under the Early Adoption Incentive Program to owners of buildings that comply with the State Energy Performance Standard.

Natural Gas Transition: [House Bill 1589](#), sponsored by Representative Beth Doglio (D-22nd LD), was one of the most controversial bills to pass the Legislature. Requested by Puget Sound Energy, the bill allows the investor owned utility to apply to the Utilities and Transportation Commission to combine the rate bases of their electric and natural gas utilities. The purpose of this would be to transition natural gas customers to electric service.

Facility Decarbonization Grants: \$14.5 million is allocated to provide grants to local governments, public higher education institutions, school districts, tribal governments, and state agencies to ease energy and operational costs.

Implementation of Green House Gas Emission Subelements of Comprehensive Plans: \$10 million is allocated for programs, services, or capital facilities included in greenhouse gas emission reduction subelements required by HB 1181, approved during the 2023 Legislative Session. (page 114 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Securing Grant Opportunities: \$3.5 million is allocated to the Department of Commerce to develop a web portal for grant opportunities related to energy, climate, and clean technology. An additional \$5 million is allocated to assistant entities in access federal tax incentives and grants. \$4.5 million is provided to assist entities in authoring grant applications, and to provide support for federal grant reporting for entities that receive federal grants. An additional \$2 million is allocated to the Office of Financial Management to build a grant writing, tracking, and management database for the state acquisition of federal funds, and to support development of state strategies for successfully bringing specific types of federal funding to Washington. This funding is contingent on voters rejecting I-2117. (pages 144-146 and page 179 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy and Resiliency: \$750,000 is allocated to provide technical assistance and education materials to help counties establish effective commercial property assessed clean energy and resiliency (C-PACER) programs. This funding is contingent on voters rejecting I-2117. (page 147 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Clean Energy Permitting: \$600,000 is allocated to Department of Commerce to establish a grant program for cities and counties to establish permitting processes that rely on the online automated permit processing software developed by the national renewable energy laboratory and that applies to any combination of the following permitting: solar, energy storage, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, or other similar clean energy applications included within the suite of capabilities of the online automated permit processing software. This funding is contingent on voters rejecting I-2117. (page 150 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Compliance with Tier 1 and Tier 2 Buildings: \$4 million is provided to the Association of Washington Cities and \$4 million to the Washington State Association of Counties to assess current energy performance for tier 1 and tier 2 covered buildings and provide cost estimates for upgrades. (page 4 of the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget).

Clean Building Grants: \$45 million is provided for grants for tier 1 covered buildings and public buildings. The appropriation is null and void if the CCA is repealed. (page 68 of the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget).

Green Jobs and Infrastructure Catalytic Funds: \$24 million is provided for grants to entities, including local governments, to help communities meet their energy and climate change regulatory requirements, bring additional investment to the State, and help develop advanced workforce. This funding lapses if the CCA is repealed. (page 47 of the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget).

Clean Energy Community Decarbonization: \$50 million is appropriated for grants to entities, including local governments, for planning, design, and implementation of capital projects and clean energy technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in vulnerable, overburdened, and tribal communities. This funding lapses if the CCA is repealed. (page 49 of the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget).

Solar Deployment and Battery Storage: \$38 million is provided for grants to increase solar development and installation of battery storage in community buildings (including local government buildings) to enhance grid resilience and provide backup power or to provide incentives to support electric utility demand response programs that include customer-sited solar and battery storage systems. This funding is null and void if the CCA is repealed. (page 49 of the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget).

Community Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure: \$105 million is appropriated for the development of community electric vehicle charging infrastructure, including local governments. This funding is void if the CCA is repealed. (page 59 of the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget).

Sustainable Aviation Fuel: \$1.5 million is provided to Department of Commerce for a proof-of-concept project to use biogenic carbon dioxide electrolysis for the production of sustainable aviation fuels. (page 11 of the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget).

General Government

The Legislature considered several proposals that would have broadly changed how local governments do business. Many of those proposals, including: [House Bill 1932](#), allowing local agencies to transition to even-year elections; [House Bill 1990](#), would have established a statewide aerial imagery service available to local governments; [Senate](#)

[Bill 6232](#), and [House Bill 2307](#), attempting to assist agencies in managing public records; and [Senate Bill 5924](#) mandating access to personnel records, and more were considered but did not get across the finish line. However, several proposals did get across the finish line:

Standing Health Orders: [Senate Bill 6095](#), sponsored by Senator June Robinson (D-38th LD), provides authority for the Secretary of Health or the secretary's designee to issue a prescription or standing order for the purpose of controlling or preventing a threat to public health. Before issuing a standing order, the Secretary or the secretary's designee shall solicit and consider the recommendations of the local health officers for the geographic areas to which the standing order will apply.

Technical Changes to Allowable Exemptions for Tourism Promotion Area Assessments: [House Bill 2137](#), sponsored by April Berg (D-44th LD), allows local governments to exempt lodging businesses, units, or guests from lodging charges imposed within a tourism promotion area. The bill is largely technical and stems from recent Department of Revenue feedback to cities on their interpretation of current allowable exemptions.

Match Act: [House Bill 1870](#), sponsored by Representative Stephanie Barnard (R-8th LD) promotes economic development for local communities by requiring the Department of Commerce to assist local communities with federal grant applications and creating a resource guide for federal grant applicants. The bill is null and void unless funded in the budget. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$500,000 to implement this bill (page 131).

Election Worker Harassment: [House Bill 1241](#), sponsored by Representative Mari Leavitt (D-28th LD), makes harassing an election worker a class C Felony, and allows harassed election workers to apply for the address confidentiality program. The bill is null and void unless funded in the budget. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$8,000 for the implementation of this bill (page 19).

Voter Address Changes: [House Bill 1962](#) is sponsored by Representative Sam Low (R-39th LD) and is request legislation from the Secretary of State. The bill improves voter registration list accuracy by improving the voter address change processes for county election offices and voters. If a county auditor receives new address information from the postal service, the auditor shall update the voter's registration address and notify the voter of the update. If a county auditor learns that a voter moved to a new county, the county auditor shall notify the voter's new county auditor of the address change and update the voter's registration information. The bill takes effect on June 1, 2025. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$148,000 (page 39) for the implementation of this bill.

Public Comment Notice: [House Bill 1105](#), sponsored by Representative Shelley Kloba (D-1st LD), requires that whenever a public agency is mandated by law to provide notice that it is soliciting written public comment, the notice must specify the first and last date by which such public comment must be submitted. A public agency that violates the public comment notice requirements is subject to a civil penalty of \$500 for the first violation and \$1,000 for any subsequent violation, but no member of the agency is personally liable for a violation.

County Elections Staff: \$150,000 for the Office of Financial Management to conduct a study related to the hiring and retention of county level election staff including staff members of a county auditors' office. The final report is due to the Legislature December 31, 2024. (page 175 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Ranked Choice Voting Study: \$125,000 is allocated to the Evans school of public policy and governance to study ranked choice voting and provide guidance for implementation by local jurisdictions. The report must recommend steps necessary to implement ranked choice voting elections consistently and effectively, including suggested education materials and election administrator training necessary to aid in implementation. A report is due June 1 2025. (page 793 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Transportation

Following another year of record-breaking traffic fatalities, the Legislature continued to prioritize traffic safety policies and investments. One of the major policies in this arena, lowering the allowable blood alcohol concentration from .08 to .05 ([Senate Bill 5002](#)) did not receive further consideration in the second year of the biennium. There were several bills related to the use of automated traffic safety cameras and while one did pass, described below, many did not ([House Bill 1807](#), [House Bill 2485](#)). Aside from traffic safety, the major focus for transportation was balancing the biennial budget given the significant cost increases to mega projects throughout the state. Below are highlights from the supplemental budget and transportation related bills that passed the Legislature.

Automated Traffic Safety Cameras: [House Bill 2384](#), sponsored by Representative Brandy Donaghy (D-44th LD), allows cities and counties expanded authority to use automated traffic safety cameras (school zone cameras, red-light cameras, speed cameras, and bus lane enforcement cameras). Additionally, cameras are authorized to be used on state routes within the city that are classified as city streets, and in work zones on city streets and county roads. All revenue generated by each authorized camera remains with the local government. In cities with a population of 10,000 or more, all revenues generated from the cameras must be used for traffic safety purposes, and a proportionate share of the revenue must be spent in census tracts with household incomes in the lowest quartile and in areas that experience above average rates of injury crashes. In cities with a population less than 10,000, such

revenue must be informed by the Department of Health's environmental health disparities map. Cities currently utilizing revenue from red-light cameras and school-zone cameras are exempt from these requirements and may continue to spend revenue consistent with purposes outlined in an existing ordinance. Only trained and authorized civilian employees are to review and issue infractions to automated school bus safety camera violations. Additionally, to review traffic camera violations an employee must be a civilian employee who works for the law enforcement agency, public works, or transportation department, and must be sufficiently trained and certified by peace officers or traffic engineers. Individuals on public assistance are also able to receive a 50% reduction in a fine resulting from an infraction captured by a camera. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$560,000 to implement the bill (page 19).

Fish Barrier Adoption: [House Bill 2045](#), sponsored by Representative Kevin Waters (R-17th LD), authorizes local governments and the Washington State Department of Transportation to enact Adopt-A-Fish Passage programs for the purpose of fish barrier removal. To the extent feasible, local governments must coordinate donations with any grant applications for state funding of fish barrier removal with the goal of expediting the removal of fish passage barriers.

Prompt Payment: [Senate Bill 6040](#), sponsored by Senator Javier Valdez (D-46th LD), requires the Capital Projects Advisory Review Board (CPARB) to review the extent to which prompt pay statutes meet the needs of small businesses, particularly women and minority-owned businesses. The review must also consider a requirement that within ten days of payment, the prime contractor and each higher tier subcontractor must make payment to its subcontractor until the small business or women, or minority-owned business has received payment. CPARB must present findings and recommendations to the Legislature on or before November 1, 2024. The bill takes effect on July 1, 2024.

Alternative Uses for Rights-of-Way: \$500,000 is provided for WSDOT to explore alternative uses of the state's rights-of-way to address climate change, equitable communications, renewable energy generation, electrical transmission and distribution projects, broadband projects, and more. (page 60 of the 2024 State Transportation Budget).

Commercial Aviation Workgroup: The 2023 Legislature disbanded the previous Commercial Aviation Coordination Committee and created the Commercial Aviation Workgroup. The workgroup was directed to submit an annual progress report to the Governor and Transportation Committees on the increased need for commercial aviation services. The initial report must list the areas that will not have further review as they conflict with operations of a military installation. The report must also identify unsuitable geographies due to either environmental impacts or impacts to overburdened communities. Finally, the supplemental budget pushes out the initial report date to December 1, 2024; future reports will be due each July 1. (page 161 of the 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget).

Federal Fund Exchange Pilot Program: \$7.5 million is provided for a federal funds exchange pilot to allow local governments to exchange their federal funds with state funds at a rate of 95 cents to 1 dollar. The Legislature intends to evaluate the effectiveness of this program in the 2025 session. (pages 124-125 of the 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget).

Highway Encampments: An additional \$2 million is provided for WSDOT to address the risks to safety and public health associated with homeless encampments on state owned rights-of-way and encampment cleanup. (page 68 of the 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget).

Multiagency Permit Program: \$150,000 is provided for WSDOT to hire a liaison position within the local program multiagency permit program to enhance the programs capabilities, with an emphasis on multiagency agreements that streamline, prioritize and expedite project level and programmatic permits and approvals. WSDOT is directed to review the current multiagency permit program practices and provide a report with recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2024. (page 109 of the 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget).

Speed Safety Camera Pilot Program: \$1 million is provided for WSDOT to develop an automated highway speed safety camera pilot program to test two to three traffic safety cameras on state highways. The goals of the pilot program are to test the technology, determine the impact on speeding behavior in testing areas and compile public response to the use of traffic safety cameras on highways. WSDOT must work with WA State Patrol and the Traffic Safety Commission to develop the program including selection of the technology, placement of cameras, public notification and signage prior to entering the speed area, public outreach about the program and data collection. The pilot program may inform registered vehicle owners of the vehicle speed exceeding the limit and what the fine would have been, however no authority is given to issue citations. A progress report is due by September 30, 2024. (page 76 of the 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget).

Traffic Safety Investments: The Legislature makes several investments to understand and mitigate driving behaviors and conditions that result in traffic safety incidents. Highlights include \$200,000 to the Traffic Safety Commission to develop a law enforcement light metering pilot program to measure lighting in locations where serious injury or fatalities have occurred; \$300,000 for the Traffic Safety Commission to purchase telematics data on vehicle speeds and driver behaviors, such as hard braking, on a statewide basis and in select geographical areas prone to crashes, with an annual report summarizing the data from June 30, 2025 to June 30, 2027. \$1 million is provided to the Traffic Safety Commission to supplement existing funding for impaired driving and other enforcement, with a focus on high visibility enforcement and indigenous knowledge-informed tribal traffic safety support. A report on these outcomes is

due back to the Legislature by December 1, 2025. (pages 13-14 of the 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget).

Truck Parking: Parking for semi-trucks near ports and warehouse facilities is a growing challenge. \$14.1 million is provided for WSDOT to develop and implement a technology based truck parking availability system along the I-5 corridor. The final report for this work is due to the Legislature by December 1, 2024. Further, the Legislature allocated \$1 million for the design of the I-5 Fort Lewis Weigh Station and SR 906 Phase 3 truck parking improvements. The budget also indicates legislative intent to provide \$4.95 million in the 25-27 biennium for additional truck parking improvements based on WSDOT and the freight mobility strategic investment board's recommendations. (page 127 of the 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget).

Ferry Investments: \$6.175 million of CCA revenues is provided solely for construction of hybrid electric ferries and \$24.3 million of CCA revenues is provided for ferry terminal electrification. \$11.6 million of CCA revenues is provided for construction of the first hybrid electric Olympic class vessel. (page 133 of the 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget).

Ferry Workforce: \$10 million is provided for WSDOT to increase deck and engine positions, prioritizing positions that will mitigate crew related cancellations and reduce overtime expenditures. The department must include an update on the number of positions hired by job class as part of the annual performance report. The Legislature intends to provide \$16M on an ongoing basis to support additional crew efforts. (page 101 of the 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget).

Cancelled Ferry Sailings: \$100,000 is provided for WSDOT to reimburse walk-on customers for emergency expenses incurred because of a cancellation of the last sailing of the day. WSDOT must create a process for claims and reimbursement and set a per diem limit for reimbursement per individual. (page 101 of the 2024 Supplemental Transportation Budget).

Infrastructure

Infrastructure issues that weren't related to housing or transportation didn't receive much attention from the Legislature in 2024. Sewage treatment plants were the target of [House Bill 2290](#) which would have imposed a fee for any wastewater discharges into Puget Sound, but this did not move forward. Other items that did pass included:

Prompt Payment: [Senate Bill 6040](#), sponsored by Senator Javier Valdez (D-46th LD), requires the Capital Projects Advisory Review Board (CPARB) to review the extent to which prompt pay statutes meet the needs of small businesses, particularly women and minority-owned businesses. The review must also consider a requirement that within ten days of payment, the prime contractor and each higher tier subcontractor must make payment to its subcontractor until the

small business or women, or minority-owned business has received payment. CPARB must present findings and recommendations to the Legislature on or before November 1, 2024. The bill takes effect on July 1, 2024.

Study of Public Works Contracts: \$175,000 is allocated to the municipal research and services center (MRSC) to conduct a public works study. The study shall evaluate the application of public works requirements, including prevailing wage and apprentice utilization, on publicly funded construction, including those supported in part or in whole with state funds, the granting or loaning of public dollars, and tax deferrals or reimbursements. A report is due June 30 2025. (page 449 the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Study of Registered Apprenticeship Programs: \$75,000 is allocated to the Department of Labor and Industries to survey registered apprenticeship programs and assimilate data that documents the fee structure and contractual elements of partnerships between the various registered apprenticeship programs and community and technical college system. A report is due November 15, 2024. (page 449 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Grants: The 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget provides over \$95 million in additional funding as match for federal funding through the BEAD program in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. (page 4).

Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity: \$250,000 is allocated to the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) to conduct an analysis of current wastewater treatment capacity to treat and dispose of septage in Washington; and future wastewater treatment infrastructure needs to accommodate development growth using on-site septage systems. Report is due June 30, 2025. (page 591 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Water Utility Study: \$300,000 is allocated to assess the need for and feasibility of a statewide low-income assistance program for water utility customers. The study must include, but is not limited to, a summary of existing low-income assistance, a review of low-income populations water utility service cost burden, and recommendations for the design of a statewide drinking water and wastewater utility assistance program. The report is due June 30, 2025. (page 488 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).

Miscellaneous

A number of bills were relevant to Snohomish County for different reasons that we tracked for some or all of session. The Legislature considered prohibiting “stay to play” requirements for participating in extracurricular activities in [House Bill 1860](#), but after one contentious hearing the proposal was dropped. Other miscellaneous items that did pass included:

John McCoy (Iulilaš): [House Bill 1879](#), sponsored by Representative Debra Lekanoff (D-40th LD), names the curriculum used to teach public school students about tribal history, culture, and government as the John McCoy (Iulilaš) Since Time Immemorial curriculum.

Intergovernmental Relationship Between BC/US: [House Bill 2000](#), sponsored by Representative Sharlett Mena (D-29th LD), relates to the Office of International Relations and Protocol (OIRP). The OIRP's authority is expanded to support state government relationships with foreign jurisdictions. The OIRP and the Legislative Committee on Economic Development and International Relations (LCEDIR) are responsible for determining jurisdictions of strategic importance. Foreign jurisdiction may not be considered a "jurisdiction of strategic importance" if it is currently subject to U.S. government sanctions or has been identified as a state-sponsor of terrorism. The bill also creates an Interparliamentary Exchange with British Columbia, and it increases the membership of the LCEDIR. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget allocates \$559,000 to implement this bill (page 31).

Snohomish County Early Learning Study: \$200,000 is allocated to the Snohomish County Early Learning Coalition to develop a leadership team to identify and report on ways to strengthen the early learning community in Snohomish County. Report is due June 30, 2025. (page 561 of the 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget).