

# VOTERS' PAMPHLET

Washington State Elections  
& Cowlitz County

General Election  
November 5



2024

Official Publication



**WASHINGTON**  
Secretary of State

Ballots mailed out by **October 18**  
1 (800) 448-4881 | [sos.wa.gov/elections](https://sos.wa.gov/elections)

Dear fellow Washingtonians,

I am pleased to present the 2024 November 5 General Election Voter Pamphlet on behalf of the Office of the Secretary of State. This general election allows you to have a say in our government at the local, state, and national levels and choose our nation's next president.

Elections are the cornerstone of democracy, and I encourage you to utilize the comprehensive guides provided by the Office of the Secretary of State to make informed decisions.

You must be registered to vote to make your voice heard. Online and mail voter registrations and updates must be received by Oct. 28. You can register in person at a county elections office until 8 p.m. on Election Day.

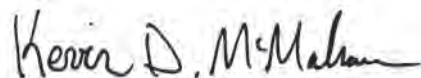
The redesigned [VoteWA.gov](https://VoteWA.gov) portal allows voters to check their registration status and register for text alerts of ballot processing. [VoteWA](https://VoteWA.gov) provides access and security essential for Washington's voter access enhancements, which include Automatic Voter Registration and the Future Voter program.

You can easily vote from the comfort of your home and use the paid postage provided with your ballot, as long as the ballot is postmarked by Election Day. The USPS recommends mailing ballots back at least one week before Election Day.

All voters may cast their ballot up until 8 p.m. on Election Day at a county election office or any of the more than 500 secure drop-boxes and voting centers located throughout Washington.

The Office of the Secretary of State is committed to safe and secure elections for every community across Washington.

Sincerely,



Kevin McMahan  
Assistant Secretary of State

## Register to Vote

Use [VoteWA.gov](https://VoteWA.gov) to:

- Register to vote
- Update your info
- Track ballot status



## Tracking your ballot is easier than ever!

Sign up for text notifications when you register or update your info at [VoteWA.gov](https://VoteWA.gov).



Or text VOTE to VOTEWA (868392).



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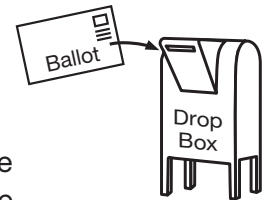
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**Deadlines**

Ballots mailed to voters by: October 18  
 Register by mail, received by: October 28  
 Register online by: October 28  
 Register in person by: November 5, 8 p.m.  
 Election Day: November 5

**Voter tip:**

Use an official drop box before 8 p.m. on Election Day. Or, if you choose to mail your ballot, the USPS recommends a week before Election Day. Don’t let a late postmark disqualify your ballot.



**? Who donates to campaigns?**

View information on financial contributors for federal candidates:

**Federal Election Commission**

www.fec.gov  
Toll Free 1 (800) 424-9530

View financial contributors for state and local candidates and measures:

**Public Disclosure Commission**

pdc@pdc.wa.gov  
www.pdc.wa.gov  
Toll Free 1 (877) 601-2828

**i Political parties**

**Washington State Democrats**

PO Box 4027  
Seattle, WA 98194  
(206) 309-8683  
info@wa-democrats.org  
www.wa-democrats.org

**Washington State Republican Party**

11811 NE 1st St  
Ste A306  
Bellevue, WA 98005  
(425) 460-0570  
info@wsrp.org  
www.wsrp.org

**i** Candidates submitted their information for this pamphlet prior to printing. For the most current information, sign in to **VoteWA.gov**.

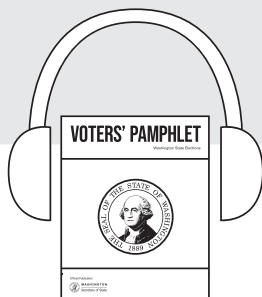
## Are accessible voting options available?

Audio voters' pamphlet available at

**[www.sos.wa.gov/elections](http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections).**

No internet access? To receive a copy on a USB drive, call 1 (800) 448-4881.

Contact a county elections office to find an accessible voting unit near you.



## Student Engagement Hubs



Public universities offer Student Engagement Hubs to ensure that students never miss an election just because they're away from home.

**For dates, hours, and locations, contact student leadership at:**

- CWU Ellensburg
- EWU Cheney
- TESC Olympia
- UW Bothell
- UW Seattle
- UW Tacoma
- WSU Pullman
- WSU Tri-Cities
- WSU Vancouver
- WWU Bellingham

## Are language services available?

Los votantes del estado de Washington pueden acceder a un folleto electoral para las elecciones generales y a un formulario de inscripción electoral en español en Internet en **[sos.wa.gov/elections](http://sos.wa.gov/elections)**.

Ingrese a **[VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov)** para consultar su guía electoral personalizada en Internet o para inscribirse y actualizar su información electoral.

Los votantes de los condados de Yakima, Franklin y Adams reciben materiales electorales bilingües. Los votantes del condado de King pueden solicitar sus materiales de votación en español.

Para solicitar una edición impresa del folleto electoral o de un formulario de inscripción electoral en español, llame al **1 (800) 448-4881**.

華盛頓州的選民可以由網上取得中文版普選選民手冊以及選民登記表，網址為 **[sos.wa.gov/elections](http://sos.wa.gov/elections)**。

請瀏覽**[VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov)**以查看您的個人化網上選民指南，或登記及更新您的選民資料。

金郡的選民可以索求中文版投票資料。

如欲索取中文選民手冊印副本或選民登記表，請致電 **1 (800) 448-4881**。

Cử tri tại tiểu bang Washington có thể truy cập trực tuyến Sách Hướng dẫn Cử tri cho cuộc Tổng tuyển cử và mẫu đơn đăng ký cử tri bằng Tiếng Việt tại địa chỉ **[sos.wa.gov/elections](http://sos.wa.gov/elections)**.

Truy cập **[VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov)** để xem trực tuyến hướng dẫn dành cho cử tri được cá nhân hóa của quý vị hoặc đăng ký và cập nhật thông tin cử tri của quý vị.

Cử tri tại Quận King có thể yêu cầu tài liệu bỏ phiếu đã được dịch sang Tiếng Việt.

Để yêu cầu bản in của sách hướng dẫn cử tri hoặc mẫu đơn đăng ký cử tri bằng Tiếng Việt, xin quý vị vui lòng gọi số **1 (800) 448-4881**.

*The federal Voting Rights Act requires translated elections materials.*

### How do I register to vote?

**Online:** Register at [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov).

**By mail:** Request a paper form be mailed to you or print your own at [sos.wa.gov/elections](http://sos.wa.gov/elections).

No internet access? Call 1 (800) 448-4881.

**In person:** Visit a county elections office (listed at the end of this pamphlet).

### Registration deadlines



**By mail or online:** Your application must be received no later than October 28.

**In person:** Visit a local voting center no later than 8 p.m. on November 5.

Check your registration info at [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov).

### Qualifications

To vote, you must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Washington, and not currently serving a sentence of total confinement in prison for a felony.



### What if I'm not 18 yet?

**If you are 16 or 17, become a Future Voter!**

Sign up with your Washington state driver's license, permit, ID, or the last four digits of your Social Security number. You'll be automatically registered to vote when you qualify.



### Felony conviction?

Your right to vote is restored when you are no longer serving a sentence of total confinement in prison.



You must re-register to vote in order to receive a ballot.

You may re-register to vote by mail, in person, or online at [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov).

### Moved? Update your voting address

Contact a county elections office to request a ballot at your new address.



**By October 28:** Have your application received by mail or updated online.

**Or**

**By November 5:** Visit a local voting center in person.



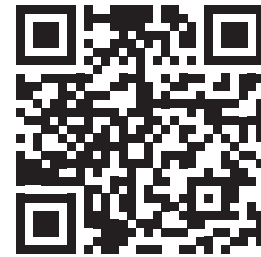
The Washington State Legislature established a webpage with interactive budget information created by the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program (LEAP) Committee and the Office of Financial Management (OFM).

**WA Budget Summary:**

<https://fiscal.wa.gov/budgetsummary>

**Legislative Information Center:**

1 (800) 562-6000



**How can you access this webpage?**

- Type the URL into your browser
- Scan the QR code with your smartphone or tablet
- Call the Legislative Information Center

**What's in the budget?**

**Operating Budget:** pays for day-to-day operations of state agencies, colleges and universities, and public schools (including federal funds and dedicated funds).

**Transportation Budget:** pays for transportation activities, such as designing and maintaining roads and public transit.

**Capital Budget:** pays for acquiring and maintaining state buildings, public schools, higher education facilities, public lands, parks, and other assets.

**Initiatives and referenda are used by the people to create state laws.**

**Initiative**

Any registered voter may propose an initiative to create a new state law or change an existing law.

**Initiatives to the People** are proposed laws submitted directly to voters.

**Initiatives to the Legislature** are proposed laws submitted to the Legislature.

Before an **Initiative to the People** or an **Initiative to the Legislature** can appear on the ballot, the sponsor must collect...



**324,516**  
registered voters'  
signatures

8% of all votes in the last Governor's race

**Referendum**

**Referendum Bills** are proposed laws the Legislature has referred to voters.

**Referendum Measures** are laws recently passed by the Legislature that voters have petitioned to be referred to the ballot.

Any registered voter may petition that a law proposed by the Legislature be referred to voters before taking effect.

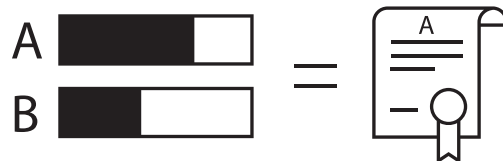
Before a **Referendum Measure** can appear on the ballot, the sponsor must collect...



**162,258**  
registered voters'  
signatures

4% of all votes in the last Governor's race

**Initiatives and referenda become law with more than 50% of the vote.**



Initiative Measure No.

# 2066

Initiative Measure No. 2066 concerns regulating energy services, including natural gas and electrification.

This measure would repeal or prohibit certain laws and regulations that discourage natural gas use and/or promote electrification, and require certain utilities and local governments to provide natural gas to eligible customers.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

Yes

No

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The Secretary of State is not responsible for the content of statements or arguments (WAC 434-381-180).



## Explanatory Statement

Written by the Office of the Attorney General

### The Law as It Presently Exists

Earlier this year, the Washington Legislature passed a law that regulates Puget Sound Energy (PSE), a large utility that provides gas and electricity to customers. That law is known as the “Washington Decarbonization Act.”

The Decarbonization Act consolidates PSE’s numerous reporting and planning requirements into a single plan, which must be submitted to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC). The plan must forecast customer energy demand and provide proposals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from its operations. PSE’s plan must explain how it will transition from natural gas to electricity in a cost-effective way and how it will coordinate with local utilities when it targets an area for further electrification. In deciding whether to accept or reject the plan, the UTC must consider whether it reduces greenhouse gas emissions, meets energy efficiency targets, and results in a reasonable cost to customers.

The Decarbonization Act further prohibits PSE from offering customers rebates or incentives to buy appliances that use natural gas. Instead, PSE must educate its customers about the benefits of transitioning to electricity and the availability of rebates or incentives for energy efficient electric appliances.

The Decarbonization Act also sets requirements for how the UTC determines rates for PSE customers. For example, it would change how the UTC must calculate the depreciation of gas plants when determining rates.

### The Effect of the Proposed Measure if Approved

If approved, Initiative Measure No. 2066 would repeal or amend certain provisions of the Decarbonization Act. Specifically, Initiative Measure No. 2066 would prohibit PSE rate plans that restrict access to gas service and any planning requirements that render gas service cost-prohibitive. It would allow PSE to offer rebates to purchase natural gas appliances or equipment and PSE would not be required to educate customers about the benefits of electrification or the availability of rebates for energy efficient appliances. It would also remove requirements that PSE target certain areas for electrification and coordinate with local utilities to further electrification.

The measure would also require gas utilities and local governments to provide natural gas to customers who demand it, even if other energy services or energy sources are available. It would further prohibit local governments, air pollution control agencies, and the State Building Code Council from prohibiting, penalizing, or discouraging the use of gas.

## Fiscal Impact Statement

Written by the Office of Financial Management  
For more information visit [www.ofm.wa.gov/ballot](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/ballot)

### FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY

If voters approve Initiative 2066, there will be a net increase in state costs for rulemaking activities at state agencies of approximately \$29,100. There could be an increase in state revenues due to gas utilities needing to purchase additional carbon auction allowances and increased public utility tax revenue, but the amount of increased revenue is unknown. Local governments will have increased costs to redo some Growth Management Act planning work, but the total costs of doing so are indeterminate. Two cities that operate gas utilities could have increased costs for carbon auction allowances, but those costs are also indeterminate.

### General Assumptions

- The effective date of the initiative is December 5, 2024.
- The provisions of the initiative apply prospectively, not retroactively.
- The estimates use the state’s fiscal year (SFY) of July 1 through June 30. State fiscal year 2025 is July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025

### State Revenue

#### Department of Ecology

Under the Climate Commitment Act, the Department of Ecology administers the Cap-and-Invest Program, which sets a cap on overall carbon emissions in the state and requires businesses to obtain carbon emission allowances equal to their covered greenhouse gas emissions. Under the program, any gas utility that is responsible for 25,000 metric tons or more of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions per year is required to acquire emissions allowances equal to its emissions. Gas utilities currently receive free emission allowances to help ease the cost burden of transitioning away from fossil fuels. In 2024, the utilities receive emission

allowances equal to 86% of their utility’s emissions, and that amount decreases by 7% per year ongoing.

Initiative 2066 would prohibit natural gas utilities from offering incentives to customers to terminate their natural gas service and requires utilities providing natural gas to offer natural gas service to those who demand it. This change could result in utilities being required to buy more emission allowances than anticipated under current law, resulting in greater demand at allowance auctions, which could increase the prices paid for allowances and thereby generate increased carbon allowance auction revenues for the state. Because the future demand for natural gas is unknown, any change in revenue to the state is indeterminate.

**Department of Revenue**

Under the initiative, there could be an impact to public utility taxes collected. The Department of Revenue cannot determine how many customers would use natural gas or how long it would take for utilities to offer it to all users in their service area; therefore, the total impact to state public utility tax revenue is indeterminate.

**State Expenditures**

State agency expenditures are estimated to be a net total of \$29,100 over five state fiscal years as a result of the initiative. Costs and savings by agency are:

Table 1. Expenditures, by agency (State General Fund and Public Services Revolving Account)

(See Table 1 on page 10.)

**State Building Code Council**

The initiative would require the State Building Code Council (SBCC) to amend various energy and building codes that limit the use of natural gas. To amend those codes, the SBCC would convene technical advisory group meetings, committee meetings, council meetings, and public hearings in various locations in the state. The Department of Enterprise Services estimates the total cost of these activities would be \$49,100

**Utilities and Transportation Commission**

Current state law (Chapter 351, Laws of 2024) requires the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) to initiate rulemaking. If the initiative passes, currently required rulemaking activities related to the cost of decarbonization and electrification measures would no longer be required. This would reduce UTC costs for that rulemaking by approximately \$20,000.

**Department of Revenue**

The department may have minimal administrative costs, which are indeterminate at this time.

**Local Expenditure**

**Local Programs**

Revenue and expenditure impacts on local governments are indeterminate.

The initiative would impact Growth Management Act (GMA) planning of the 108 largest cities and counties. To achieve greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals required by the GMA, cities and counties have been assuming the phase out of natural gas in their plans. If the initiative passes, they can no longer assume the phasing out of natural gas to achieve the GHG emissions goal. Therefore, the GMA planning work completed by cities and counties on the GHG emissions reduction goal would need to be redone. The revisions would include marketing and outreach about the new GHG emission targets, revising and implementing local ordinances, and amending local plans, which will vary by city and county. Since too many variables are unknown, the costs are indeterminate.

Two municipalities in Washington are natural gas providers and are required to participate in the Climate Commitment Act’s cap-and-invest program: the City of Enumclaw and City of Ellensburg. If I-2066 passes, these cities may need to purchase additional carbon emission allowances to meet their obligations under the Climate Commitment Act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over time. However, the total impact on these utilities cannot be known at this time.

Table 1 – Expenditures, by agency (State General Fund and Public Services Revolving Account)					
	SFY 2025	SFY 2026	SFY 2027	SFY 2028	SFY 2029
State Building Code Council	\$5,400	\$43,700	\$0	\$0	\$0
Utilities and Transportation Commission	(\$20,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(\$14,600)</b>	<b>\$43,700</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## Argument for

### Vote “Yes” to Protect Energy Choice and Stop Gas Bans

You deserve the choice to use clean and efficient natural gas for *heating* and *cooking*. The state and big energy companies are striking deals to ban natural gas service from all homes and businesses. I-2066 *protects your* ability to use natural gas – giving *you* control over your energy choices.

### Gas Bans Hurt Everyone

Gas bans will impact everybody, whether you own or rent your home. They drive up energy bills, which is devastating for people with low and fixed incomes. Current law requires homeowners to pay *all* conversion costs to switch from gas to electric appliances—an average of \$40,000/home. Nobody should ever be *forced* to switch to all-electric appliances. Voting “Yes” on I-2066 stops forced conversions and lets people choose for themselves whether they want gas or electric appliances at home.

### Small Businesses Need Natural Gas

Thousands of businesses rely on natural gas. Countless restaurants, breweries, cultural cuisines, manufacturers, and others require gas to make the world-class food and products Washington is known for. I-2066 keeps these businesses open, protects jobs, and brings down costs for consumers.

### Clean Natural Gas Is Safe and Reliable

Protect access to heating and cooking when the power goes out. Corporate energy companies have notified customers they will cut electricity when (not if) the electric grid is overloaded, even in the cold, dark winter. Washington needs clean and reliable natural gas to stay warm and cook. Vote “Yes!”

---

## Rebuttal of argument against

I-2066 is very simple. It protects your choice to have natural gas service. The opposition wants to confuse you. They don't mention natural gas because they know it's a popular consumer choice. They want to ban this clean energy source and have you pay the costs. What will you do when the power goes out? Gas bans are already happening, so vote “Yes” on I-2066 to protect the option of gas for heating and cooking.

---

### Written by

**Tiffany Turner**, Boutique Hotel and Restaurant Owner; **Tod Sakai**, Homebuilder and Remodeler; **RJ Whitlow**, Brewery Owner; **Alexa Lee**, Homeowner and Mom; **Dean Stoneburner**, Operating Engineer, IUOE 302 Union Member; **Jaz Matharu**, M.D. Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Physician

**Contact:** (360) 352-7800; contact@protectenergychoice.com; ProtectEnergyChoice.com

## Argument against

### Vote No To Prevent Higher Energy Bills

2066 would mean more expensive energy bills. It would require utility companies to continue investing in outdated technology and aging infrastructure, and the costs would be passed onto families and businesses. *Voting “No” will make energy more affordable, protecting all Washingtonians, including seniors and families living on low incomes.*

### Vote No to Protect Energy Efficiency

2066 would roll back sensible modern standards that make homes and businesses more energy efficient. Efficient buildings lower utility bills and help the power stay on during storms, extreme weather, and increasing heat waves. *Voting “No” will lower costs for families, keep people safe, keep homes comfortable, and ensure a reliable power supply.*

### Vote No To Defend Clean Energy and Clean Air

2066 would undermine our path to clean energy and weaken our Clean Air Act, threatening health protections against harmful air pollution. It would prohibit local communities and utility companies from making responsible plans to reduce the use of dirty fossil fuels. The time to start planning is now: *Voting “No” will keep us on the path to cleaner, more affordable energy.*

### Vote No To Put Communities First and Stop Powerful Interest Groups

2066 is part of a nationwide effort by fossil fuel corporations and well funded interest groups who want to make as much money as possible while Washington families pay higher energy bills. *Voting “No” will prevent powerful interests from increasing their profits at our expense.* 2066 is bad for Washington.

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## Rebuttal of argument for

State law already guarantees people can have natural gas if they want it. The powerful interest groups paying for 2066 will say anything to make money off of us. What this confusing initiative would actually do is stop towns, cities and counties from making decisions that work best for their communities. It would raise costs, threaten energy efficiency, and harm families. That's why nurses, small businesses, and builders say vote “No” to protect energy affordability.

---

### Written by

**Jenny Rae**, Chuckanut Builders, Bellingham; **Marcy Bowers**, ExecDir, Statewide Poverty Action Network; **Devin Leingang**, Regional Manager, Sheet Metal Workers Local 66; **Mark Vossler**, MD., Cardiologist, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility; **Paul Tabayoyon**, ExecDir, Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of Yakima; **Patience Malaba**, ExecDir, Housing Development Consortium of Seattle-King County

**Contact:** (206) 981-3896; info@no2066.org; www.no2066.org

Initiative Measure No.

# 2109

Initiative Measure No. 2109 concerns taxes.

This measure would repeal an excise tax imposed on the sale or exchange of certain long-term capital assets by individuals who have annual capital gains of over \$250,000. This measure would decrease funding for K-12 education, higher education, school construction, early learning, and childcare.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

Yes

No

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The Secretary of State is not responsible for the content of statements or arguments (WAC 434-381-180).

## Explanatory Statement

Written by the Office of the Attorney General

### The Law as It Presently Exists

The State of Washington imposes various taxes to raise revenue to fund state government. Those taxes include the retail sales tax, the business and occupation tax, the state property tax, and various other state taxes. In 2021, the Legislature passed a law creating a tax on the sale or exchange of certain long-term capital assets, commonly referred to as a “capital gains tax.”

The capital gains tax applies to only some types of capital assets held for longer than a year, such as stocks, bonds, precious metals, or artwork. The tax does not apply to the sale of certain assets, including:

- real estate;
- retirement savings accounts or deferred compensation accounts;
- cattle, horses, or breeding livestock if more than 50 percent of the taxpayer’s income is from farming or ranching;
- property that is depreciable or that is treated as an expense under identified federal tax laws;
- timber or timberland, including sales of timber or timberland that result in dividends or distributions from real estate investment trusts;
- certain commercial fishing privileges; and
- goodwill received from the qualifying sale of an auto dealership.

The capital gains tax allows an annual, standard deduction of \$250,000 for each taxpayer, which means that the tax applies only to taxpayers who make capital gains over \$250,000 in any tax year. For spouses and domestic partners, the combined standard deduction is limited to \$250,000, regardless of whether they file joint or separate returns.

The tax rate is seven percent for covered gains. So, for example, if a person bought \$150,000 worth of stock and sold it ten years later for \$500,000, they would have a net gain of \$350,000. The first \$250,000 of that gain would be exempt from tax, and the taxpayer would owe seven percent tax on the remaining \$100,000 of gain, for a total capital gains tax due of \$7,000.

The capital gains tax also allows several other deductions, including:

- gains from the sale or transfer of a qualifying family-owned business that had gross revenue of less than \$10 million within the past year; and

- charitable donations above \$250,000, up to a maximum \$100,000 deduction.

The law also sets forth how the tax is administered. It includes provisions for allocating gains to Washington versus other states, credits for certain taxes paid to other states, procedures for filing tax returns, and penalties for attempts to evade payment of the tax. Certain figures, like the standard \$250,000 deduction, the qualifying gross revenue for the small-business deduction, and charitable donation amounts, are adjusted annually based on inflation.

The first \$500 million collected from the capital gains tax each year is deposited into the education legacy trust account, which supports K-12 education, expands access to higher education, and provides funding for early learning and childcare programs. Any amounts collected above \$500 million are applied to the common school construction account, which funds the construction of facilities for common schools.

### The Effect of the Proposed Measure if Approved

If approved, this measure would repeal the capital gains tax law, and Washington State would no longer impose taxes on the sale or exchange of long-term capital assets. This would also eliminate the funding collected from the tax that currently goes to K-12 education, higher education, early learning, childcare, and school construction.

## Fiscal Impact Statement

Written by the Office of Financial Management  
For more information visit [www.ofm.wa.gov/ballot](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/ballot)

### FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY

If approved by voters, Initiative 2109 will result in an estimated state revenue loss of \$2.2 billion over five state fiscal years. This would reduce funding dedicated for K–12 education, higher education, early learning and child care. Future reductions to funds dedicated for K–12 school construction are possible but not currently forecasted. The estimated net savings for administrative expenses for two state agencies are \$10.1 million over five state fiscal years. No local government fiscal impacts are known.

### GENERAL ASSUMPTIONS

- The effective date of the initiative is December 5, 2024.
- The provisions of the initiative apply prospectively, not retroactively.



- The Department of Revenue (DOR) ceases all collection activities on the effective date, including those activities that are in progress.
- Estimates use the state's fiscal year (SFY) of July 1 through June 30. State fiscal year 2025 is July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.
- Calendar year refers to January 1 to December 31.

## REVENUE

### Local Revenue

The initiative will not impact local revenue.

### State Revenue

The initiative is estimated to result in revenue loss of \$2,163,000,000 over five fiscal years from the Education Legacy Trust Account. The first \$500,000,000, indexed to inflation, is deposited into the Education Legacy Trust Account each fiscal year. The Education Legacy Trust Account supports K–12 education, expands access to higher education and provides funding for early learning and child care programs. Additional revenue is deposited into the Common School Construction Account to fund K–12 school facility construction.

### STATE REVENUE ASSUMPTIONS

Revenue estimates are based on DOR's excise tax data and the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council (ERFC) June 2024 capital gains tax revenue forecast. Capital gains tax year refers to the calendar year.

The following additional assumptions are made for calculation purposes:

- Forecasted capital gains taxes for tax year 2024, due in April 2025, will not be collected and result in a revenue loss for state fiscal year 2025.
- The long-term growth rate used is the rate forecasted by the ERFC in June 2024.
- The June 2024 capital gains tax forecast assumes zero capital gains tax revenue to the Common School Construction Account; therefore, there is zero revenue impact to this account due to the initiative.

### State Revenue Impacts

Table 1. Revenue loss, by account

(See Table 1 on page 15.)

## STATE GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

### State Agency Implementation Cost Assumptions

State agency savings are estimated to be a net total of \$10,147,700 over five state fiscal years as a result of the initiative. Savings by agency are:

Table 2. Expenditures, by agency (State General Fund and Legal Services Revolving Account)

(See Table 2 on page 15.)

### Office of the Attorney General

The Office of the Attorney General (AGO) will save \$23,000 in each state fiscal year from 2025 through 2029. This amounts to total savings of \$115,000 over this five-year period.

The AGO estimates savings due to less litigation and less need for client advice services. The AGO expects DOR to need minimal legal advice as the department deals with specific cases where taxpayers seek refunds. It is assumed that cases contesting capital gains tax assessments that had not already been paid will drop, because the department can no longer collect the assessed taxes.

### Department of Revenue

The department will save a net of \$10,032,700 over the five-year period between 2025 and 2029. It is assumed that the existing State General Fund appropriation for administering the capital gains tax will end as of June 30, 2025. For state fiscal year 2025, the amount already provided is sufficient to administer the capital gains tax without additional funding. For state fiscal years 2026 through 2029, savings of \$2,703,000 per state fiscal year are assumed for capital gains tax administration duties that will no longer be required. The department will also incur costs of \$779,300 during this period as described below. The department's duties to administer taxes include maintaining records, processing refunds and assisting taxpayers with amended returns for up to five prior tax years. Therefore, the department will continue to have costs related to administering the capital gains tax and the related business and occupation (B&O) tax credit for capital gains tax filers for tax years 2022 and 2023 through December 31, 2028. Starting on January 1, 2029, DOR will have additional costs to decommission the capital gains tax and related B&O tax credit in computer systems. It is assumed that the State General Fund will be the funding source for this work.

In state fiscal year 2025, DOR will have costs that will be paid with existing funds for the following activities:

- Updating special notices and excise tax advisories, canceling interim guidance statements and updating other capital gains tax information on the website.
- Amending two administrative rules.

- Administering computer system changes and testing for capital gains tax and related B&O tax credits.

In state fiscal years 2026, 2027, 2028 and 2029 the department will have costs for the following activities:

- Accounting activities related to capital gains tax.
- Processing paper correspondence, responding to web messages, answering phone questions and assisting taxpayers with reporting and navigating the web reporting portal.
- Processing returns, payments and all associated work items, including issuing refunds for overpayments.
- Hearing administrative reviews that provide taxpayers with an informal, non-adversarial dispute resolution process for reviewing a disputed department action, such as a denial of a refund request or tax ruling. The department will incur additional costs if the dispute continues to the Board of Tax Appeals or the courts.
- Making necessary computer system changes and performing required computer system testing as service packs and core system upgrades occur.

In state fiscal year 2029, the department will also have costs to decommission the capital gains tax and related B&O tax credit in the computer system and to perform related required computer system testing.

<b>Table 1 – Revenue loss, by account</b>					
	<b>SFY 2025</b>	<b>SFY 2026</b>	<b>SFY 2027</b>	<b>SFY 2028</b>	<b>SFY 2029</b>
Education Legacy Trust Account	(\$424,000,000)	(\$398,000,000)	(\$422,000,000)	(\$447,000,000)	(\$472,000,000)
Common School Construction Account	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(\$424,000,000)</b>	<b>(\$398,000,000)</b>	<b>(\$422,000,000)</b>	<b>(\$447,000,000)</b>	<b>(\$472,000,000)</b>

<b>Table 2 – Expenditures, by agency (State General Fund and Legal Services Revolving Account)</b>					
	<b>SFY 2025</b>	<b>SFY 2026</b>	<b>SFY 2027</b>	<b>SFY 2028</b>	<b>SFY 2029</b>
Office of the Attorney General	(\$23,000)	(\$23,000)	(\$23,000)	(\$23,000)	(\$23,000)
Department of Revenue	\$0	(\$2,364,900)	(\$2,433,800)	(\$2,604,600)	(\$2,629,400)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(\$23,000)</b>	<b>(\$2,387,900)</b>	<b>(\$2,456,800)</b>	<b>(\$2,627,600)</b>	<b>(\$2,652,400)</b>

## Argument for

### **“Yes” on I-2109 repeals Washington’s new backdoor income tax.**

Washingtonians have overwhelmingly rejected an income tax 11 times, yet lawmakers disregarded the voters’ wishes and passed a capital gains income tax. Voting “Yes” on I-2109 upholds the will of the people. The IRS, every other state, and the dictionary classify capital gains as income.

### **“Yes” on I-2109 protects home sales and retirement savings from tax expansion.**

While proponents claim that “only the rich will pay,” this capital gains income tax is clearly intended to expand and pave the way for a statewide income tax. The Senate author stated, “Adopting a capital gains tax is one of the best things we could do to help advance the possibility of an income tax in our state.” Protect your home and retirement by voting “Yes.”

### **“Yes” on I-2109 maintains the State’s education funding guarantee.**

Washington’s constitution mandates full funding for public education. Our public education system receives over \$18,500 per student per year, one of the highest in the country. Voting “Yes” on I-2109 ensures our children’s education remains fully funded without new taxes.

### **“Yes” on I-2109 protects working families, small business, and tech innovation.**

If we continue down this path, we risk driving family-wage jobs and job creators out of Washington as they relocate to states with lower tax rates. Voting “Yes” on I-2109 helps ensure Washington remains a center of innovation, opportunity, and family-wage jobs.

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## Rebuttal of argument against

The legislature is constitutionally required to fund education and has ample funding. When this tax passed, we had a \$3 billion surplus followed by \$15 billion the next year. Sufficient funding exists. While the current tax has exemptions, it is clearly a steppingstone to a statewide income tax. Vote yes, as voters have 11 times before, to protect your home and retirement from additional taxes and ensure job creators continue coming to our state.

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## Written by

**Suri Reddy**, Small Business Owner; **Marcus Charles**, Neumos, Croc 2.0, Local 360, co-founder CHBP; **Rob McKenna**, former Washington State Attorney General; **Vijay Boyapati**, Software Engineer; **Chris Gildon**, State Senator, Republican, Puyallup; **Todd Allred**, Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors Association

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## Argument against

### **No On 2109: Stop Cuts To Education, School Construction, and Childcare**

I-2109 eliminates billions of dedicated education dollars—worsening our school funding crisis, reducing access to affordable childcare and early learning, and cutting investments in crumbling schools. I-2109 also eliminates funds from pre-K, special education, job training, and community colleges. Cuts will force job losses in childcare and education at a time when we need more support for kids and families— not less.

### **Less Than 1% Of Washingtonians Pay Extraordinary Profits Tax**

*Retirement funds, real estate, small family owned businesses, and farms are all exempt from the capital gains tax.* In fact, less than 1% of Washingtonians will pay this tax; it only applies to stock sale *profits* over \$250,000 per year.

### **Reject Washington’s Upside Down Tax Code**

Washington has the nation’s second most upside down tax code, with middle-class families paying a three times larger share of their income on state and local taxes than the wealthiest households. *Super wealthy Washingtonians should pay a fair share for education and early learning.*

### **Teachers And Childcare Providers: “Don’t Let A Hedge Fund Millionaire Buy This Election”**

I-2109 is sponsored by hedge fund millionaire Brian Heywood, who will personally benefit from this initiative. Teachers, childcare providers, early learning experts, K-12 leaders, parents, and small business owners are united in urging you to vote No. *Don’t give the super wealthy a tax cut that will harm kids, and shift the tax bill to the rest of us.*

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## Rebuttal of argument for

Here are the facts: 99.8% of Washingtonians will not pay the capital gains on extraordinary stock profits – it only applies to stock sale *profits* over \$250,000 per year. The law clearly exempts retirement and college savings, as well as sale of real estate, farms, and small businesses. Join small business owners and workforce development leaders counting on affordable childcare for employees, and tax fairness for middle income families— please vote No.

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## Written by

**Stephan Blanford**, Ed.D, Executive Director, Children’s Alliance; **Holly Lindsey**, Mom, Owner, Kids Ranch Daycare, Longview; **Jenny Slagle**, Vice President, Spokane School Board; **April Sims**, President, Washington State Labor Council; **Jacob Vela**, League of Education Voters Foundation; **Katie Baird**, Ph.D, Professor of Economics, UW Tacoma

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Initiative Measure No.

# 2117

Initiative Measure No. 2117 concerns carbon tax credit trading. This measure would prohibit state agencies from imposing any type of carbon tax credit trading, and repeal legislation establishing a cap and invest program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This measure would decrease funding for investments in transportation, clean air, renewable energy, conservation, and emissions-reduction.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

- Yes
- No

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The Secretary of State is not responsible for the content of statements or arguments (WAC 434-381-180).

## Explanatory Statement

Written by the Office of the Attorney General

### The Law as It Presently Exists

In 2021, the Washington Legislature enacted the Climate Commitment Act, which directed the Department of Ecology to design and implement a cap-and-invest program to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions. The program works by setting an emissions limit, or cap, and then lowering the cap over time to help ensure Washington meets the greenhouse gas reduction commitments previously set elsewhere in state law. Under the Climate Commitment Act, large emitters of greenhouse gas pollution subject to the program must either reduce their carbon emissions or pay for “allowances” to cover their emissions.

The cap-and-invest program applies to certain large emitters of greenhouse gas pollution, including large facilities, fuel suppliers, natural gas and electric utilities, waste-to-energy facilities (starting in 2027), and railroads (starting in 2031). Generally, entities with annual emissions below 25,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent are not required to obtain allowances to cover their emissions. Carbon dioxide equivalent is a measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases based on their global warming potential. Additionally, the emissions from certain facilities and certain types of fuel are not subject to the law. These include emissions from fuels used for agriculture or the transportation of agricultural products, aviation fuels, marine fuels combusted outside of Washington, and fuels exported out of Washington. The law also exempts emissions from national security facilities and certain municipal solid waste landfills.

Large emitters of greenhouse gas pollution covered by the program must obtain allowances equal to their covered emissions. Allowances are available through auctions administered by the Department of Ecology. The price of allowances sold at auctions fluctuates depending on market demand. Allowances can also be bought or sold through secondary markets at any time based on market prices. A portion of each polluter’s compliance obligation may also be met using offset credits, which are also bought and sold on a secondary market. An offset credit is purchased from developers of projects that the Department of Ecology has verified will result in permanent greenhouse gas reductions. Three types of polluters are issued free allowances that

can be used to cover some or all of their emissions: “emissions-intensive, trade exposed” industries, natural gas utilities, and electric utilities.

All polluters covered by the program must report their greenhouse gas emissions and submit their allowances or other compliance instruments to the Department of Ecology according to a specific schedule. Failure to submit the required number of allowances by the applicable deadline results in an automatic penalty requiring the polluter to submit four allowances for each missing one. Failure to comply with other requirements of the cap-and-invest program is subject to fines of up to \$50,000 per violation, per day.

Proceeds from the allowance auctions are appropriated by the Legislature and must be invested in climate projects throughout the state, including projects to increase climate resiliency, fund alternative-transportation grant programs, and help Washington transition to a low-carbon economy. State agencies that receive auction proceeds must conduct environmental justice assessments when allocating those funds, consistent with requirements set elsewhere in state law. At least 35% of auction proceeds are required to be used for projects that provide a direct benefit to people in communities disproportionately impacted by environmental harms. Additionally, at least 10% of auction proceeds must be used for projects with Tribal support. The Department of Ecology is required to provide an annual report to the Legislature summarizing how the auction proceeds have been used and whether each project produced verifiable emissions reductions. In 2023, cap-and-invest auctions raised \$1.8 billion.

In addition to establishing the cap-and-invest program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Climate Commitment Act also establishes a program for the Department of Ecology to reduce emissions of certain air pollutants (particulate matter, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, lead, and sulfur dioxide) in communities that the Department of Ecology has determined are overburdened and highly impacted by air pollution. This part of the Act requires Department of Ecology to collect data needed to determine which sources contribute the most to air pollution in these communities. The Climate Commitment Act then requires the Department of Ecology to work with local air agencies to analyze this data and use it to develop and enforce stricter air quality standards where appropriate.

## The Effect of the Proposed Measure if Approved

If approved, Initiative Measure No. 2117 would repeal the Climate Commitment Act, and bar state agencies from implementing carbon tax credit trading programs. Repealing the Climate Commitment Act would eliminate the climate and air quality programs described above as well as the funding source for investments in climate projects throughout the state.

## Fiscal Impact Statement

Written by the Office of Financial Management  
For more information visit [www.ofm.wa.gov/ballot](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/ballot)

### Summary

If approved by voters, Initiative 2117 will reduce state revenue from carbon allowance auctions by \$3.8 billion and reduce state expenditures by \$1.7 billion between the effective date of the initiative and June 30, 2029. This would reduce or eliminate funding for numerous programs and projects, including for: transportation emissions reduction; transit, pedestrian safety; ferry and other transportation electrification; air quality improvement; renewable and clean energy; grid modernization and building decarbonization; increasing the climate resilience of the state's waters, forests and other ecosystems; fire prevention and forest health; and restoring and improving salmon habitat. Local government fiscal impacts are indeterminate.

### General assumptions

- The effective date of the initiative is December 5, 2024.
- The carbon allowance auction scheduled to take place on December 4, 2024, will not occur, as the auction certification and financial settlement process would extend past the day the initiative takes effect.
- The provisions of the initiative apply prospectively, not retroactively.
- The estimates use the state's fiscal year (SFY) of July 1 through June 30. State fiscal year 2025 is July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

## State revenue impact

### Summary

Initiative 2117 would repeal the law that requires the Department of Ecology (ECY) to hold carbon allowance auctions, called the Climate Commitment Act; therefore, the state would no longer collect revenue from those auctions. The Climate Commitment Act also

established a secondary market for private parties to trade allowances and offset credits; therefore, the state would no longer collect revenue from the business and occupation (B&O) tax assessed on certain secondary market transactions.

The Climate Commitment Act carbon allowance auctions began in February 2023 and have generated \$2.15 billion in revenue between then and the auction of June 5, 2024. Under the initiative, the last auction would take place on September 4, 2024. The three remaining auctions scheduled in state fiscal year 2025 would be canceled. For state fiscal years 2025 through 2029, the projected reduction in revenue is \$3.9 billion from the canceled auctions (\$3.8 billion) and a loss of B&O tax collection (\$40 million). Auction revenue projections are calculated using ECY's June revenue forecast.

### Projected revenue impact to Washington State

(See Table 1 on page 27.)

### Revenue impact and fund balance transfers in state fiscal year 2025

The projected revenue loss would be \$758.1 million in state fiscal year 2025. Three of the four annual carbon allowance auctions would not take place and allowance sales generating B&O taxes would end.

The initiative eliminates five accounts created under the Climate Commitment Act. If the initiative is approved, the remaining funds in those five accounts will be transferred to two new accounts: (1) Transportation Carbon Emissions Reduction Account and (2) Consolidated Climate Account (ESHB 2134, Section 614, Chapter 310, Laws of 2024 and ESSB 5950, Section 907, Chapter 376, Laws of 2024).

The Climate Commitment Act and the state operating and transportation budgets direct the distribution of carbon allowance auction revenues and make various transfers between the five Climate Commitment Act accounts and other transportation accounts. Under the initiative, there would not be sufficient revenue to make all the required revenue distributions and budget transfers. These transfers are prioritized as follows: (1) statutory distributions and (2) date of fund transfers specified in the 2023–25 operating and transportation budgets.

An estimated \$1 million to \$300 million would be transferred into the Transportation Carbon Emissions Reduction Account, and \$700 million to \$900 million would be transferred into the Consolidated Climate Account. These amounts would be available to spend

through June 30, 2025.

The exact amount of funding that would transfer into the two new accounts is unknown, because the amounts will be based on: actual agency spending through December 5, 2024; revenue collected from the auction scheduled on September 4, 2024; and implementation of the various fund transfers.

### Other revenue impacts

Beginning in state fiscal year 2025, Business and Occupation (B&O) and Public Utility taxes would not be collected on the purchase, sale or trading of carbon allowances and offset credits by general market participants, resulting in lower state revenue.

Currently, general market participants are not required to purchase allowances, have not voluntarily assumed a compliance obligation by opting into the program, and are not eligible to receive allowances from the state at no cost. General market participants must pay B&O tax or public utility tax on these transactions. These participants may include investment banks, hedge funds, trading firms, and companies that want to invest in offset projects. B&O taxes are credited to the state General Fund, which funds various government agencies and activities, and to the Workforce Education Investment Account, which funds educational and training programs. For estimating purposes, the decrease in public utility taxes collected has a minimal impact. All impacts are shown under the B&O tax.

## State expenditure impact

### Summary

Thirty-seven state agencies have spending authority from Climate Commitment Act funds in the current biennium for programs, projects, and as grants for local governments, community groups, school districts and Tribes. Initiative 2117 would eliminate the revenue source that pays for these programs. The remaining funds already collected would transfer to the Transportation Carbon Emissions Reduction Account and to the Consolidated Climate Account. The 2024 supplemental transportation, operating and capital budgets identify which programs and projects would and would not be eligible for this funding if the initiative passes. Spending authority of \$1.7 billion in state fiscal year 2025 would no longer exist because the budget appropriations would be eliminated along with repeal of the accounts.

Spending authority of \$230.4 million would be available in the Transportation Climate Emissions Reduction

Account and spending authority of \$653.8 million would be available in the Consolidated Climate Account. It is assumed that funding transferred to the new accounts would continue to be spent through the end of the current state fiscal year or until revenues are exhausted.

A net total of approximately \$2.6 billion of spending authority in state fiscal years 2025–2029 would no longer be available under the initiative to operate programs and pay for grants from the state operating, capital and transportation budgets.

Additionally, the transportation spending plan approved by the Legislature assumes \$1 billion would be available in state fiscal years 2026–2029 for projects to improve transit, electrify ferries, advance ultrahigh-speed rail and for initiatives to improve pedestrian safety. This money would no longer be available.

Currently, Climate Commitment Act auction revenue is spent from multiple accounts with different purposes.

### Carbon Emissions Reduction Account

- The Carbon Emissions Reduction Account receives the first deposit of revenue, in an amount specified in law, and must be used to reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector, such as projects to reduce single-occupancy passenger vehicle miles driven; for alternative fuel infrastructure and incentive programs; emission reduction programs for freight transportation; and for ferries and other maritime and port activities.
- Seven state agencies have spending authority from the account in the current biennium, which includes funding for the equivalent of more than three full-time staff. Agencies would lose authority to spend \$205.2 million this biennium, and \$230.4 million in spending authority would be transferred to the Transportation Carbon Emissions Reduction Account.
- Two accounts receive funding solely from the Climate Emissions Reduction Account: Climate Active Transportation Account (CATA) and Climate Transit Programs Account (CTPA). These accounts would not be eliminated by the initiative; however, the initiative would eliminate the only revenue source for these accounts.
- Funding provided through CATA and CTPA could still be spent through the end of the biennium, June 30, 2025. This funding pays for grant programs such as Safe Routes to Schools, Tribal transit, active transportation local projects and support to transit agencies and other providers



serving people with disabilities, seniors, children and people living in rural areas.

#### Climate Investment Account

- Revenue from the auctions is deposited into the Climate Investment Account after the required distribution to the Carbon Emissions Reduction Account and can be used for administering the Climate Commitment Act, tracking spending and reporting, and Tribal capacity grants.
- Seven state agencies have spending authority from the account in the current biennium, which includes funding for the equivalent of nearly 116 full-time staff.
- Agencies would lose authority to spend \$12.2 million through the rest of the biennium, and \$23.1 million in spending authority would be transferred to the Consolidated Climate Account. However, a significant portion of that funding is for activities required by the Climate Commitment Act, and under the initiative, these activities would stop.
- After reserving an amount for administration of the Climate Commitment Act, funds in the Climate Investment Account are distributed to the Climate Commitment Account and the Natural Climate Solutions Account.

#### Climate Commitment Account

- The Climate Commitment Account can be used for development of renewable and clean energy, grid modernization, building decarbonization, industrial efficiency, low-income and worker assistance, climate change mitigation for Tribes, Growth Management Act planning, and the Working Families Tax credit.
- Thirty state agencies have spending authority from the account in the current biennium, which includes funding for the equivalent of nearly 136 full-time staff. Agencies would lose authority to spend \$419.7 million through the rest of this biennium, and \$476.5 million in spending authority would be transferred to the Consolidated Climate Account.

#### Natural Climate Solutions Account

- The Natural Climate Solutions Account can be used to pay for programs and projects that increase the resilience of the state's waters, forests and other ecosystems to the impacts of climate change; conserve forestlands; and increase natural climate carbon-pollution-reduction capacity.
- Twelve state agencies have spending authority from the account in the current biennium, which

includes funding for the equivalent of more than 58 full-time staff. Agencies would lose authority to spend \$147.3 million through the rest of the biennium, and \$134.9 million in spending authority would be transferred to the Consolidated Climate Account.

#### Air Quality and Health Disparities Investment Account

- The Air Quality and Health Disparities Investment Account can be used to pay for projects that monitor and improve air quality and reduce health disparities in overburdened communities.
- The account receives auction revenue after the required distribution to the Carbon Emissions Reduction Account. Statute does not specify the amount; however, the Legislature has stated its intention that not less than \$20 million each biennium should be transferred to the account.
- The ECY currently has a total of \$21.8 million in spending authority from the account, which includes funding for the equivalent of nearly five full-time staff.
- Under the initiative \$19.3 million in spending authority would be transferred to the Consolidated Climate Account.

#### **Projected spending impact to Washington State:**

(See Table 2 on page 27.)

#### **Carbon Emissions Reduction Account**

##### **Impact on the Carbon Emissions Reduction Account in the current biennium:**

(See Table 3 on page 28.)

##### **Significant activities that would be eliminated in SFY 2025 under the initiative:**

- Construction of hybrid-electric ferries and ferry terminal electrification – \$42 million, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
- Public-private partnerships, including funding added in 2024 for zero-emission vehicle and infrastructure grant programs for commercial vehicles, fire engines and utility service vehicles; local projects to improve safe routes to schools; and pedestrian and bicycle safety – \$40.9 million, WSDOT
- Rail projects, including Puyallup Tribe and Anacortes port electrification – \$35.5 million, WSDOT
- Local capital projects, including funding to complete the Guemes Island ferry replacement – \$32.9 million, WSDOT

- Public bus and transit facility projects – \$29.9 million, WSDOT
- Zero-emission vehicle supply equipment infrastructure for state agencies – \$13.5 million, Department of Enterprise Services (DES)
- Grant funding for electric boats for federally recognized Tribes, Tribal enterprises and Tribal members – \$5 million, Department of Commerce (COM)
- Zero-emission student transportation grants – \$4 million, ECY
- Transportation planning for the 2026 World Cup – \$1 million, WSDOT
- Impact study of implementing emissions standards for ocean-going vessels – \$477,000, Joint Transportation Committee

#### **Future impacts from SFY 2026–SFY 2029:**

WSDOT would lose anticipated future funding and spending authority for ongoing programs of approximately \$2.8 million each biennium, including:

- Free ferry fares for youth,
- Free youth fares on Amtrak, and
- Assistance and education for state agency alternative fuel usage.

Additionally, money would not be available for future transportation projects. The 2024 supplemental budget transportation spending plan, approved by the Legislature and used to develop future budgets, plans on spending \$1 billion for various projects. These projects include transit grants to improve safety and mobility near schools, ferry vessel and terminal electrification, Tribal port electrification projects, advancing ultrahigh-speed rail, and initiatives to improve pedestrian safety.

### **Climate Active Transportation Account and Climate Transit Programs Account**

#### **Impact on the Climate Active Transportation and Climate Transit Programs Accounts in the current biennium:**

(See Table 4 on page 28.)

#### **Significant activities that would be eliminated in SFY 2025 under the initiative:**

None

#### **Future impacts from SFY 2026–SFY 2029:**

For the purposes of this fiscal impact statement, it is assumed future spending from the accounts will end when the remaining fund balances are exhausted. It's unknown what funding may be available to spend beyond June 30, 2025.

Examples of programs and funding from the current biennium that would no longer have funding include:

- Grants for transit agency operating and capital expenses – \$188.9 million, WSDOT, CTPA
- Pedestrian and bicyclist route improvement projects – \$82.2 million, WSDOT, CATA
- Grants to sustain and expand transit services to people with disabilities, seniors, children and people living in rural areas – \$60.1 million, WSDOT, CTPA
- Move Ahead WA public transportation projects – \$46.6 million, WSDOT, CTPA
- Grants to increase safe walking and biking routes to schools, including crossing improvements, speed management, sidewalks, bike lanes, shared use paths, streetlights, ADA improvements, education and encouragement activities – \$45.4 million, WSDOT, CATA
- Funding to transit agencies for cost-effective capital projects that reduce the carbon intensity of the Washington transportation system – \$39.4 million, WSDOT, CTPA
- Grants to support transport vehicles and transit facilities – \$38 million, WSDOT, CTPA
- Projects to improve active transportation connectivity for pedestrians along and across current and former state highways in overburdened communities – \$25 million, WSDOT, CATA
- Grants through the Complete Streets Program for projects on city streets or county roads that improve or add facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users to improve safe access – \$19.1 million, Transportation Improvement Board, CTPA
- Support for existing and expanded transit services to people with disabilities and the elderly population throughout rural and small urban areas of the state – \$18 million, WSDOT, CTPA
- Funding for a School-Based Bicycle Safety Education Program for Washington state public schools; safety and skills training; and education materials including bicycles to school districts, educational service districts and community-based organizations – \$16.8 million, WSDOT, CATA

### **Climate Investment Account**

#### **Impact on the Climate Investment Account in the current biennium:**

(See Table 5 on page 28.)

**Significant activities that would be eliminated under the initiative:**

- Grants added in 2024 for Tribal capacity to engage and work on climate related projects – \$5 million, ECY
- Funding to pursue linking Washington’s carbon market with the California/Quebec market – \$1.8 million, ECY

**Activities that would cease in SFY 2025 under the initiative:**

- Implementation of the Climate Commitment Act, including carbon allowance auctions, allocation of no-cost allowances, oversight of the secondary market, regulation of offset projects, tracking emissions reductions produced by expenditures of auction proceeds, and statewide greenhouse gas inventory work – \$9.1 million, ECY, Environmental and Land Use Hearings Office
- Development of a data portal and other strategies to improve public understanding of expenditures from Climate Commitment Act accounts – \$2.6 million, ECY, Office of Financial Management (OFM)
- Grants to Tribal governments to support developing carbon offset projects – \$2 million, ECY
- Setting stricter standards for technology used to limit emissions from stationary emission sources that are the greatest contributors of air pollution in overburdened communities – \$1.5 million, ECY
- Expansion of air quality monitoring in overburdened communities highly impacted by air pollution, and estimations of the health impacts associated with the air quality experienced in overburdened communities – \$557,476, ECY, Department of Health (DOH)

**Future impacts from SFY 2026–SFY 2029:**

The ECY and other agencies would lose anticipated future spending authority for ongoing programs of approximately \$35 million each biennium to administer the Climate Commitment Act. ECY would lose funding no longer required for administration of the cap-and-invest program. ECY would lose funding to expand the state’s air quality monitoring network and improve air quality standards in overburdened communities highly impacted by air pollution.

The ECY would also lose \$31.5 million per biennium for grants to Tribes to increase capacity to engage and work on climate-related projects and for carbon offset project development and \$3.8 million to make improvements to Washington’s inventory of greenhouse gas emissions.

**Climate Commitment Account****Impact on the Climate Commitment Account in the current biennium:**

(See Table 6 on page 29.)

**Significant activities in SFY 2025 that would be eliminated under the initiative:**

- Funding to support energy efficiency and decarbonization improvements in multifamily and commercial properties – \$100 million, COM
- Projects and technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in local communities, especially in overburdened communities – \$74.1 million, COM
- Energy renewal projects across the University of Washington’s (UW) campuses and hospital system – \$38.9 million, UW
- Grants to K–12 schools for indoor air quality assessment and air filtration systems – \$30 million, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
- Matching funds to support participation in a federal Department of Energy loan program for large-scale energy development – \$25 million, COM
- Grants to grow Washington’s clean energy manufacturing economy – \$21.5 million, COM
- Grants to improve the state’s progress towards greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals in hard-to-decarbonize industries – \$13 million, COM
- Expansion of Central Washington University’s (CWU) geothermal energy production – \$12.5 million, CWU
- Design and construction of a dairy digester to produce renewable energy and compost from manure sources, post-consumer food and compostable wastes – \$10 million, Washington State University (WSU)
- Sports and Recreation Center energy efficiency improvements – \$10 million, Eastern Washington University
- Funding to support local governments to implement greenhouse gas reduction plans – \$10 million, COM
- Support for Lummi Indian Business Council clean energy projects – \$7.6 million, COM
- Replacement of Western Washington University’s (WWU) steam plant with a mostly electric and water-based heating system – \$7 million, WWU
- Providing equipment to residential, recreational or educational facilities to improve air quality in King County – \$6 million, ECY

- Replacement of windows at the Yakima Valley School to increase energy efficiency – \$5.1 million, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)
- Grants to support non-emitting thermal energy networks – \$5 million, COM
- Grant funding to reduce food waste and support hunger relief and food assistance needs – \$4.8 million, ECY, Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)
- Improved energy efficiency of the CWU Science Building – \$4.5 million, CWU
- Grants to assist community-based organizations, local governments, Tribes and other eligible entities to write, administer federal grants and track grant opportunities – \$3.6 million, COM
- Funding to help consumers find and take advantage of the home energy improvement funding - \$3.5 million, COM
- Funding to offer education, planning, technical assistance, and community engagement to enable clean energy access - \$3 million, COM
- Conducting building energy efficiency assessments – \$3 million, DSHS
- Funding to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with manure-handling systems at dairy and livestock farms – \$3 million, Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC)
- Funding to advance campus decarbonization – \$3 million, WSU
- Assistance for community-based organizations, local governments, Tribes and other entities to access federal clean-energy tax incentives – \$2.9 million, COM
- Grants to increase the reuse of industrial waste products – \$2.1 million, COM
- Grants to improve the energy efficiency of buildings at community and technical colleges – \$2 million, State Board of Community and Technical Colleges

#### **Future Impacts from SFY 2026–SFY 2029:**

Sixteen state agencies would lose anticipated future spending authority for ongoing programs of approximately \$200 million in state fiscal years 2026–2027 and \$130 million in state fiscal years 2028–2029 for multiple activities including clean energy development, environmental justice work and climate adaptation planning.

## **Natural Climate Solutions Account**

### **Impact on the Natural Climate Solutions Account in the current biennium:**

(See Table 7 on page 30.)

### **Significant activities in SFY 2025 that would be eliminated under the initiative:**

- Forestland and coastal land preservation:
  - Funding for the Quinault Indian Nation to buy forestland – \$25 million, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
  - Funding to purchase forestlands for conservation and protection of endangered species – \$15 million, DNR
  - Purchasing properties to place into conservation status – \$10.8 million, DNR
  - Grants for coastal restoration and resiliency – \$7.9 million, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
  - Algae and other blue carbon sequestration projects – \$7 million, COM
  - Grants to support community forests – \$5.8 million, RCO
  - Grants to improve carbon storage on agricultural lands – \$5 million, WSDA
- Fire prevention and forest health:
  - Funding for forest health treatments to increase resilience to fire – \$3 million, DNR
  - Grants to local governments and private landowners for projects to increase forest health and community wildfire resiliency – \$2.5 million, SCC
  - Community-based wildfire risk reduction and forest-health activities, such as engagement with landowners, removal of fire hazard materials and brush clearing – \$2 million, SCC
- Riparian area and salmon habitat protection:
  - Restoration and protection of salmon habitat – \$25 million, RCO
  - Fish passage barrier removal projects – \$22.2 million, RCO
  - Estuary and salmon habitat restoration – \$11.1 million, RCO

### **Future impacts from SFY 2026–SFY 2029:**

Nine state agencies would lose anticipated future spending authority for ongoing programs of approximately \$50 million each biennium to continue work on programs and projects which increase the resilience of the state’s waters, forests and other vital ecosystems to the impacts of climate change; conserve forestlands; and increase natural carbon-pollution reduction capacity.



## Air Quality and Health Disparities Investment Account

### Impact on the Air Quality and Health Disparities Investment Account in the current biennium:

(See Table 8 on page 30.)

### Activities in SFY 2025 that would be eliminated under the initiative:

- None

### Future impacts from SFY 2026–SFY2029:

The account would be eliminated along with \$40 million in anticipated future funding for ongoing programs administered by ECY to improve air quality and reduce health disparities in overburdened communities.

### Other state agency spending impacts

#### Compliance costs:

The University of Washington (UW) and Washington State University (WSU) are covered entities under the Climate Commitment Act and are required to purchase or acquire compliance instruments (carbon-emission allowances and offset credits) to account for their covered greenhouse gas emissions. Under the initiative, this requirement would be eliminated. The UW would save an estimated \$3.4 million in state fiscal year 2025 and \$3.8 million each year in state fiscal years 2026–2029. WSU would save \$3.3 million in state fiscal year 2025 and \$3.7 million each year in state fiscal years 2026–2029.

Both universities receive state funding to cover a portion of this obligation cost. The remainder must be paid for by other funding sources. The UW currently receives \$1,733,000 in State General Fund each state fiscal year to pay for a portion of their obligation. WSU currently receives \$1,718,000 in State General Fund each state fiscal year to pay for a portion of their obligation. The 2024 supplemental operating budget provided an additional \$4.3 million in state fiscal year 2024 and \$2.6 million in state fiscal year 2025 from the State General Fund for WSU to pay for their obligation.

#### Rulemaking:

Under the initiative, ECY would conduct rulemaking from January 2025 through December 2027 to repeal Climate Commitment Act rules and to amend rules regarding greenhouse gas emission reporting. Estimated costs are \$1.2 million from the State General Fund for staff to conduct this rulemaking and for support from the Office of the Attorney General.

#### Lease costs:

WSU has leased a building in Richland, Washington to

house the Institute for Northwest Energy Futures and is paying for this lease with funding from the Climate Commitment Act. WSU is contractually obligated for future expenses through December 1, 2026. Under the initiative, this funding would be eliminated, and WSU would need to find other funds to pay these expenses. The cost is estimated at \$810,000 in state fiscal year 2026 and \$809,000 in state fiscal year 2027 and would likely be paid for with the State General Fund.

#### Federal funding:

Several state agencies and local governments use Climate Commitment Act funding as a required match to receive federal funding, and this match funding is often required before applying for federal grants. Under the initiative, these federal grants would be at risk if the Climate Commitment Act funds are not replaced. It is unknown exactly how much federal funding the state or local governments would receive that would be matched with Climate Commitment Act funding in the future. Therefore, the potential impact of the initiative on the amount of federal funds the state and local governments would receive is indeterminate. Some examples are included.

Currently, Transit Formula and Special Needs grant local projects use Climate Commitment Act funding for federal match. The federal amount that would not be funded each fiscal year is approximately \$12 million. For rural mobility projects, the amount is approximately \$8 million each fiscal year.

The Cascadia High-Speed Rail Program was accepted under the Corridor Identification and Development (CID) Program, which is a long-term federal grant pipeline. Federal funding for the next steps for the High-Speed Rail Program requires state matching funds. The program is currently negotiating with the federal railroad administration for a CID grant award amount. These negotiations assume availability of \$25 million of Climate Commitment Act funding in the current biennium for state match – and ability to extend spending, if needed – to align with the reimbursement cycle for the federal grant. Under the initiative, WSDOT would be unable to accept \$391.7 million of federal funding in state fiscal years 2025–2029 through the CID Program without alternative funding.

#### Performance audit:

Under the initiative, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) would not conduct a mandated performance audit of Climate Commitment Act implementation which is required by December 1, 2029. The estimated savings to JLARC is \$200,000 from the State General Fund in state fiscal year 2029.

## Local government impacts

### Grant and award programs

Passage of the initiative would reduce Climate Commitment Act funding provided by state agencies to local governments and K–12 public schools. Currently, cities, counties, K–12 schools and other local entities can receive grants, loan or contract funding from approximately 130 programs across dozens of state agencies. Under the initiative, all these programs would lose funding past June 30, 2025. Between December 5, 2024, and June 30, 2025, approximately 50 programs and \$415.7 million would be eliminated. It is unknown which local governments would apply for grants or loans and be awarded funding, or the amounts of such awards that would be eliminated under the initiative.

### Significant programs in SFY 2025 that would be eliminated under the initiative:

- Local capital transportation projects, including zero-emission infrastructure; public transportation projects; commercial, fire engine and public utility vehicles and infrastructure; port electrification; and clean energy infrastructure – \$119 million, WSDOT
- Projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support planning – \$91 million, COM
- Energy efficiency improvements for commercial and multifamily buildings – \$45 million, COM
- Salmon and estuary recovery and restoration projects – \$37.2 million, RCO, SCC
- School District Indoor Air Quality & Energy Efficiency program – \$30 million, OSPI
- Fish passage barrier removal – \$23.2 million, COM, RCO
- Forest health, fire prevention and fire wise grant program – \$13.2 million, DNR, RCO, SCC
- Coastal lands restoration and resiliency program – \$7.9 million, RCO
- King County air quality mitigation – \$6 million, ECY
- Food waste reduction grants – \$4.8 million, ECY, WSDA
- Zero-emission student transportation grants – \$4 million, ECY
- Community forest grant program – \$3 million, DNR
- Sustainable Farms & Fields grants program – \$3 million, SCC
- Forest health and fire wise grant program – \$2.4 million, SCC

### Impacts on publicly owned natural gas utilities

Two cities in Washington provide natural gas to local ratepayers. They participate in the Climate

Commitment Act's cap-and-invest program due to the level of their carbon emissions: the City of Enumclaw and the City of Ellensburg. The initiative repeals the cap-and-invest program, and these two cities would no longer be required to acquire allowances or offset credits equal to their carbon emission levels. The cap-and-invest program currently gives the two cities free allowances in an amount that initially covers all their emissions and then declines at 7% per year through 2030 and 2% per year after 2030. If these utilities decrease emissions (decarbonize) faster than 7% per year, they could return the monetary value of any unused allowances to their ratepayers. Under the initiative, through 2030, the total value of the free allowances that these cities would not receive is forecasted at \$13.4 million.

### Impacts on publicly owned electricity utilities

Currently, 53 cities, counties and other publicly owned entities that provide electricity to local ratepayers participate in the cap-and-invest program that would be eliminated under the initiative. Currently, these utilities receive free allowances to cover the total cost burden of compliance, including administrative costs and the costs of acquiring allowances or offset credits equal to the carbon emissions from the power plants that serve their ratepayers. These utilities can use the free allowances to meet their cap-and-invest compliance obligations. Alternatively, they can use some of the free allowance value to implement programs that benefit ratepayers. Under the initiative, through 2030, the total value of the free allowances that these entities would not receive is forecasted at \$1.3 billion.

<b>Table 1 – Projected revenue impact to Washington State</b>					
<b>Account</b>	<b>SFY 2025</b>	<b>SFY 2026</b>	<b>SFY 2027</b>	<b>SFY 2028</b>	<b>SFY 2029</b>
Carbon Emissions Reduction Account	(\$672,271,000)	(\$71,823,000)	(\$71,823,000)	(\$71,823,000)	(\$71,823,000)
Climate Transit Programs Account	\$0	(\$201,106,000)	(\$201,106,000)	(\$201,106,000)	(\$201,106,000)
Climate Active Transportation Account	\$0	(\$86,188,000)	(\$86,188,000)	(\$86,188,000)	(\$86,188,000)
Climate Investment Account, portions of which are distributed to the Climate Commitment Account and Natural Climate Solutions Account	(\$79,285,000)	(\$472,765,000)	(\$422,789,000)	(\$402,426,000)	(\$301,837,000)
Air Quality and Health Disparities Improvement Account	(\$2,500,000)	(\$10,000,000)	(\$10,000,000)	(\$10,000,000)	(\$10,000,000)
General Fund-State	(\$3,400,000)	(\$7,100,000)	(\$7,400,000)	(\$7,800,000)	(\$8,100,000)
Workforce Education Investment Account	(\$600,000)	(\$1,200,000)	(\$1,200,000)	(\$1,300,000)	(\$1,400,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(\$758,056,000)</b>	<b>(\$850,182,000)</b>	<b>(\$800,566,000)</b>	<b>(\$780,643,000)</b>	<b>(\$680,514,000)</b>

<b>Table 2 – Projected spending impact to Washington State:</b>					
<b>Account</b>	<b>SFY 2025</b>	<b>SFY 2026</b>	<b>SFY 2027</b>	<b>SFY 2028</b>	<b>SFY 2029</b>
Carbon Emissions Reduction Account	(\$435,594,125)	(\$1,387,000)	(\$1,387,000)	(\$1,387,000)	(\$1,387,000)
Transportation Carbon Emissions Reduction Account	\$230,354,125	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Climate Active Transportation Account	(\$0)	(\$9,533,500)	(\$9,533,500)	(\$9,533,500)	(\$9,533,500)
Climate Transit Programs Account	(\$0)	(\$179,850,000)	(\$179,850,000)	(\$179,850,000)	(\$179,850,000)
Climate Investment Account	(\$35,256,884)	(\$35,443,000)	(\$35,443,000)	(\$35,094,000)	(\$35,094,000)
Climate Commitment Account	(\$896,196,884)	(\$102,620,000)	(\$97,523,000)	(\$66,026,000)	(\$64,389,000)
Natural Climate Solutions Account	(\$282,251,136)	(\$25,392,000)	(\$27,953,000)	(\$22,956,000)	(\$25,853,000)
Air Quality and Health Disparities Investment Account	(\$19,333,611)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Consolidated Climate Account	\$653,797,443	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
General Fund-State	(\$6,349,000)	(\$6,152,000)	(\$6,364,000)	(\$7,500,000)	(\$7,700,000)
General Fund-Federal	(\$45,000,000)	(\$70,000,000)	(\$70,000,000)	(\$70,000,000)	(\$236,700,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(\$835,829,954)</b>	<b>(\$430,377,000)</b>	<b>(\$428,053,500)</b>	<b>(\$392,346,500)</b>	<b>(\$590,506,500)</b>

<b>Table 3 – Impact on the Carbon Emissions Reduction Account in the current biennium:</b>		
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Spending authority eliminated</b>	<b>Spending authority transferred to the Transportation Carbon Emissions Reduction Account</b>
Department of Commerce	(\$5,000,000)	\$0
Department of Ecology	(\$4,000,000)	\$0
Department of Enterprise Services	(\$13,500,000)	\$0
Department of Natural Resources	\$0	\$671,724
Joint Transportation Committee	(\$477,000)	\$2,243,091
Washington State Department of Transportation	(\$182,263,000)	\$227,439,310
Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>(\$205,240,000)</b>	<b>\$230,354,125</b>

<b>Table 4 – Impact on the Climate Active Transportation and Climate Transit Programs Accounts in the current biennium:</b>		
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Spending authority eliminated</b>	<b>Spending authority retained</b>
Transportation Improvement Board	\$0	\$7,067,000
Washington State Department of Transportation	\$0	\$322,984,552
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$330,051,552</b>

<b>Table 5 – Impact on the Climate Investment Account in the current biennium:</b>		
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Spending authority eliminated</b>	<b>Spending authority transferred to the Consolidated Climate Account</b>
Department of Ecology	(\$12,081,799)	\$21,058,099
Department of Health	\$0	\$489,012
Department of Licensing	\$0	\$0
Environmental and Land Use Hearings Office	\$0	\$838,354
Office of Financial Management	(\$2,370)	\$565,450
Recreation and Conservation Office	\$0	\$116,800
Washington State Conservation Commission	(\$105,000)	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>(\$12,189,169)</b>	<b>\$23,067,715</b>

<b>Table 6 – Impact on the Climate Commitment Account in the current biennium:</b>		
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Spending authority eliminated</b>	<b>Spending authority transferred to the Consolidated Climate Account</b>
Central Washington University	(\$16,973,000)	\$1,300,473
Columbia River Gorge Commission	\$0	\$70,250
Department of Architectural and Historic Preservation	\$0	\$506,755
Department of Children, Youth and Families	\$0	\$3,199,000
Department of Commerce	(\$269,919,794)	\$303,908,217
Department of Corrections	(\$600,000)	\$1,600,000
Department of Ecology	(\$9,792,103)	\$17,917,345
Department of Enterprise Services	(\$1,617,575)	\$0
Department of Health	\$120,000	\$79,236,333
Department of Labor & Industries	\$0	\$3,463,669
Department of Natural Resources	(\$862,000)	\$5,423,409
Department of Revenue	\$0	\$281,500
Department of Social and Health Services	(\$9,958,915)	\$0
Department of Veteran's Affairs	\$0	\$200,000
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council	(\$68,000)	\$4,561,612
Employment Security Department	\$0	\$329,837
Eastern Washington University	(\$9,998,000)	\$50,000
Governor's Office of Indian Affairs	\$0	\$495,218
Office of Financial Management	(\$875,000)	\$3,240,284
Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction	(\$30,000,000)	\$7,525,000
The Evergreen State College	\$0	\$0
University of Washington	(\$39,053,000)	\$9,055,869
Washington State Board of Community & Technical Colleges	(\$2,475,000)	\$5,781,000
Washington State Conservation Commission	(\$3,048,483)	\$22,400,000
Washington State Department of Agriculture	(\$3,407,000)	\$2,553,592
Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife	\$0	\$1,056,113
Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission	(\$950,000)	\$1,462,443
Washington State University	(\$13,000,000)	\$352,823
Western Washington University	(\$7,000,000)	\$0
Workforce Training Board	\$0	\$508,273
<b>Total</b>	<b>(\$419,717,870)</b>	<b>\$476,479,014</b>

<b>Table 7 – Impact on the Natural Climate Solutions Account in the current biennium:</b>		
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Spending authority eliminated</b>	<b>Spending authority transferred to the Consolidated Climate Account</b>
Department of Commerce	(\$7,975,000)	\$2,600,546
Department of Ecology	(\$2,079,963)	\$21,451,072
Department of Enterprise Services	\$0	\$0
Department of Health	\$0	\$22,828
Department of Natural Resources	(\$54,594,358)	\$26,464,652
Military Department	\$0	\$84,022
Recreation and Conservation Office	(\$72,006,000)	\$57,279,700
University of Washington	\$0	\$486,602
Washington State Conservation Commission	(\$5,603,713)	\$24,331,293
Washington State Department of Agriculture	(\$5,000,000)	\$114,884
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$0	\$1,145,241
Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission	(\$75,000)	\$936,263
<b>Total</b>	<b>(\$147,334,034)</b>	<b>\$134,917,102</b>

<b>Table 8 – Impact on the Air Quality and Health Disparities Investment Account in the current biennium:</b>		
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Spending authority eliminated</b>	<b>Spending authority transferred to the Consolidated Climate Account</b>
Department of Ecology	\$0	\$19,333,611
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$19,333,611</b>



## Argument for

### Vote “Yes” on I-2117 to repeal Washington’s expensive, unfair, and wasteful CO2 tax

The CO2 tax increases the cost of gasoline and energy and drives up the price of everything we buy. A hidden tax that hurts low-income people most while providing large handouts to special interests. That’s why a bipartisan group of climate scientists, farmers, small business owners, and environmental justice advocates is voting “Yes” on I-2117 to cut energy prices and protect jobs.

### The CO2 tax is built on broken promises

Politicians promised the CO2 tax would make gasoline prices go up by only “pennies.” Instead, the CO2 tax added nearly 40 cents per gallon at the pump, making Washington’s fuel some of the *most expensive in the nation*. Plus, the tax will *double* in just a few years.

### Energy inflation hits low-income families hardest

While working families struggle with higher prices, politicians offer token, election-year “credits” to hide the real costs of the tax. The state even made it *illegal* for utilities to tell people the CO2 tax is hiking up their bills. This tax is unfair and kills small businesses and good jobs.

### The CO2 tax goes mainly to government and special interests—not fighting climate change

The CO2 tax gives *billions* to government bureaucrats, with little left for tackling pollution and climate change. Lots of cash for special interests, but almost nothing to stop wildfires or improve air quality. Vote “Yes” to support environmental action that prioritizes the planet not politics.

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### Rebuttal of argument against

Advocates of the CO2 tax – the largest energy tax in state history – claim it doesn't increase energy costs. They *know* this is false. We all felt the harm from soaring gasoline prices. Repealing the tax lowers prices. Tax supporters also *know* the law prohibits the taxes from maintaining roads and bridges. Ending the tax will *not* hurt transportation. Don't be fooled by dishonest scare tactics. Vote “Yes” to pay less and protect low-income Washingtonians.

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### Written by

**Nichole Banegas**, Environmental Justice Leader; **Cliff Mass**, Professor of Atmospheric Sciences; **Ben Tindall**, Executive Director of Save Family Farming; **Sheri Call**, President & CEO, Washington Trucking Associations; **Todd Myers**, environmental author, former Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Councilmember; **Matt Boehnke**, State Senator, 8<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

**Contact:** No information submitted

## Argument against

I-2117 is a purposely misleading, poorly written initiative that won't do a thing to guarantee lower costs for working families. It will endanger our health and safety and would devastate our transportation system.

### I-2117 is a threat to our air, land and water - putting our health at risk.

I-2117 would jeopardize vital protections for our waterways, including rivers, lakes and streams. It would mean more toxic pollution in the air we breathe, resulting in more adults and kids suffering with asthma and illness. It would gut programs that protect our communities from wildfires and eliminate efforts to support salmon recovery and fish habitat.

### I-2117 threatens the safe, reliable functioning of our entire transportation system.

I-2117 would cut one-third of funding for our state's already stretched transportation plan, making traffic congestion worse and commutes even longer. These drastic cuts would impact every corner of our state, putting major road and bridge projects addressing congestion, safety and freight mobility in danger of severe delays or outright cancellation. I-2117 reduces funding to restore a ferry system already in crisis and would drastically slash transit service.

### An unprecedented coalition opposes I-2117.

The devastating harm I-2117 would cause has produced a uniquely broad and diverse coalition united in opposition. Over 350 organizations – including firefighters, small businesses, leading companies, doctors, nurses, labor unions and environmental leaders – and Tribal Nations have joined together to fiercely oppose I-2117. *No* to more pollution. *No* to more traffic congestion. *No* on I-2117. It's a bad deal for Washington.

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### Rebuttal of argument for

The people behind I-2117 make many misleading claims. If its supporters wanted to lower gas prices, they should have pushed an initiative to cut the gas tax. There is *nothing* in I-2117 that guarantees lower gas prices – but it *will* mean more pollution in our air and waterways, and more asthma and illness. It *will* devastate our transportation system, increasing traffic congestion and commute times, and costing jobs. Don't be fooled. Vote *no* on 2117.

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### Written by

**Mark Riker**, Executive Secretary, Washington Building & Construction Trade Council; **Leonard Forsman**, Chairman Suquamish Tribe, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; **Maia Bellon**, The Nature Conservancy in Washington, Board Chair, Tumwater; **Richard de Sam Lazaro**, Transportation Choice Coalition, Board President; **Lindsey Kirsch**, Pediatric Registered Nurse; **Jason Wilkins**, State Council of Firefighters, Spokane, Wildland Taskforce Leader

**Contact:** (206) 331-3969; info@no2117.com; no2117.com

Initiative Measure No.

# 2124

Initiative Measure No. 2124 concerns state long term care insurance.

This measure would provide that employees and self-employed people must elect to keep coverage under RCW 50B.04 and could opt-out any time. It would also repeal a law governing an exemption for employees. This measure would decrease funding for Washington's public insurance program providing long-term care benefits and services.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

Yes

No

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**Fiscal Impact Statement . . . . . 33**  
**Arguments For and Against . . . . . 37**



The Secretary of State is not responsible for the content of statements or arguments (WAC 434-381-180).



## Explanatory Statement

Written by the Office of the Attorney General

### The Law as It Presently Exists

In 2019, the Washington Legislature created a public long term care insurance program that is commonly known as “WA Cares.” The program provides people who meet its requirements up to \$36,500 (plus increases based on inflation) to pay for certain long term care services, such as nursing home care.

The insurance program is funded through mandatory contributions from most employees in Washington. Employers must deduct 0.58 percent of an employee’s wages. Participation is mandatory for most employees whether they are full-time, part-time, or temporary workers. Payroll deductions began on July 1, 2023.

Some employees in Washington do not contribute to the long term care insurance program and are not eligible for the program’s benefit. In general, federal employees, employees of federally recognized tribes, and persons who are self-employed do not participate in the long term care insurance program. However, federally recognized tribes and persons who are self-employed may choose to participate.

Certain employees may apply for voluntary exemptions from participation in the program. Employees who may apply for voluntary exemptions include veterans with service-connected disabilities, spouses or registered domestic partners of active-duty military members, temporary workers on a non-immigrant visa, and, under recent changes to the law, workers whose permanent address is outside Washington. In addition, employees who obtained private long term care insurance before November 2021 were eligible to apply for an exemption until December 2022.

Participants must contribute to the long term care insurance program for a minimum number of years before they are eligible to apply for benefits. In general, participants must contribute for either (1) at least ten years, without a gap of five or more consecutive years, or (2) for three of the last six years before the date a person applies for benefits. A person born before 1968 may receive partial benefits based on the number of years they have contributed to the program.

The long-term care insurance benefit is available only to individuals who need assistance with at least three activities of daily living, such as eating, getting in or out of bed, dressing, taking medications, or bathing. In addition, a person is eligible for the benefit only if they are at least 18 years old. For Washington residents, benefits first become available on July 1, 2026.

### The Effect of the Proposed Measure if Approved

If adopted, Initiative Measure No. 2124 (I-2124) would change how participation in the long term care insurance program works. Employees and self-employed persons who are currently participating in the program would be able to opt out at any time. A person who opts out would not contribute premiums to the program and would not be eligible for the \$36,500 benefit.

I-2124 would also require that employees or self-employed persons in Washington elect to keep coverage under the program.

This measure does not specify the timing or process for employees or self-employed persons to either “elect to keep coverage” or opt out of the program. I-2124 would give the Employment Security Department authority to adopt rules to implement the measure’s requirements.

I-2124 would also repeal the statute that created a voluntary exemption for employees who had purchased long term care insurance before November 2021.

## Fiscal Impact Statement

Written by the Office of Financial Management  
For more information visit [www.ofm.wa.gov/ballot](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/ballot)

### FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY

If voters approve Initiative 2124, there will be additional expenses to the state due to administrative costs. Estimated expenses for the first three state fiscal years combined are in the range of \$12,623,250 to \$31,215,960. There is an assumed decrease in state revenues due to workers opting out of the program and no longer paying premiums. It is unknown how many current and future workers will choose to continue to participate in the program. Therefore, the total impacts to revenue and program costs, including the amount for paying future benefits, are indeterminate. There are no known local government fiscal impacts.

### General Assumptions

- The effective date of the initiative is December 5, 2024.
- For those choosing to opt out, premium collections would stop the first day of the following calendar quarter after the opt-out request is made.
- The provisions of the initiative apply prospectively, not retroactively.
- Workers who do not have an exemption from the Long-Term Services and Supports program (LTSS) will continue paying premiums unless and until they affirmatively opt out of the program.

- Estimates use the state's fiscal year (SFY) of July 1 through June 30. State fiscal year 2025 (SFY25) July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

## REVENUE

### State Revenue

Unless otherwise exempted from the LTSS program, the Employment Security Department (ESD) collects mandatory premiums from Washington workers at a current rate of 0.58% of a worker's wages. Premiums collected are placed in the Long-Term Services and Supports Trust Account to cover benefit payments and administrative costs. Workers who choose to opt out of the program if the initiative passes will no longer contribute toward these costs or receive benefits.

Current actuarial projections assume program revenue to reach \$952 million in state fiscal year 2025, sufficient to cover benefit payments beginning in state fiscal year 2027 when combined with previously collected premiums in the Long-Term Services and Supports Trust Account. If the initiative passes, it is unknown how many workers would choose to opt out of the program. Therefore, revenue impacts are indeterminate. For illustrative purposes only, if 25% less in premiums were collected, the state fiscal year 2025 revenue would be \$714 million. If 75% less in premiums were collected, the state fiscal year 2025 revenue would be \$238 million.

An analysis by the Office of the State Actuary indicates that if rates of non-participation are high enough, the Long-Term Services and Supports Trust Account could become insolvent as early as state fiscal year 2027.

Once benefits become available to eligible LTSS participants in July of 2026, there may be potential savings to the Medicaid program related to delaying usage of long-term care services and supports covered by Medicaid. The potential impact of this initiative on any Medicaid savings is indeterminate because projected impacts to benefit payments cannot be defined since the demographic makeup of those who would choose to remain in the program is unknown.

## EXPENDITURES

There are currently 4.1 million workers in Washington state, with 3.9 million participating in the LTSS program. It is unknown how many of those workers will choose to remain in the program. Therefore, estimated expenditures for benefits and administrative costs are indeterminate. For this reason, this analysis identifies costs associated with a range of scenarios, from 25%,

50% and 75% of workers electing to opt out of the program. All expenditures noted within this analysis would come from revenue in the Long-Term Services and Supports Trust Account.

**Customer Support** (Non-indeterminate costs: SFY25: \$1,310,000; SFY26: \$584,000; SFY27 and ongoing: \$236,000; and indeterminate costs)

Additional customer support teams would be needed at both the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and the Employment Security Department (ESD) to address an ongoing increase in calls and inquiries from the public. Agencies do not anticipate a decrease in their existing customer service costs if fewer people choose to participate in the program.

DSHS provides customer service and addresses questions and complaints for the LTSS program, including referring individual customers to other appropriate agencies. Depending on the percentage of workers electing to opt out, and assuming that 10% of those individuals will contact DSHS for a call that is five minutes in duration, increased staffing costs would begin in December of 2024.

Ranges of the staff required and costs based on 25% to 75% of workers electing to opt out:

(See Table 1 on page 36.)

In addition to these costs, DSHS will need to purchase software services and technical consulting services required to implement call center technology, costing \$1,000,000 in state fiscal year 2025.

ESD collects and assesses employee LTSS program premiums. Therefore, ESD assumes that the following work will be needed:

- Provide customer service to workers, including self-employed individuals, with questions regarding maintaining and opting out of coverage.
- Upon request, mail documentation to employees that they may provide to employers concerning maintaining coverage in the program.
- Support employers with reporting and premium payments. ESD will process refunds to employers who withheld premiums incorrectly from their employees.
- ESD assumes that in the first year, 15% of the customers who opt out of the program will contact the department with questions or to request technical assistance, with each contact estimated at 15 minutes. In subsequent years, that rate of individuals requiring assistance will drop to 10%

of those choosing to opt out. Using the 25%, 50% and 75% range of opt-outs, ESD assumes increased staffing costs would begin in December of 2024.

Ranges of the staff required and costs based on 25% to 75% of workers electing to opt out:

(See Table 2 on page 36.)

These estimates also assume that eight current positions who process exemptions will be repurposed to provide customer service. To support the additional customer service staff, ESD estimates needing an additional five staff for training, designing operating procedures, fiscal support and conducting administrative actions. The costs for the support staff are \$310,000 in state fiscal year 2025, \$584,000 in state fiscal year 2026 and \$236,000 in state fiscal year 2027 and ongoing.

**Information Technology Enhancements** (Non-indeterminate costs: SFY25: \$883,000; SFY26 and ongoing: \$31,000)

ESD will develop IT system functionality to allow Washington workers the ability to opt out of the LTSS program. This system enhancement will take approximately 12 weeks to build and implement, and ESD will hire IT staffing and vendor teams to complete this work from December 2024 through February 2025, estimated to cost \$835,000 in state fiscal year 2025 and including 3.4 staff. Vendor services and IT staffing teams needed will include development, performance, security and management. Other IT infrastructure costs are estimated to be \$48,000 in state fiscal year 2025 for an additional testing environment and database capacity. Ongoing costs for database capacity are approximately \$31,000 per year starting in state fiscal year 2026.

**Product Management** (Non-indeterminate costs: SFY25: \$587,000)

ESD will hire a product management team, consisting of 4.3 temporary staff working through June 30, 2025, costing \$587,000 in state fiscal year 2025, to ensure legislation is implemented successfully by balancing value, usability, feasibility, sustainability risks and working with stakeholders.

**Communications** (Non-indeterminate costs: SFY25: \$426,000; SFY26: \$262,000; SFY27 and ongoing: \$178,000)

ESD will develop and implement communication plans to prepare employers and employer agents,

such as third-party payroll providers, for changes to wage filing requirements. The cost of creating and disseminating information through mailers to 183,000 employers is expected to be \$89,000 per mailing. ESD anticipates sending four mailings in state fiscal year 2025 (\$89,000 x 4 = \$356,000) and two mailings per year in state fiscal year 2026 and each year thereafter (\$89,000 x 2 = \$178,000). In addition, ESD plans to hire a communications consultant for one year starting in December of 2024 to inform workers through their employers about the ability to maintain and opt out of the program and to inform employers about how to manage their employees' program coverage and changes to reporting requirements.

**Legal Services, Appeals, Rule Making** (Non-indeterminate costs: SFY25: \$90,000; and indeterminate costs)

The Office of Administrative Hearings may experience a reduction in projected appeals if fewer workers participate in the program. Therefore, a savings of roughly \$55,000 to \$165,000 may be realized depending on the percentage of workers that choose to opt out.

ESD is authorized to establish rules pertaining to the programmatic changes made within the initiative. Rulemaking is expected to cost \$90,000 in state fiscal year 2025. It is unknown what level of legal guidance ESD will need from the Office of the Attorney General to implement the rules and initiative. Therefore, any costs associated with legal guidance are indeterminate.

**Benefit Payments** (Indeterminate costs)

Benefits become available to eligible participants beginning in state fiscal year 2027. Current actuarial projections assume program benefit payments to cost approximately \$1.837 billion in state fiscal year 2027. Any impacts this initiative may have on future benefit payouts or associated administrative expenses are indeterminate at this time since the demographic makeup of those who would choose to remain in the program is unknown.

<b>Table 1 – Ranges of the staff required and costs based on 25% to 75% of workers electing to opt out:</b>			
	SFY25	SFY26	SFY27
Number of Staff	5.3 to 13.5	7.3 to 17.9	4.7 to 10
Cost Range	\$577,000 to \$1,409,000	\$740,000 to \$1,775,000	\$483,000 to \$994,000

<b>Table 2 – Ranges of the staff required and costs based on 25% to 75% of workers electing to opt out:</b>			
	SFY25	SFY26	SFY27
Number of Staff	18.8 to 66.6	24.5 to 89.5	18.8 to 71.9
Cost Range	\$1,921,890 to \$6,711,045	\$2,508,012 to \$8,990,311	\$1,940,348 to \$7,213,604

*SFY27 costs would continue each year thereafter.*

## If I am a victim of a crime, can I vote safely?

### Keep your voting address confidential

You may be able to enroll in the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) and register as a Protected Records Voter if you are:

- A survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, stalking; or
- A criminal justice participant, election official, or protected health care worker who is a target for harassment.

To become a Protected Records Voter:

- You meet with a Certified Advocate who can assist with threat assessment, safety planning, and the program application.
- The best time to enroll is when you move or are planning to move to a location that is unknown to the offender and undocumented in public record.



Call 1 (800) 822-1065 or visit [sos.wa.gov/acp](https://sos.wa.gov/acp).



## Argument for

### **Yes on I-2124 makes the long-term care payroll tax program a voluntary choice.**

The long-term care program is a mandatory payroll tax funded directly from employees' paychecks. Washington workers should have the choice over whether their hard-earned money is taken to fund the program. Voting "Yes" makes the payroll tax voluntary and gives workers the choice to remain in or leave the program.

### **Yes on I-2124 gives everyone a choice.**

There is bipartisan support to pass I-2124. Over 500,000 Washington workers have already chosen to opt-out of the program. The opt-out window is closed for the rest of us. Voting "Yes" reopens the window for everyone.

### **Yes on I-2124 creates long-term care flexibility.**

For many families, the long-term care program will only cover a few months of care. Workers may pay more into the program than they will ever use. For married couples, the benefits can't be transferred to spouses. Part-time employees, seniors, and anyone working less than 500 hours/year could be taxed and never receive benefits. Voting "Yes" creates long-term care flexibility for everyone.

### **Yes on I-2124 reduces the financial burden of a payroll tax.**

Inflation is already hitting our pocketbooks and forcing us to make tough financial decisions at the kitchen table. An unpopular tax with an unfair government program is not the solution. Voting "Yes" reduces financial burdens and increases our household incomes.

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### **Rebuttal of argument against**

I-2124 gives all Washington workers the choice to participate or opt-out of the state program and mandatory payroll tax. The healthcare special interest lobby should not determine what decisions are best for you and your family. Washington voters are smart enough to decide what's best for themselves and anyone with a preexisting condition can stay in the program. Vote Yes on I-2124 to give Washington workers control over their long-term healthcare.

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### **Written by**

**Mark Mullet**, State Senator, Democrat; **Curtis King**, State Senator, Republican; **Peter Abbarno**, State Representative, Republican

**Contact:** (800) 562-6000; peter.abbarno@leg.wa.gov; www.RepresentativePeterAbbarno.com

## Argument against

### **I-2124 takes away benefits we need due to injuries, illnesses, disabilities, or age**

Experts report I-2124 will take away Washington's long-term care insurance program that covers us when we are disabled, ill, or aging. It will take away our only affordable and guaranteed coverage available because Medicare and private health insurance do not cover long-term care, which 70% of us will need at some point.

### **I-2124 increases costs, pushes more of us into debt**

I-2124 would take away long-term care benefit payments and will leave 3.9 million working people with the broken private long-term care insurance market as their only option. Private insurance increases expensive premiums, denies claims, and discriminates against women, charging them up to 70% more than men.

### **I-2124 hurts women most**

More than 800,000 Washingtonians, mostly women, are currently unpaid caregivers for a parent, in-law, spouse, or other loved one. I-2124 will increase pressure on women to juggle work, family, and provide unpaid care for loved ones in need, impacting their earning power.

### **I-2124 harms people with histories of cancer, diabetes, or high blood pressure**

Under I-2124, millions of people with pre-existing conditions will be left with no care coverage options since private insurance companies regularly reject those of us with pre-existing conditions. I-2124 is opposed by Washington State Nurses Association, AARP, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Washington State Labor Council, Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates, League of Women Voters.

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### **Rebuttal of argument for**

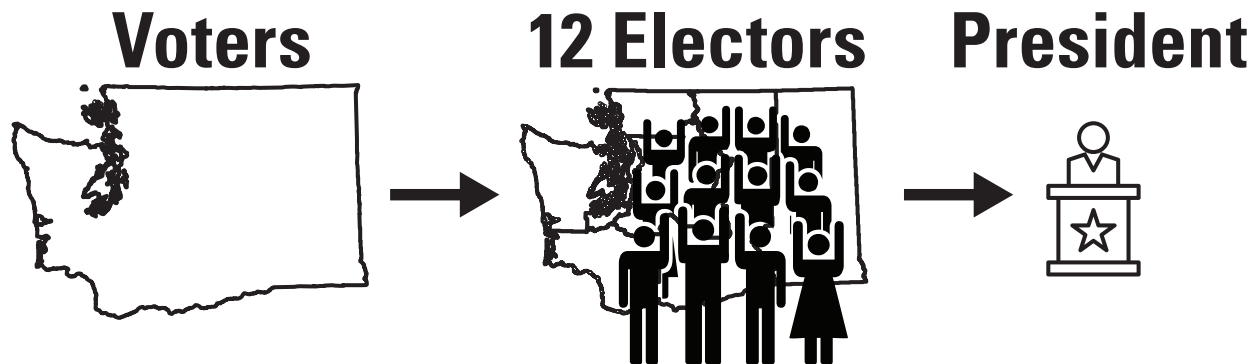
I 2124 is misleading. That's why it's strongly opposed by the WA State Nurses Association, AARP, League of Women Voters, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and 100 other organizations representing doctors, caregivers, older adults, women, and people with pre-existing conditions. Medicare won't pay for long term care and I-2124 will take away the only affordable, guaranteed coverage for 3.9 million Washingtonians, leaving us with expensive private long term care insurance as the only option. Vote no.

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### **Written by**

**Marguerite Ro**, Doctor of Public Health, Director, AARP Washington; **Justin Gill**, APRN, RN, President, Washington State Nurses Association; **Clark Hansen**, Managing Director, ALS Association; **Charles Mayer**, MD MPH, Family Physician; **Adam Zarrin**, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society; **Courtney Normand**, Washington State Director, Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates

**Contact:** (206) 801-0179; NoOn2124.org



### The Electoral College is a process, not a place

When you vote for President and Vice President, you determine a group of people called electors (also known as a slate) to represent Washington state in the Electoral College. The electors gather in December to cast votes for President based on the state's election results.

Each major political party chooses their own electors through the caucus and convention process.

### Washington has 12 presidential electors

Every state starts with two because every state has two U.S. Senators. Based on population, each state receives an additional elector for every U.S. House Representative.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 2 \text{ U.S. Senators} \\
 +10 \text{ U.S. House Representatives} \\
 \hline
 =12 \text{ Total electors}
 \end{array}$$

### The magic number

There are a total of 538 electoral votes in the nation. A presidential ticket needs at least 270 electoral votes nationwide to win. If no presidential ticket receives a majority of electoral votes, the U.S. House of Representatives elects the President and the U.S. Senate elects the Vice President.

### How electoral votes are distributed

Washington state is one of 48 states that uses a "winner-take-all" system; the presidential ticket that wins the popular vote in the state is entitled to all 12 of Washington's electoral votes.



## Qualifications & Responsibilities

Except for the President and Vice President, all federal officials elected in Washington must be residents of the state.

### President & Vice President

The President must be at least 35 years old and a natural born U.S. citizen. Voters indirectly elect the President through the Electoral College. The President is elected to a four-year term and cannot serve more than two elected terms.

The chief duty of the President is to ensure the laws of the nation are faithfully executed. This duty is largely performed through appointments for thousands of federal positions, including secretaries of cabinet-level agencies and federal judges (subject to confirmation by the Senate). The President is the commander in chief of the U.S. armed forces, has the power to sign and veto (reject) laws passed by Congress, and makes treaties with foreign governments (with Senate approval).

The Vice President serves as the presiding officer of the Senate. The Vice President becomes President if the office is vacated.



The order of major political parties is determined by the number of votes cast in this state for the President of the United States at the last presidential election. In 2020, the Democratic Party received the highest number of votes in Washington state and must appear on the ballot first.

Independent and minor party candidates follow major parties in the order of their qualification with the Secretary of State. (RCW 29A.36.161)

### Congress

The United States' Senate and House of Representatives have equal responsibility for declaring war, maintaining the armed forces, assessing taxes, borrowing money, minting currency, regulating commerce, and making all laws and budgets necessary for the operation of government.

#### United States Senator

Senators must be at least 30 years old and citizens of the U.S. for at least nine years. Senators serve six-year terms. The Senate has 100 members; two from each state.

The Senate has several exclusive powers, including consenting to treaties, confirming federal appointments made by the President, and trying federal officials impeached by the House of Representatives.

#### United States Representative

Representatives must be at least 25 years old and citizens of the U.S. for at least seven years. Representatives are not required to be registered voters of their district, but must reside in the state. Representatives serve two-year terms.

The House of Representatives has 435 members, all of whom are up for election in even-numbered years. Each state has a different number of members based on population.



Candidates submitted their information for this pamphlet prior to printing. For the most current information, sign in to [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov).



Candidate statements are printed exactly as submitted. The Office of the Secretary of State does not make corrections of any kind or verify statements for truth or fact.



**Kamala D.  
Harris**

Democratic Party Nominee  
**President**

**Elected Experience**

Vice President of the United States (from 2021 through the present), US Senator for California (from 2017 to 2021), Attorney General of California (from 2011 to 2017), District Attorney of San Francisco (from 2004 to 2011)

**Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted

**Education**

University of California College of the Law, San Francisco (J.D.); Howard University (B.A.)

**Community Service**

No information submitted



**Tim  
Walz**

Democratic Party Nominee  
**Vice President**

**Elected Experience**

Governor of Minnesota (from 2019 through the present), U.S. Representative for Minnesota's 1st Congressional District (from 2007 to 2019)

**Other Professional Experience**

U.S. Army National Guard (from 1981 to 2005), Teacher and Coach (from 1989 to 2006)

**Education**

Chadron State College, B.Sc., 1989

**Community Service**

No information submitted

**Statement**

Vice President Harris is a fighter for the people. From her days as a prosecutor to her service as Vice President, she has defended the rights of everyday people by standing up to predators, scammers, and powerful interests. She has been fearless in taking on anyone who threatens the rights and freedoms of Americans.

As a prosecutor, she put murderers and abusers behind bars, standing up for women and children. As California Attorney General, she cracked down on transnational gangs trafficking drugs and guns across the border to make communities safer. She also took on the big banks that committed mortgage fraud, winning back billions in relief for homeowners. As a Senator and Vice President, she took on the big drug companies to cap the cost of insulin for seniors and led the fight for reproductive freedom. She has also advanced America's interests on the world stage, including by taking on Russian leader Vladimir Putin and standing with NATO.

As president, she would make strengthening the middle class a defining goal of her presidency. She will confront price gouging, work to lower costs, and expand opportunity so that every American has the chance to not just get by, but get ahead. And she will continue fighting to restore our freedoms, from reproductive rights to voting rights.

Governor Tim Walz is a champion for working families. He served 24 years in the Army National Guard. After attending college thanks to the GI Bill, Walz was a high school teacher and football coach – taking his team to the state championship for the first time in the school's history. He was a member of Congress in a Republican-leaning district, with a record of bipartisanship. As Governor, Walz cut taxes for working families, lowered the cost of insulin, and protected women's right to choose.

**Contact**

info@kamalaharris.com; www.kamalaharris.com





**Donald J.  
Trump**

Republican Party Nominee  
**President**

**Elected Experience**

45th President of the United States of America

**Other Professional Experience**

Businessman, real estate mogul, television star, and author.

**Education**

Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; New York Military Academy

**Community Service**

45th President of the United States



**JD  
Vance**

Republican Party Nominee  
**Vice President**

**Elected Experience**

Elected to United States Senate from the state of Ohio in 2022

**Other Professional Experience**

Enlisted in U.S. Marine Corps with service in the Iraq War

**Education**

Ohio State University; Yale Law School

**Community Service**

No information submitted

**Statement**

Eight years ago, Donald J. Trump ran on a promise to put America First, and he remains committed to that vision. With Vice President nominee JD Vance, our mission is stronger than ever.

Donald J. Trump will stand up to the radical left that seeks to weaken our nation. He is dedicated to strengthening our borders to stop illegal immigration and ensuring that we put America First. The current administration's failures have led to runaway inflation, crippling the economy and burdening hardworking families. Donald J. Trump will implement policies to bring down inflation, create better trade deals, and prioritize American jobs and industries.

Donald J. Trump believes in a strong and prosperous America. He will restore economic stability, secure our borders, and make America a leader on the world stage again. The threats we face from adversaries abroad, like China and other foreign powers, will be met with decisive action to protect our nation's interests.

Our movement to Make America Great Again is the only force that can bring safety, prosperity, and peace back to our country. We will stand up to powerful special interests, end foreign wars, and ensure that every American has the opportunity to thrive. Together, we will put America First and return power to the American People.

Vote to put America First and to Make America Great Again. Vote Donald J. Trump for President.

**Contact**

(617) 303-6800; info@djtfp24.com; www.DonaldJTrump.com



**Robert F.  
Kennedy Jr.**

We The People Party  
Nominee

**President**

**Elected Experience**

N/A

**Other Professional Experience**

Named Time Magazine's "Hero for the Planet," Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has accomplished more for clean water than anyone in American history. Working as an environmental attorney for 40 years, Kennedy won lawsuits against corrupt government agencies to defend the constitutional rights and freedoms of Americans and protect our air, soil, food and health from corporate polluters.

**Education**

Harvard University, Bachelor of Arts; University of Virginia School of Law, Juris Doctor; Pace University, Master of Laws

**Community Service**

Kennedy co-founded the Waterkeeper Alliance, the world's largest clean water advocacy group, and Children's Health Defense, to end childhood chronic disease.

**Statement**

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is running for president as an independent to end the corrupt merger between corporations and government and fix the broken two party system that has undermined the American way of life. Kennedy proposes a "unity government" in which all parties are represented. Nicole Shanahan joined the ticket to bring power back to the people.

As president, Kennedy will end the foreign wars, reign in the military industrial complex and reinvest the trillions saved at home to restore the middle class. He has plans to: 1) redirect 20% of government contracts away from megacorporations that offshore our economy and into small businesses, creating millions of jobs and an economic boom; 2) offer a new GI Bill to anyone willing to serve their community in our domestic Peace Corps, providing corps members with enough life-changing assets to pay their way through college, put a downpayment on a home, or start a small business; 3) assist homebuyers with government-guaranteed 3% mortgages; and 4) cap childcare at 10% of income, so families can achieve the American dream of homeownership and affordable parenthood.



**Nicole  
Shanahan**

We The People Party  
Nominee

**Vice President**

**Elected Experience**

N/A

**Other Professional Experience**

Nicole Shanahan is an attorney and tech entrepreneur. She founded ClearAccessIP in 2013, revolutionizing patent management with AI technology. She is the recipient of the CALI Excellence For The Future Award and has been recognized as a Top 50 Femtech Healthcare Influencer & Longevity Leader.

**Education**

University of Puget Sound, Bachelor of Arts; Santa Clara University, Juris Doctor

**Community Service**

Shanahan established the Bia-Echo Foundation, which supports innovative changemakers addressing major global challenges such as reproductive and metabolic health, criminal justice reform and community safety, environmental sustainability with a focus on regenerative agriculture, and more.

As vice president, Shanahan will work with President Kennedy to solve the chronic disease epidemic, protect our children and secure medical freedom.

Kennedy and Shanahan will champion regenerative agriculture. By promoting farming practices that restore soil health and enhance biodiversity, they will advance a resilient food system, benefitting people and the planet.

Kennedy and Shanahan will secure the southern border and end the migrant crisis that undermines our city budgets. They will address the epidemic of drug addiction and protect reproductive rights.

Restoring honest governance, Kennedy and Shanahan will eradicate corruption and ensure transparency and accountability. They will give the American people a voice in guiding legislation through direct democracy initiatives. #AmericaStrong

**Contact**

(508) 543-1720; info@teamkennedy.com;  
www.kennedy24.com



## Jill Stein

Green Party Nominee  
**President**

### Elected Experience

Town Meeting Member, Lexington MA

### Other Professional Experience

Doctor of Internal Medicine, Harvard Medical School  
Instructor of Medicine

### Education

Harvard Medical School

### Community Service

Jill Stein is a longtime environmental health advocate and organizer. As the Green presidential candidate in 2012 and 2016, she led the way on critical issues from a Green New Deal to ending student debt. She has long fought for an end to endless war, an economy that works for working people, and a livable future for our children. She is now running for president as the only anti-genocide, pro-worker, climate action candidate with a path to the White House.

### Statement

The political system is broken. The two Wall Street parties are bought and paid for. Both are abandoning working people, worsening the climate crisis, undermining democracy, and squandering trillions on the endless war machine while tens of millions of Americans lack housing, food, healthcare and more.

Over 60% of us now say the two-party system has failed and we need a party that serves the people. I'm running for President to offer that choice for the people. Our campaign is the only anti-war, anti-genocide, pro-worker, climate action choice with a path to the White House.

Political insiders smear voters who want better choices. But without freedom of choice in elections, there is no democracy. So forget the elites who tell you to ignore your struggle and to keep voting for the politicians who caused it. Change won't come from them; it has to come from the people.



## Rudolph Ware

Green Party Nominee  
**Vice President**

### Elected Experience

None

### Other Professional Experience

Since 2004 Professor Ware has been a full faculty member at Northwestern, Michigan, and now UC Santa-Barbara, teaching in History, Black Studies, and Islamic Studies.

### Education

University of Minnesota '91; PhD (History) UPenn '04.

### Community Service

Professor Ware is a lifelong educator specializing in the history of empire, colonialism, genocide and revolution. For the past two decades he has organized teach-ins, community education curricula, and other activist and organizing initiatives. He has worked across the country and worldwide to challenge imperialism, ethnic cleansing, and endless war, and to build sustainable, just, peaceful alternatives rooted in African, Indigenous, and Abrahamic traditions.

If we come together, we can create an economy that works for all of us with living-wage jobs, healthcare, housing, food, childcare, debt-free education, and guaranteed livable income as human rights. We can create a Green New Deal with millions of jobs to fight climate collapse, secure clean air, water, and food, and protect Mother Earth.

We can end endless war, rampant militarism, and genocide, and launch a new foreign policy based on diplomacy, international law, and human rights. We can revive our democracy with ranked-choice voting, proportional representation, and public campaign financing to get big money out of politics. We can end mass incarceration, fix our immigration system, and ensure our rights, freedoms, and justice for all.

We have the power to do all this and more - and we can use it in 2024 to start building an America and a world that works for all of us.

### Contact

(425) 691-6631; info@jillstein2024.com; jillstein2024.com



**Claudia  
De la Cruz**

Socialism and Liberation  
Party Nominee  
**President**

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**

Claudia De la Cruz is a mother, popular educator, community organizer and theologian.

**Education**

City University of New York, Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary

**Community Service**

Born in the South Bronx to immigrant parents from the Dominican Republic, she began her political organizing work when she was 13 at her home church, grounding her work on principles of liberation theology. She actively participated in campaigns to free political prisoners; to get the U.S. Navy out of Vieques, Puerto Rico; to end the U.S. blockade against Cuba; for the freedom of Palestine; and against police terror — to name a few.

**Statement**

Humanity is experiencing a massive existential crisis — climate catastrophe, massive job losses, and war between the U.S. and other nuclear-armed powers. The capitalist government has no answers to these crises, and is in fact driving them forward, acting as a servant for the Big Banks, Big Tech, Big Oil and the Military-Industrial Complex. In every crisis that the people face, whether it's hurricanes, wildfires or pandemics, the government has proven itself to be totally inept and to only care about profit. They can't steer us away from crises — they are part of them.

Most people in the country are living paycheck to paycheck, the cost of everything has skyrocketed, and the ten richest men have doubled their fortunes. But both major, pro-capitalist parties are saying that nothing can be done — that this is just how the economy works. We disagree!



**Karina  
Garcia**

Socialism and Liberation  
Party Nominee  
**Vice President**

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**

Karina is a mother, Chicana organizer and popular educator.

**Education**

Columbia University

**Community Service**

As one of the founders of the Justice Center en El Barrio in New York City and member of the Central Committee of the Party for Socialism and Liberation, Karina has dedicated her life to her work as a socialist organizer. As the daughter of immigrants, her family's story inspires her to grow with the courage and determination to fight for a better world.

The resources exist to resolve the problems humanity faces. The only things that stand in the way are the politicians that manage affairs for the billionaires who generate super-profits from workers all over the globe.

We stand for socialism — a system where poor and working people hold political and economic power and use it to meet the needs of all people and to preserve the planet. Every gain working people have attained has been through organized struggle and mass movements. We are part of building a movement of working class people committed to eradicating the dictatorship of the billionaires, and building the future we deserve. Join the movement, vote socialist 2024!

**Contact**

info@votesocialist2024.com; votesocialist2024.com





**Rachele  
Fruit**

Socialist Workers Party  
Nominee

**President**

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**

Active in industrial unions over decades, currently hotel worker in Miami Beach, member of UNITE/HERE Local 355.

**Education**

Participant in movements against the Vietnam War, against Jim Crow segregation and for women's emancipation, learned that the working class must replace capitalism and fight for political power as workers and peasants did in the 1959 Cuban Revolution.

**Community Service**

Speaking out across the U.S. for the working-class to form a party of labor, independent of the capitalist parties, and to oppose all acts and threats of Jew hatred while defending Israel's right to exist as a refuge for Jews worldwide.



**Dennis  
Richter**

Socialist Workers Party  
Nominee

**Vice President**

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**

Airline food service worker and recent member of UNITE HERE union. Over five decades working as union industrial worker on the railroad, in steel, and in meatpacking.

**Education**

In high school in the 1960's Richter was drawn to the massive Black-led proletarian movement that tore down Jim Crow segregation, strengthening the U.S. working class.

**Community Service**

Opponent of Washington's world-wide imperialist exploitation of workers and farmers. Organized and participated in demonstrations against the U.S. rulers' wars in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Walked picket lines and built solidarity with UAW strike last year and locked-out Boeing firefighters in 2024.

**Statement**

We live in a deeply class-divided country ruled by a handful of billionaire families and their government. Working people are facing the devastating effects of high prices, lack of good paying jobs, unsafe working conditions and schedules that often make political, family, social and union life impossible. Life expectancy is at the lowest in a quarter century and the birthrate has been cut in half since 1950.

Today workers are in a mood to fight, organizing, and using their unions to defend their lives and livelihoods.

We need to fight for a public works program to put millions to work at union scale wages, for wages and cost of living increases to meet price increases, and for workers control of production to guarantee safety on the job and reverse the profit-driven destruction of the environment.

We must defend constitutional freedoms won in struggle—freedoms of worship, speech, press, association, the right to bear arms and more. Frame-up attempts to jail and silence political opponents deal a blow to rights working people need.

Only the working class of all countries has the capacity to stop imperialism's march toward fascism and world war by fighting in our common interests. From Vladimir Putin's murderous invasion of Ukraine to deny its national sovereignty, to Hamas' October 7 Jew hating pogrom, the U.S.-rulers' dominated global order since World War II is coming apart. We defend Israel's right to exist and defend itself as a refuge for the Jews in the face of growing attacks.

We need to build a party to unite all workers and exploited producers, based on the unions, that breaks from all collaboration with the ruling class, fights in our class interests, and wages a struggle for workers power.

**Contact**

(347) 871-0282; socialistworkers2024@gmail.com;  
www.themilitant.com





## Joseph Kishore

Socialist Equality Party  
Nominee

### President

#### Elected Experience

Socialist Equality Party candidate for US President in 2020.

#### Other Professional Experience

National Secretary of the Socialist Equality Party since 2008; senior writer for the World Socialist Web Site on US politics, social inequality, culture, education, science, workers struggles, the fight against war, and the history of the socialist movement.

#### Education

Bachelor's degree in mathematics and Master's degree in Industrial Operations and Engineering, both from University of Michigan

#### Community Service

Twenty-five years experience in the socialist movement, fighting for the interests of the working class and the oppressed, in opposition to inequality and war.



## Jerry White

Socialist Equality Party  
Nominee

### Vice President

#### Elected Experience

Socialist Equality Party candidate for US President in 1996, 2012, and 2016; Socialist Equality Party candidate for Vice President in 2008; Socialist Equality Party candidate for Michigan's 12th Congressional district seat in 2006.

#### Other Professional Experience

Labor editor for the World Socialist Web Site since 1998; editor of the WSWS Autoworkers Newsletter since 2015; member of the Workers Inquiry into the Bankruptcy of Detroit.

#### Education

York College, City University of New York

#### Community Service

Forty-five years experience in the socialist movement, fighting for the interests of the working class and the oppressed, in opposition to inequality and war.

#### Statement

The Socialist Equality Party calls for the socialist reorganization of society that ends the dictatorship of the corporate-financial oligarchy and transfers political power to the working class; establishes public ownership of and democratic control over multi-billion dollar corporations and financial institutions and, thereby, restructures the economy to meet the needs of mass society—full employment, workplace safety, the abolition of poverty, universal health care, affordable housing, high-quality education, child care, secure retirement, expansion of cultural and recreational facilities—rather than the accumulation of massive corporate profits and private fortunes; secures peace and democracy through the abolition of the military-industrial complex and the massive network of state intelligence agencies.

The Socialist Equality Party declares that the 2024 election is dominated by three critical issues:

First, the reckless militarism of the Democratic and Republican parties—seeking to secure the global interests of the financial-corporate oligarchy—has brought the United States to the very brink of World War III. The US-NATO war in Ukraine and the genocidal war in Gaza are part of a broader struggle for world domination.

Second, democracy in the US is giving way to authoritarianism, in which the Democrats and Republicans are implicated. Political dictatorship is the outcome of unrestrained corporate economic power.

Third, social inequality has reached levels unprecedented in modern US history. This country has the highest concentration of billionaires in the world, whose collective wealth stands at a record \$5.2 trillion. The wealth of the 10 richest billionaires exceeds that of the collective wealth of half the US population. The SEP calls for the expropriation of billion-dollar fortunes and massive increase in taxation of seven-figure incomes.

Capitalism has failed and must be ended. Socialism is the future. Vote for Kishore and White.

#### Contact

joseph.kishore@socialism2024.org;  
<https://socialism2024.org>



## Chase Oliver

Libertarian Party Nominee  
**President**

### Elected Experience

No experience raising taxes, sending our troops to fight unnecessary wars, waging the failed War on Drugs, interfering with free markets, or overspending taxpayers' hard-earned money.

### Other Professional Experience

Experience in various industries, working up from dishwasher to business consultant and maritime logistics management for one of the world's largest shipping firms. Boardmember of a national LGBTQ educational non-profit.

### Education

Twenty years of on the job training and knowledge.

### Community Service

Join Chase in taking direct action to improve our communities, like park and road cleanups, donating to food banks and shelters, and volunteering and fundraising for organizations that supply direct aid to the unhoused.

### Statement

For my entire life as a Millennial, both Major Parties have been complicit in making the American government unjust, unaccountable, and unsustainable. We're being dragged down by an institution that is the product of out-of-touch politicians. I have a different vision.

Let's protect the environment by cutting subsidies for oil producers, allowing safe nuclear energy, and eliminating crony capitalist protections for polluters. Let's restore justice by ending qualified immunity and prosecution of victimless crimes. Let's revive the American Dream by cutting regulations that increase the cost of home construction by over 25%. Let's empower those saddled with predatory student loans by making them interest-free and dischargeable in bankruptcy. Let's reduce healthcare costs by ending evergreen patents that keep prices of drugs like insulin high.

We must balance our budget for future generations. Decades of reckless spending have led to inflation harming every American. Let's end the wasteful War on Drugs, reform immigration, shrink the surveillance state, and close unnecessary overseas military bases.



## Mike ter Maat

Libertarian Party Nominee  
**Vice President**

### Elected Experience

Lifelong public servant.

### Other Professional Experience

Mike's career in finance and economics included work with the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as a financial economist, and as a consulting economist to three other federal and international agencies in the field of economic development. Mike was an advocate in DC for free markets in the financial services industry.

### Education

BS in Aeronautical Engineering. MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. MS and PhD degrees in Economics from The George Washington University.

### Community Service

Mike is a former police officer who now advocates for comprehensive police reform.

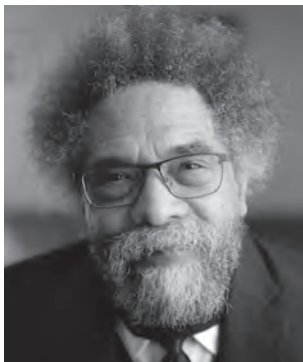
Both Major Parties support tariffs which are a regressive tax on consumers. Tariffs lead to trade wars, which especially hurt families in Washington State where approximately 40% of jobs depend on international trade.

When goods stop crossing borders, armies will. America has long had the moniker 'leader of the free world.' It's time we earn that distinction by insisting that Peace is the way forward through trade agreements and diplomacy.

In all aspects of policy, Libertarians pursue reform with one goal: to empower people, not the government. When did rational ideas become radical ideas? If you're living your life and not using force, fraud, coercion or theft, your life's your life, your body's your body, your business is your business, and your property's your property; it's not mine, and it's certainly not the government's.

### Contact

(470) 737-4090; [info@votechaseoliver.com](mailto:info@votechaseoliver.com);  
[votechaseoliver.com](http://votechaseoliver.com)



## Cornel West

Justice For All Party Nominee  
**President**

### Elected Experience

First political race.

### Other Professional Experience

Former University Professor at Harvard University and Professor Emeritus at Princeton University. Written over 20 books including: Race Matters, Democracy Matters, and Brother West: Living and Loving Out Loud. Delivered the historic Gifford lectures at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland in Spring 2024. Produced three music albums.

### Education

Graduated Magna Cum Laude from Harvard in three years, M.A. and Ph.D. in Philosophy from Princeton; First Black person to receive a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Princeton University.

### Community Service

Dr. West has participated in numerous protests (for social, racial, environmental and worker justice) and taught in prisons for over 50 years.

### Statement

The West/Abdullah Administration's Blueprint for Transformative Change

The West/Abdullah administration's first 100 days in office would usher in a paradigm shift in American politics, rooted in the tripartite pillars of truth, justice, and love. This comprehensive plan, aptly described as a "revolution of values," outlines a series of audacious initiatives designed to confront systemic inequalities and nurture a more equitable society.

Key initiatives: An executive order to prioritize homelessness and poverty; radical education reform (including a federal mandate to equalize per-pupil spending across districts) and environmental protection measures (beginning with declaring a climate emergency); bold steps on healthcare



## Melina Abdullah

Justice For All Party Nominee  
**Vice President**

### Elected Experience

First political race; first Muslim to run for the vice-presidency.

### Other Professional Experience

Professor of Pan-African Studies at California State University; leader in the California Faculty Association (the faculty union), locally and statewide. Author of numerous articles, book chapters; creator, host, and producer of the radio programs; recognized as an expert on race, gender, class, and social movements.

### Education

B.A. in African American Studies (Howard University); Ph.D. in Political Science (University of Southern California).

### Community Service

Co-Founder and Director of Black Lives Matter - Los Angeles and Black Lives Matter Grassroots.

access and gender equality (like publishing the Equal Rights Amendment and codifying abortion rights and body autonomy); transformative foreign policy and immigration reform (involving immediately halting all funding and weapons transfer to Israel); concrete actions on racial justice and democratic reform (including financial reparations and land back programs); and prioritization of workers' rights and labor protections (beginning with drafting a Worker's Bill of Rights).

Learn more at [www.CornelWest2024.com/100\\_days](http://www.CornelWest2024.com/100_days).

### Contact

[Ceyanna@cornelwest2024.com](mailto:Ceyanna@cornelwest2024.com); [www.CornelWest2024.com](http://www.CornelWest2024.com)



**Shiva  
Ayyadurai**  
Independent Candidate  
President

**Elected Experience**

Candidate for United States Senate from Massachusetts 2018 & 2020.

**Other Professional Experience**

MIT PhD, The Inventor of Email, Systems Scientist, Engineer, Entrepreneur. Founder of seven successful businesses. Chairman & CEO of CytoSolve, Inc., EchoMail, Inc., Executive Director of International Center for Integrative Systems.

**Education**

Four MIT Degrees: PhD in Systems Biology, Masters in Mechanical Engineering, Masters in Visual Design, Masters in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Fulbright Scholar.

**Community Service**

InnovationCorps.Org, Gifted 5,000+ Full Scholarships to children for Systems Science.



**Crystal  
Ellis**  
Independent Candidate  
Vice President

**Elected Experience**

Precinct Captain in 2020 Iowa Caucus

**Other Professional Experience**

Commercial and Residential Real Estate Operator, Jewelry Designer, Entrepreneur.

**Education**

Organizational Communication, Creighton University

**Community Service**

Volunteer for Siena Francis House, Hindu Temple of Omaha, and Truth Freedom Health®

**Statement**

Since the 1970's, the policies of "The Swarm" - the tightly knit and decentralized elites across Left & Right defined at ShatterTheSwarm.com - have intentionally escalated the cost of living on everyday people and have destroyed the life expectancy of Americans.

If you have a child today, your son or daughter will have a shorter lifespan than you.

This is what happens when you keep voting for the "lesser of evils" thinking one of the evils will "save you." They have no interest in saving you, except killing you. The Solution - The truth is you must want to Save Yourself! We need a *systems overhaul*, which demands a bottoms-up movement by we the people, done by us, and for us. Shiva 4 President - When you vote for Shiva 4 President, you are acknowledging that the "Swarm" and its puppets are out to enslave you. You acknowledge that the only solution is Us, electing one of Us to be our leader.

The Swarm imposes their leaders on us. None of the alternatives are one of Us. Dr.Shiva is one of Us.

He came bottoms-up, escaping the degenerate and oppressive caste system of India. As a 14-year-old, he created the world's first email system, being awarded the first U.S. Copyright for Email, recognizing him as the legal and official inventor of email. He went on to receive four degrees at MIT, and started 7 successful companies, never taking any venture financing from the elites in Silicon Valley. Dr.Shiva has a history of delivering real solutions to transform the lives of everyday people.

Shatter The Swarm: The movement for Truth Freedom Health® and Shiva 4 President offers you the opportunity to Shatter The Swarm to win the life we need and deserve. Vote Shiva 4 President.

**Contact**

(857) 810-0007; Shiva4President@Shiva4President.com; Shiva4President.com





**Maria**  
**Cantwell**

(Prefers Democratic Party)

**Elected Experience**

U.S. Senate 2001-present, U.S. House of Representatives 1993-1995, Washington State Legislature 1987-1993.

**Other Professional Experience**

Real Networks, Vice President of Marketing & Senior Vice President of the Consumer Products Division 1995-2000.

**Education**

First in her family to graduate college with the help of financial aid. Received B.A. in Public Administration from Miami University.

**Community Service**

Henry M. Jackson Foundation, Former Honorary Council of Advisors; South Snohomish Chamber of Commerce, Former Board Member; Alderwood Rotary, Former Board Member; Apollo Alliance, Founding Board Member

**Statement**

Affordability. Jobs. Rights. Security. That's what I focus on as your representative in Washington, D.C., not hyper-partisan politics.

**Affordability:** Food, energy, housing, education, childcare, and prescription drugs all cost way too much. That's why I helped cap monthly insulin costs at \$35 for Medicare enrollees and am fighting drug middlemen that inflate drug prices. My law made manipulating energy markets a crime, allowing the government to claw back billions in ill-gotten profits. I championed tax credits that built millions of affordable housing units and made childcare more affordable.

**Jobs:** Bringing manufacturing and supply chains back home are the key to creating jobs, raising wages, and growing the middle class. I developed a new law that is bolstering STEM education and apprenticeships, and will triple U.S. semiconductor manufacturing capacity. Our agricultural economy is stronger because we stood up to foreign shippers and reopened markets for Washington apples and lentils. We kept freight moving with record new infrastructure investments. I improved access to credit for small businesses and created more opportunities for women- and minority-owned businesses.

**Rights:** Freedoms we once took for granted are under assault. I've been fighting to codify Roe v. Wade, protect access to contraceptives and IVF, and block anti-choice states from prosecuting women. Washingtonians have a right to clean air and water, which is why I led efforts to protect pristine public lands, restore salmon habitat, and transition away from fossil fuels.

**Security:** Fentanyl is devastating too many Washington communities, so my new law declares fentanyl a national emergency and gives local law enforcement more resources to stop it from crossing our borders. Veterans have served our nation, which is why I have fought to protect their health care, including 124,000 Washingtonians exposed to toxic materials.

I am asking for your support in the U.S. Senate race.

**Contact**

(206) 682-7328; info@cantwell.com; www.cantwell.com

continue 





**Dr Raul  
Garcia**

(Prefers GOP Party)

**Elected Experience**

Dr Garcia isn't a career politician. A leader in his field, he has been elected to national medical organizations such as the American College of Emergency Medicine, the American Osteopathic Association, and the Bureau of Interns and Residents.

**Other Professional Experience**

Doctor, Emergency Medicine, 25 years. Current Chief Medical Officer, Astria Toppenish Hospital. Past medical practice owner; co-founding Dean, two medical schools; Medical Director, two hospitals.

**Education**

Bachelor of Science, Microbiology/Immunology, University of Miami. Graduate, New York College of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Community Service**

Co-founder, Partnership for Food Security. Local drives for domestic violence shelter, toys for sick kids, bikes for books, and feeding the homeless.

**Statement**

This election is an opportunity for the people of Washington to change the way we are governed, to stop the cycle of divisive politics that ignores the best interests of our people.

Serious crises aren't getting the attention they should. Fentanyl is an extremely dangerous drug that is killing Americans indiscriminately. Dr Garcia, an Emergency Room physician, sees far too many overdoses, and knows far too many families who've lost loved ones. Dr Garcia is the only Senate candidate with a plan to seriously combat the Fentanyl crisis, using a proven approach that targets dealers with prison time, and helps addicts with a robust program of treatment and recovery.

Another crisis is the cost of living. Washington is the fourth most-expensive state for groceries, and the eighth most-expensive overall. Many people are at or near the end of their financial rope due to rampant inflation. We can help tackle inflation by stopping reckless federal spending that adds to the national debt, and boost productivity to ease prices for consumers. Dr Garcia will be a voice for fiscal sanity.

As an Emergency Room doctor, Dr Garcia spends his days helping people. As a refugee from Cuba who found a home in America, he loves our country deeply. As a son raised by a single mother, he respects the men and women who work so hard to make a life for themselves and their families.

Dr Garcia isn't a career politician. But throughout his life he has been a leader – in the medical profession and in the community. He serves patients as a doctor, and he will serve the people of Washington as their US Senator.

Our state is a wonderful place that has gone a bit off-track. We can definitely do better, and with Dr Raul Garcia we will.

**Contact**

(206) 274-5859; [info@garciaforwa.com](mailto:info@garciaforwa.com);  
[www.garciaforwa.com](http://www.garciaforwa.com)



**Marie Gluesenkamp**

**Perez**

(Prefers Democratic Party)

#### **Elected Experience**

Southwest Washington's Representative in Congress since 2023. I serve on the Small Business and Agriculture committees where I work for family farmers, loggers, growers, and rural communities.

#### **Other Professional Experience**

Co-owner of Dean's Car Care with my husband. We fix cars and create family wage jobs in the trades.

#### **Education**

B.A. Economics, Reed College. I was homeschooled by my mom and dad, a lay pastor, before enrolling in public schools.

#### **Community Service**

Hillsboro High School Automotive Advisory Committee, Stevenson Downtown Association Treasurer, Underwood Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor.

#### **Statement**

Most members of Congress are millionaires completely out of touch with life in the real world. Almost none are like me: as the co-owner of an auto repair and machine shop, and a mother with a toddler in daycare, I know how tough it's been to navigate this economy. My husband and I built our own home to save money and worry about the rising costs of gas and medicine.

Special interests have corrupted Washington. I'm not taking a dime of their corporate PAC money. I'm focused on what working people want, like good jobs that don't require a college degree. More Washingtonians could work in the trades and in the woods if we expanded career training and apprenticeships.

I'm taking on President Biden for failing to secure the Southern border. I voted to add thousands of new Border Patrol agents and co-sponsored the bipartisan END FENTANYL law. I always vote to protect law enforcement.

I work closely with Republican colleagues and I'm ranked as one of the most bipartisan members of Congress. I attend Bible study to stay rooted and find common ground with Republicans. And I'm bringing home your tax dollars to replace the I-5 bridge – money that other candidates want you to pay in tolls.

In Congress, I'm protecting our freedoms, including ensuring a woman can see a doctor whenever she wants, for whatever reason, including contraception and IVF. I'm a staunch defender of the Second Amendment.

I fight everyday for Southwest Washington. I don't listen to activists in Portland or Seattle who think they know best. I listen to the commonsense ideas I hear from you, at town hall meetings I hold in every county. I come home every weekend to be with family and go to church. I'd be honored to earn your vote.

#### **Contact**

(360) 835-6835; [info@marieforcongress.com](mailto:info@marieforcongress.com); [marieforcongress.com](http://marieforcongress.com)



**Joe  
Kent**

(Prefers Republican Party)

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**

I served as an Army Green Beret for over 20 years through 11 combat deployments. I then worked for the CIA before advising President Trump on foreign and military policy and working as a tech firm project manager. I recently authored a book about my late wife who lost her life while serving in uniform.

**Education**

Norwich University, B.S. in Strategic Studies and Defense Analysis. U.S. Army Special Forces Qualification Course. Eagle Scout.

**Community Service**

I deliver meals to veterans and volunteer at my church. I have trained and provided security services to churches and synagogues.

**Statement**

Democrat Marie Perez and I have big disagreements about local and national issues.

Perez believes the new I-5 bridge project should be funded by tolls that disproportionately penalize Washington residents. We pay more than enough in taxes already, and I will fight to ensure there are no tolls on the bridge project. Perez wants to accelerate the spread of Portland's crime and drug problems into our district by spending billions on light rail connecting Portland to Southwest Washington. Like in Seattle and Portland, light rail cars will become mobile drug dens that spread Portland's problems further into our district. I oppose any light rail project.

Perez voted against Republican legislation to secure the border, in favor of expanding welfare to illegal aliens. She sponsored legislation that gives anyone who crosses the border government benefits and permission to fly anywhere in the country. I'll vote to bring back President Trump's "Remain in Mexico" policy to stop fake asylum claims and provide robust border security.

Inflation has caused the price of food, gas, and other necessities to skyrocket, driven by the Federal Government's spending spree that Marie has consistently voted for. I'll vote to restore fiscal responsibility and get inflation back to pre-Biden levels.

Marie Perez supports taxpayer funding for late-term abortion. The Supreme Court has ruled this is a state issue, and I support keeping it that way. I support bringing the cost of raising children down by expanding tax deductions for working families and tax exemptions on necessities like diapers and formula.

I'm the father of two young children, and the direction Democrats Marie Perez and Joe Biden are taking this country is putting the future of all our children at risk. Help change that direction by voting for me so I can bring common-sense values to the US Congress.

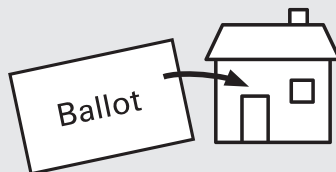
**Contact**

(360) 869-5714; joe@joekentforcongress.com;  
www.joekentforcongress.com

## How do I vote and return my ballot?

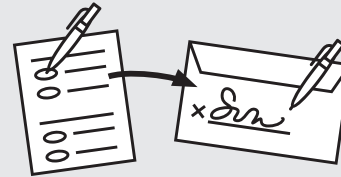
1

If you're registered to vote, there is no need to request a ballot. Your ballot will be mailed by **October 18** to the address you provided on your voter registration. If you need a replacement ballot, contact a county elections office listed at the end of this pamphlet.



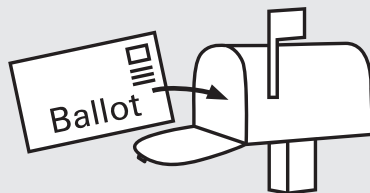
2

Vote your ballot and sign your return envelope. We need your signature to accept your ballot. You are not required to vote every race on your ballot. We encourage using this pamphlet to help you decide.



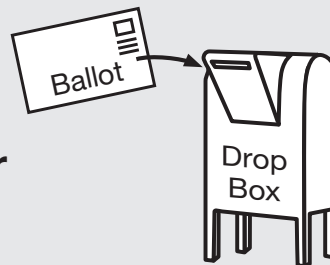
3

Return your ballot by mail, no stamp needed. If mailed, your ballot must be postmarked by **November 5**. Don't let a late postmark disqualify your ballot. The USPS recommends that you mail a week before Election Day.



Or, return your ballot to an official ballot drop box. Drop boxes are open until 8 p.m. on **November 5**. Find drop box locations at **VoteWA.gov**.

Or



If you cannot personally return your ballot, only let people you trust deliver it for you.

4

Check the status of your ballot on **VoteWA.gov** to see if it has been received by your county elections office.



Election staff will contact you before your ballot is processed if:

- Your signature is missing
- Your signature doesn't match your voter registration record

### View election results online

After 8 p.m. on election night, tallied results from each county are posted at **results.vote.wa.gov**.

Results are updated as counties report and are unofficial until certification.



## Qualifications & Responsibilities

Statewide-elected executives must be registered Washington voters and are elected to four-year terms.

### Governor

The Governor is the chief executive officer of the state and makes appointments for hundreds of state positions, including directors of state agencies (subject to confirmation by the Senate). The Governor has the power to sign or veto (reject) legislation, and annually submits a budget recommendation and reports on state affairs to the Legislature.

### Lieutenant Governor

The Lieutenant Governor is elected independent of the Governor, and serves as the presiding officer of the state Senate. The Lieutenant Governor is first in line of succession and becomes Acting Governor whenever the Governor leaves the state or is otherwise unable to serve.

### Secretary of State

The Secretary of State leads the state Elections Division, Corporations and Charities Division, state Archives and Library, and other programs and services. The Office of the Secretary of State manages corporation and charity filings, collects and preserves historical state records, and governs the use of the state flag and seal. The Secretary of State is second in line of succession for Governor.

### State Treasurer

As the state's finance officer, the Treasurer manages the cash flow, investments, and debt of all major state accounts. The Treasurer serves on the State Investment Board, providing guidance for the management of long-term debt and investments, and Chairs the Public Deposit Protection Commission, ensuring the safety of public deposits in qualified banks.

### State Auditor

The Auditor works with state and local governments to conduct independent financial and performance audits. The Auditor publicly investigates state employee whistleblower claims about agencies and reports of fraud, waste, and abuse of taxpayer money received through its citizen hotline.

### Attorney General

The Attorney General serves as legal counsel to the Governor, members of the Legislature, state officials, and more than 200 state agencies, boards, commissions, colleges, and universities. The Office of the Attorney General protects the public by upholding the Consumer Protection Act and provides public information about consumer rights and scams.

### Commissioner of Public Lands

The Commissioner of Public Lands is the head of the Department of Natural Resources, overseeing management of more than 5 million acres of state forest, agricultural, range, aquatic, and commercial lands. The Commissioner manages the state's largest on-call fire department, preventing and fighting wildfires on 13 million acres of private, state and tribal-owned forest lands.

### Superintendent of Public Instruction

The Superintendent heads the state education agency and is chief executive officer of the state Board of Education. The Superintendent is responsible for the administration of the state's kindergarten through twelfth grade education program. The office certifies teaching personnel, approves and accredits programs, and distributes state and local funds.

### Insurance Commissioner

The Insurance Commissioner regulates insurance companies doing business in Washington, licenses insurance agents and brokers, reviews policies and rates, examines the operations and finances of insurers, and handles inquiries and complaints from the public.



Candidates submitted their information for this pamphlet prior to printing. For the most current information, sign in to [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov).



Candidate statements are printed exactly as submitted. The Office of the Secretary of State does not make corrections of any kind or verify statements for truth or fact.





**Bob  
Ferguson**

(Prefers Democratic Party)

**Elected Experience**

Attorney General. Reelected with 67%, winning 37 of Washington's 39 counties. An independent leader, Bob manages Washington's largest law office. He protects the rights of all Washingtonians, prosecutes criminals, and stops price-gouging that harms families.

**Other Professional Experience**

Bob began his professional career in Eastern Washington. He worked with federal judges appointed by presidents of both parties. Bob represented taxpayers, local governments, and small businesses. Growing up, he worked delivering newspapers and washing dishes at a senior home.

**Education**

University of Washington; Law Degree, NYU.

**Community Service**

Bob served in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, managing an emergency services office assisting vulnerable individuals and tutoring kids.

**Statement**

Son of a special education public school teacher and a Boeing employee, Bob takes on the toughest fights, solves problems, and gets things done for you—not powerful interests. He is the only candidate who refuses campaign contributions from corporate PACs and large corporations. Never satisfied with the status quo, he'll protect your rights and deliver change for Washington.

As Governor, Bob's top priority is improving public safety. He'll hire more police officers to combat crime and fentanyl. He took on powerful drug companies, winning \$1.2 billion for increased treatment and first responders. Nurses, firefighters, and prosecutors endorse Bob because they trust him to combat public drug use and improve the mental health system. Bob worked alongside law enforcement to end the rape kit backlog and bring justice to survivors. He knows how to bring people together to solve big challenges.

Bob and his wife Colleen, who works at a community college, are raising teenage twins. Bob knows high housing prices make it hard for too many families. He'll work with both parties for commonsense solutions to address homelessness and rising housing costs—building 200,000 affordable homes in four years. Bob will increase opportunities for every Washingtonian to get ahead by investing in career education, skills training, and apprenticeships.

Bob understands our democracy is threatened and successfully blocked dozens of illegal Trump administration actions. As Governor, he'll defend our democracy and protect Washingtonians. A champion for reproductive freedom, Bob is the only candidate endorsed by Pro-Choice Washington and Planned Parenthood.

In contrast, Congressman Dave Reichert said, "I love Donald Trump's policies," and voted with Trump 92.5% of the time. Reichert repeatedly voted to impose a nationwide abortion ban that criminalizes doctors and to abolish the Affordable Care Act. Reichert opposes marriage equality.

Bob fights for us.

**Contact**

(425) 202-5092; info@bobferguson.com; bobferguson.com



**Dave  
Reichert**

(Prefers Republican Party)

**Elected Experience**

King County Sheriff, 1997-2005; US House of Representatives, 2005-2019

**Other Professional Experience**

US Air Force Reserve (1971-1976). Joined the King County Sheriff's Office in 1972. In 1997 became King County's first elected sheriff in 30 years. Vice President, Gordon Thomas Honeywell from 2019 to 2023.

**Education**

Concordia Lutheran College, AA

**Community Service**

Served on King County's Domestic Violence Council. Board of Directors for The Borgen Project. Founder of King County Violent Firearms Coalition. Former Member of King County Committee to End Homelessness. Founder of King County Sheriff's Police Activities League. Youth coach and counselor. Two-time Washington Medal of Valor Recipient. National Sheriff of the Year.

**Statement**

For nearly 40 years our state has been lost in a wilderness of one-party rule. What has that gotten us? The highest violent crime rate in our history, friends and family dying from fentanyl, record homelessness, and the worst maintained roads, highways, and ferries in America. As your governor, I will work tirelessly to foster an economy that works for everyone, safe streets and neighborhoods, and ensure the children in our state get a world class education.

From the United States Air Force to the King County Sheriff's Office, I witnessed examples of selfless sacrifice, individuals who put others before themselves. That experience taught me what it means to have a servant's heart, honored by an opportunity to help, and driven to show the courage and humility it takes to get things done. As King County Sheriff, I arrested violent criminals and locked up human traffickers who preyed on women and children. On my watch crime was down as we enforced the law and everyone was accountable. This experience served me well when the people of Washington sent me to Congress where I worked with Republicans and Democrats to pass big and bold policies on everything from taxes to trade to protecting our beautiful environment.

We've been living in a state where our leaders have pit region against region, generation against generation, and yes even family against family. Dividing people is not the answer. We work together, side by side, to tackle the issues we all face. I have been endorsed by nearly every sheriff in the state and people of all party affiliations – Republican, Independent, Democrat – are joining our campaign because they understand that business as usual is no longer an option.

I would be honored to have your support to be your next governor.

**Contact**

(425) 410-2322; [info@reichertforgovernor.com](mailto:info@reichertforgovernor.com); [reichertforgovernor.com](http://reichertforgovernor.com)



## Denny Heck

(Prefers Democratic Party)

### Elected Experience

Lieutenant Governor. U.S. Representative, member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Financial Services Committee. Washington State Representative, elected to five terms. Chaired historic Basic Education Subcommittee. Democratic Precinct Committee Officer.

### Other Professional Experience

Co-Founder, Intrepid Learning Solutions; Co-Founder and President, TVW – Washington’s version of C-SPAN; Chief of Staff, Governor Booth Gardner.

### Education

B.A., The Evergreen State College.

### Community Service

Denny and his wife of 48 years, Paula (a retired middle school principal), founding members of the Olympia School District Education Foundation’s Principals’ Emergency Fund, providing low income children with help to be successful in school.

### Statement

Thank you for the privilege and opportunity to serve as your Lieutenant Governor for the last four years. The most important part of being Lieutenant Governor is serving as President of the State Senate and presiding in an impartial way, fairly applying the rules to everyone and to both parties. We have done this.

But the office of Lieutenant Governor also affords the opportunity to advocate for important policy priorities. We have advocated long, consistently and clearly for the need to more forcefully address the housing crisis in our state, especially for affordable homes for low and moderate income families. Our work helped lead to many accomplishments last year, causing the 2023 session to be called The Year of Housing. So much work remains to be done. We will stay at it.

We have also worked hard and in a bipartisan way, to improve our civic health. We all know it needs to change. We need more respectful discourse in the public square, more inclination to try to find principled compromises and when we cannot, a greater ability to disagree better. Here, too, we will doggedly stay at it.

In this spirit, I humbly ask for your support.

### Contact

(360) 259-6400; info@dennyheck.com; dennyheck.com



## Dan Matthews

(Prefers Republican Party)

### Elected Experience

Former School Board member: Advocated for children, parents, education issues in Wash., D.C.; Snohomish County Charter Review Commissioner

### Other Professional Experience

Veteran Pilot: Vietnam, and Desert Storm; US Air Force Lt. Colonel. Commercial Airline 747 Captain Instructor; Boeing Contract Instructor, 747 Pilot Consultant; Disaster Preparedness Consultant; Airline Pilots Association Union member.

### Education

BA, Political Science, University of Puget Sound; Washington State Senate Intern; Master’s Degree Public Administration, Government.

### Community Service

Nature Conservancy, Cousteau Society (Founding member), Rotary International, Little League Coach, STEM Skills Task Force, WA Policy Center, Domestic Violence Abuse Services, Hope House, American Legion, Combat Veterans, Local church leadership, Union Gospel Mission.

### Statement

Professionally, my role has been to safely navigate to every destination, knowing people’s lives depended on me. As your Lieutenant Governor, my focus will remain: People working together. From presiding over the State Senate to building bridges throughout government, I seek to establish a climate of cooperation and constructive leadership, restoring confidence in our government.

Career politicians fail us when they deliver dictates, division, and dependency rather than diplomacy and respect. I have stepped forward to help fix a broken system. One political party has controlled our state for decades, representing powerful, big-money interests, growing more extreme, even radical. We must resolve to change course, finding common ground.

JFK challenged: “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” I will seek to always advance relationships, balance, and communication, providing a unifying voice and vision for all.

Compelled by faith, hope, and love, I will stand for your rights and our children’s future, fulfilling the high calling of serving the public trust with honor and integrity, of service above self. This is my commitment to you. Thank you for trusting me as a thoughtful, deliberate change agent for our future.

### Contact

(206) 300-0652; Dan@electdanmatthews.com; ElectDanMatthews.com



**Steve  
Hobbs**

(Prefers Democratic Party)

**Elected Experience**

Washington Secretary of State, 2021-present. As state Senator from 2007-2021, Hobbs earned a reputation as a champion of bipartisan solutions.

**Other Professional Experience**

More than three decades of military service in the United States Army and National Guard, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Deployed to Kosovo and Iraq. Task Force Commander - Western Washington's COVID-19 response mission. Western Regional Vice President, National Association of Secretaries of State.

**Education**

Master of Public Administration and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Washington. United States Army Command and General Staff College, Defense Information School.

**Community Service**

Rotary, American Legion, Nisei Veterans Committee, Special Olympics Washington.

**Statement**

As your Secretary of State, my top priorities are ensuring Washington's elections are secure and accessible for every eligible voter. Since 2021, I've safeguarded the integrity of our elections by investing in cyber and physical security, fighting malicious election disinformation, and providing eligible voters every ability to participate in our democratic process.

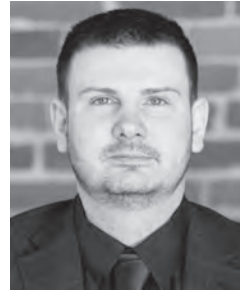
I will protect Washington's proven and dependable vote-by-mail system. I fought to expand automatic voter registration and increase civic engagement, lowering barriers for eligible citizens.

Overseeing Washington's State Library, I confronted book bans and censorship in public libraries across our state. I've increased access to business services and secured resources to preserve our state's history. I'm endorsed by County Auditors who conduct elections, the Washington State Labor Council, business leaders, voting rights advocates, prominent state and federal leaders, and former Governors Gary Locke and Christine Gregoire.

I am proud of my career in public service working alongside Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. Washington's Secretary of State must possess the highest standards of integrity and leadership and serve as a strong advocate for voter access. It is the privilege of my life to serve as your Secretary of State, and I would be honored to earn your vote.

**Contact**

(360) 322-4637; [info@electhobbs.com](mailto:info@electhobbs.com);  
<https://www.electhobbs.com/>



**Dale  
Whitaker**

(Prefers Republican Party)

**Elected Experience**

Precinct Committee Officer

**Other Professional Experience**

Chief Financial Officer - Augusta Precious Metals; Currently owns and operates a small tax practice in Spokane

**Education**

Graduated with Honors with a B.A. in Accounting from the Forbes School of Business & Technology at Ashford University; IRS Enrolled Agent Certification

**Community Service**

Executive Director, WBWV for the last 2 ½ years

**Statement**

I am running for Secretary of State because Election Transparency is the most important issue on the ballot. We must instill confidence in the electorate that our elections process and infrastructure are accessible, transparent, and secure. This includes giving the public a closer look inside our elections process and bringing back in person voting in addition to our mail-in voting.

The Secretary of State's office also has an important duty to the incredible businesses throughout Washington in making sure the government red tape does not impede on entrepreneurs ability to create and run their businesses in the state. When I am elected Secretary of State I will work with the Governor and State House to make Washington the most business friendly state in the country.

I have lived in Spokane since 2008 when I emigrated from the United Kingdom to the United States. My wife and I both run small businesses in Spokane, we have two children and a grandchild, we have established our roots here, and we truly love the beauty we have here in Washington State.

**Contact**

(509) 856-8076; [info@whitakerforwa.com](mailto:info@whitakerforwa.com);  
[www.whitakerforwa.com](http://www.whitakerforwa.com)





**Mike**  
**Pellicciotti**

(Prefers Democratic Party)

**Elected Experience**

State Treasurer, 2021-present; State Representative, 2017-2021.

**Other Professional Experience**

An economic crimes prosecutor (Assistant Attorney General), Mike managed a unit of financial examiners, auditors, and analysts that returned \$30 million to taxpayers from financial fraud and government waste. As a legislator, he created laws to get “dark money” out of politics and combat corporate crime.

**Education**

Bachelor’s Degree (Business Administration, economics minor); Master of Rural Development (Fulbright Scholar, economic development); Law Degree, Gonzaga.

**Community Service**

As Equal Justice Coalition Chair, Mike advocated for homeowners unlawfully foreclosed upon, veterans denied benefits, and predatory lending victims. Federal Way Chamber of Commerce. Served on Gonzaga University Board of Regents.

**Statement**

Mike rejects all corporate campaign donations. He puts your financial interests first. As State Treasurer, Mike refinanced all eligible debt, redirecting over \$550 million in Wall Street profits back to the people.

Mike implemented a policy prohibiting Washington State Treasurers from investing in corporations that fund their campaigns. His investments earned Washington \$1.8 billion over the next four years to reduce taxpayer burdens. Mike’s local government investment returns are 50 times higher than 2021, sending \$3 million more *each day* to local governments for schools, first responders, and other community needs.

Under Mike’s leadership as State Treasurer, Washington now has budget guardrails. U.S. News just ranked our state’s long-term fiscal stability *the best in the nation*. Our state pensions are one of America’s best funded. Washington maintains a Moody’s AAA-credit rating, the top mark for strong financial management. This makes housing, road, ferry, and school construction more affordable. Mike lowered GET/529 education costs for families, while keeping this important program fully funded.

Mike expanded financial education opportunities. He also created an online “Transparency Portal” to show how *your* public dollars are managed. Endorsed by Washington State Labor Council and Planned Parenthood, Mike will always put working families and retirees first!

**Contact**

(253) 874-7934; info@electmikep.com; www.electmikep.com



**Sharon**  
**Hanek**

(Prefers Republican Party)

**Elected Experience**

Chair of the Pierce County Charter Review Commission and Treasurer for non-profits and political organizations, including Little League and a private school.

**Other Professional Experience**

Owner of a CPA firm and founder of a public policy research company. Pierce County roles: Planning Commissioner, Birth to 25 Board, Redistricting Commissioner.

**Education**

BA in Business Administration and Accounting, University of Washington; CPA since 1980; President of UW International Business Students Association.

**Community Service**

Involved in youth/family service boards, community councils, Little League, private schools, political organizations, property rights alliances, and Kent SD finance and strategic planning committees.

**Statement**

As your State Treasurer, I will advocate for the protection of our state’s assets and ensure retirement accounts make sound investments. I will strive to make the accounting system transparent and accountable to citizens. With my professional expertise, I will scrutinize the books and challenge the legislature to exercise greater caution in tax and spending decisions.

As a CPA, I have dedicated my career to helping clients preserve their bottom lines, reduce taxes, and securing their futures. I developed and taught a financial literacy class to junior high students and testified before the legislature against raising taxes and over-regulating our businesses.

My experience includes advising taxpayers and businesses in our community on wise investments and job creation. In an era of job uncertainty, rising prices, and constant demands for education funding, Olympia’s typical solution is to raise taxes and fees. My approach is to account for past expenditures and prioritize sensibly. I will be the accountant Treasurer who leads our state into a new era of fiscal responsibility.

Vote to preserve our fiscal future. Vote for accountability. Vote for Sharon Hanek.

**Contact**

(253) 854-7075; SharonHanek@gmail.com; www.SharonHanek.com





**Pat (Patrice)  
McCarthy**

(Prefers Democratic Party)

**Elected Experience**

Current Washington State Auditor 2017-present; Pierce County Executive 2009-2016; Pierce County Auditor 2003-2008; Tacoma School Director 1987-1999.

**Other Professional Experience**

President-elect, National Association of State Auditors; Executive Committee, National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers.

**Education**

B.A., University of Washington Tacoma

**Community Service**

Asian Pacific Cultural Center Advisory Board. Pierce County Sexual Assault Center, Emeritus. Tacoma South Rotary 1999-2016, Honorary Commander, 62nd Airlift Wing, 2005-2009. Key Award, Washington Coalition for Open Government. Star of Destiny Award, Tacoma Historical Society. Distinguished Alumni Award, University of Washington Tacoma; Secretary of State's Auditor of the Year, 2005.

**Statement**

As the first woman to serve as Washington State Auditor, I lead an office responsible for conducting independent audits across all local governments and state agencies, ensuring accountability and transparency in public fund usage. Over my eight-year tenure, responsibilities have expanded, including significant audits of federal COVID-19 pandemic funds. My administration has also greatly reduced the number of "unauditable" governments, increasing our audits' scope and effectiveness.

Under my leadership, we exposed nearly \$7 million in misappropriated funds at a local housing agency, the largest fraud case in our state's history. We have strengthened our capabilities by training more fraud examiners and launching innovative programs. These include a pioneering audit of law enforcement's use of deadly force, bolstering cybersecurity with increased IT audits and preventive "cyber-checkups," and a new data analytics program to detect fraud and waste more effectively.

I will continue these efforts in my next term, focusing on managing public resources wisely. My vision includes advancing our technological capabilities to protect public assets and promote integrity across Washington State.

Many have endorsed me; details are on my website. I have a proven and tested public record of leadership. I humbly ask for your vote to continue our progress.

**Contact**

(206) 682-7328; patmccarthy4auditor@gmail.com; PatMcCarthyAuditor.com



**Matt  
Hawkins**

(Prefers Republican Party)

**Elected Experience**

Spokane County State Committeeman (R) 4 years, District Leader 2 years, elected by the PCO's from the general membership, PCO 4 years.

**Other Professional Experience**

36 years of senior level business experience working with business owners and industry leaders, including Commercial and Investment Real Estate, Investment Banker, Investor, and Trustee for an Involuntary Bankruptcy. Various National advisory boards. Work with Audit teams.

**Education**

BS in Finance from Brigham Young University, Professional certifications CCIM and CM&AA.

**Community Service**

Election Integrity State Committee to promote transparency. Boy Scouts of America- various roles, Camp Fire Girls- Board member, youth programs-Coaching, University High School Theater, Various PTO's and PTA's.

**Statement**

Working in the private sector for 35 years, within a variety of industries, Hawkins has the skills to work with teams of professionals to improve process and systems. Solutions to our challenges with education, the homeless, mental health, parental rights, property rights, taxes and energy policy can all be found through transparency in audits.

Observing the divide within our country over the past 4 years, Hawkins began asking questions to learn what is happening. An active study of the election system within Washington during this time has revealed the fact that there have been no Audits of the election systems in Washington State, to the same professional standards as are expected in the private sector. Hawkins further learned of the newly created roadblocks to public transparency, as the public is looking for answers. Taxpayers benefit from transparency and accountability. A search for Truth matters.

Hawkins is married to Paula and together they have a family of 10 children. They realize that strong communities benefit from family centered policies. Transparency and Accountability are key building blocks to ensure that children become valued contributors to society.

Audits are a great way to understand our past, as we make decisions for our future.

**Contact**

(206) 422-1165; matt@mcHawkins.org; www.mcHawkins.org



**Pete**  
**Serrano**

(Prefers Republican Party)

**Elected Experience**

Mayor of Pasco; City Councilmember since 2018.

**Other Professional Experience**

General Counsel, Silent Majority Foundation; Environmental Attorney, United States Department of Energy, Energy Northwest; Environmental Supervisor—New Nuclear Project, Energy Northwest; Adjunct Professor, Washington State University

**Education**

Vermont Law School, LLM—Environmental Law, 2010; Florida Coastal School of Law, Juris Doctorate, 2009; University of California, Davis, Bachelor of Arts, Italian, 2004

**Community Service**

Board Member, Franklin County Solid Waste Advisory Commission; Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America

**Statement**

Moving to Washington nine years ago was one of the best decisions of my life. I came to protect the environment through working at the Hanford Site as an environmental attorney. Since then, I've successfully fought to make Washington safer and to increase government transparency. I have challenged unconstitutional laws from Olympia and *won!* I have also *stopped* bad regulation in its tracks! I've led the City of Pasco as a councilmember, and now its mayor.

Washington has world class resources, but our politicians are failing. We lack safe streets; drugs, like fentanyl, fill the streets. As Attorney General, I will apply what I learned at Hanford to clean this mess.

According to the FBI, Washington is the 8th most dangerous state in the country. We have the resources to do better, but we need an Attorney General who will make sure Law Enforcement and County Prosecutors can enforce the law to make Washington Safe Again!

As your next Attorney General, my focus will be on Washington State, not Washington D.C. As Attorney General I will remove the partisan blinders to protect *all* Washingtonians. I look forward to representing you as your next Attorney General. Thank you for your vote!

**Contact**

(509) 204-9509; info@serranoforag.com;  
www.serranoforag.com



**Nick**  
**Brown**

(Prefers Democratic Party)

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**

U.S. Attorney for Western Washington; General Counsel to Governor Inslee; JAG Officer in U.S. Army, serving at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (WA), Fort Bliss (TX), received the Bronze Star for his time serving in Iraq; Partner, Pacifica Law Group.

**Education**

Harvard Law School (Harvard Law School Council, International Law Journal); Morehouse College, B.A. Political Science, Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude (Army ROTC, Student Government)

**Community Service**

Campaign for Equal Justice, Board of Directors (2018-2021); Treehouse, Board of Directors (2014-2021); Seattle Works, Board of Directors (2007-2013); Commissioner, Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (2019-2021); Soccer Coach for 11-year-old daughter, 9-year-old son.

**Statement**

Nick Brown was raised in Pierce County where his parents, a nurse and an Army veteran, taught him the importance of service and giving back to the community. Nick went to Morehouse College on an ROTC scholarship and after Harvard Law School, served as an Army JAG officer and federal prosecutor.

As General Counsel to Governor Inslee, Nick oversaw work to end the death penalty and coordinated the administration's response to Donald Trump's hateful Muslim ban. In 2021 President Biden appointed Nick as the first Black U.S. Attorney in state history. There, Nick prioritized addressing the fentanyl crisis, protecting consumers, cracking down on sex trafficking, and combatting violent crime.

As Attorney General, Nick will work to keep all Washingtonians safe – from crime, gun violence, discrimination, and the growing housing crisis. Nick believes Donald Trump poses an unprecedented threat to our country and will fight to protect our state from attacks on civil liberties. Nick believes the decision to have an abortion should be between a woman, her family, and doctor. He will fight any attempt to take away reproductive rights.

Nick is proudly endorsed by Governor Inslee, the Washington Education Association, Washington Conservation Action, and Washington State Labor Council.

**Contact**

(425) 202-5287; info@NickBrownforAG.com;  
www.NickBrownforAG.com



**Jaime  
Herrera Beutler**

(Prefers Republican Party)

**Elected Experience**

U.S. Congress, 2011-2023, where I advanced bipartisan laws to improve our wildland firefighting capabilities, increase pay for firefighters, improve proactive and science-based forest management, improve forest roads and expand access to public lands, protect wildlife habitat and salmon runs, support shellfish habitat, protect family wage jobs and secure funding for Washington schools. Washington State House of Representatives, 2007-2010.

**Other Professional Experience**

Strategic Advisor, Children’s Hospital Association. Senior Legislative Aide, U.S. House of Representatives.

**Education**

B.A., University of Washington, Communications.

**Community Service**

Recipient of the National Association of State Foresters’ highest honor, the Bernard L. Orell Award for Partnership. Board of directors, National Kidney Foundation.

**Statement**

Decades of neglect have turned our forests into overcrowded, diseased tinderboxes. Fires scorch our forests and choke our communities every summer. They fill our lungs with smoke, destroy old growth and critical habitat, emit tons of carbon, drive up the cost of home insurance and make housing even more unaffordable. And they cause unimaginable heartache for those unfortunate enough to live in their path.

I won’t leave our kids a legacy of burning forests and choking smoke. We can and will do better to remove dead and dying trees that serve as fuel, quickly fight fires when they occur, preserve jobs, and protect the lives and livelihoods of communities.

I’ll lead our state Department of Natural Resources to withstand political pressures and overcome bureaucratic obstacles so that the brilliant foresters and environmental scientists who work there can do their jobs. Working with Tribes, scientists, landowners, sportsmen, the forest industry and conservation groups, I’ll restore health to Washington’s forests with science-based management practices so our diverse array of species and ecosystems can thrive. And I’ll always preserve recreational access to public land for its owners -- the people of Washington.

Please vote Jaime Herrera Beutler for healthy forests and healthy air.

**Contact**

(360) 559-0133; info@jaimeforlands.com;  
www.jaimeforlands.com



**Dave  
Upthegrove**

(Prefers Democratic Party)

**Elected Experience**

Chair, King County Council, first elected 2013; State Representative (33<sup>rd</sup> District), 2001-2013, Chair, House Environment Committee; Chair, House Select Committee on Puget Sound.

**Other Professional Experience**

Chair, King County Flood Control District; Natural Resources Policy Staff, Washington Senate Democratic Caucus; Basketball Referee, Pacific NW Basketball Officials Association.

**Education**

B.A. Environmental Conservation, University of Colorado; Graduate Certificate in Energy Policy, University of Idaho.

**Community Service**

Scoutmaster; Program Director, Camp Parsons BSA; Matt Griffin YMCA Board Member; Governor’s Climate Action Team; Highline Citizens for Schools; Sponsor, Washington Voting Rights Act; Sponsor, Marriage Equality Legislation; Humane Society Legislative Leadership Award; NW Marine Trade Association Legislator of the Year.

**Statement**

A conservation leader strongly backed by the environmental community and Democrats across Washington, I am committed to protecting our clean air, clean water and habitat, improving wildfire prevention, and increasing recreational opportunities on state lands.

With the threat of climate change, wildfires, and droughts, running the Department of Natural Resources is a big, complicated job. I have both the experience and values to ensure our public lands support our high quality of life. As Lands Commissioner I’ll bring bold new ideas to the table. I have a plan to protect Washington’s 77,000 acres of critical legacy forests, and to launch a clean energy trust to help our climate and spur rural economic development. I’ll honor tribal rights and restore Puget Sound to protect our iconic salmon and orca.

I’m the only candidate in this race not taking contributions from the timber industry. A former Washington Conservation Voters “Legislator of the Year,” I’m the only candidate supported by Washington Conservation Action and the Sierra Club.

I invite you to join grassroots conservation leaders, former Lands Commissioner Peter Goldmark, Democrats and elected leaders across Washington in supporting this campaign to protect and enhance our public lands. I ask for your support.

**Contact**

(206) 303-0531; dave@upthegrove.org; www.upthegrove.org





**Chris  
Reykdal**

(Nonpartisan)

**Elected Experience**

Superintendent of Public Instruction, Local School Board Director, State Legislator.

**Other Professional Experience**

Classroom Teacher, Higher Education Budget and Finance Executive, Fiscal Analyst for the Washington State Senate.

**Education**

Baccalaureate Degree in Social Studies and a Teaching Certificate, Washington State University. Master's Degree in Public Administration with an emphasis on Budget, Finance, and Performance Management, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill.

**Community Service**

Parent volunteer in schools, youth soccer coach, local city planning commissioner, food bank volunteer, education foundation board member, education scholarship founder, and non-profit fundraiser.

**Statement**

Thank you Washington Voters! I am grateful to serve as your State Superintendent. This job requires experience and tested leadership to maintain our post-pandemic recovery. Our strong learning acceleration is at risk without sustained funding and a relentless focus on keeping our schools public and accountable to local voters. The paramount duty in our state is to fully fund our public schools. Investing in our public schools and our educators to empower student achievement is my number one priority!

Innovation drives our work with expanded career and technical education pathways, a record high graduation rate, a measurable improvement in student mental health following targeted investments, and free school meals for over 700,000 students. We are a top performing state in math and reading, and civics is once again a graduation requirement under my leadership!

Over two-thirds of our students now earn college credit while in high school, saving families over \$100 million per year in foregone tuition, and we've doubled our investments in rural school facilities. Every child deserves a high-quality, individualized, and equitable learning opportunity in every community!

Endorsed: Washington State Labor Council, Public School Employees, Washington Education Association, American Federation of Teachers-WA, Washington Conservation Action, and more.

**Contact**

chris4wakids@gmail.com; www.chrisreykdal.org



**David  
Olson**

(Nonpartisan)

**Elected Experience**

Peninsula School Board Director (2013 – present); Pierce County Charter Review Commissioner (2016); Previously elected to the WSSDA Legislative and Resolutions Committees; served as school board Legislative Representative for 10 years.

**Other Professional Experience**

Finance and Banking; Defense Contractor; U.S. Navy Chief Warrant Officer (retired)

**Education**

SNHU, B.S. Organizational Leadership, Magna cum Laude; Officer Candidate School, U.S. Navy; Saturation Diver Training, U.S. Navy; Technical School, U.S. Navy

**Community Service**

Board Member, Greater Gig Harbor Foundation; Gig Harbor Rotary; President and Board Member, City Club of Tacoma; Vice President, Hilltop Business Association; Board Member, World Trade Center Tacoma

**Statement**

*Less than 50% of Washington students can read and write at grade level yet your property taxes have skyrocketed. Your children and schools deserve better. OSPI is not fulfilling their duty to advocate for adequate school operational funding. As Superintendent, I will push to change the approach, ensuring resources reach the schools and students who need them most – regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.*

*Under the incumbent, chronic absenteeism has doubled, depriving children of crucial learning opportunities. Drawing from my district's success, where strong parental engagement has led to one of the state's lowest absentee rates, I will advocate for policies that encourage partnering with parents.*

I am committed to restoring local control to school boards, empowering those who understand their communities' unique needs, ensuring a fair and effective education for all. *I will push to expand skilled trades programs, preparing our students for future diverse careers.*

To combat the distractions of the digital age, I will promote policies restricting cell phones and social media in schools, creating safer, more focused learning environments. *The Seattle Times stated the Superintendent is a "cheerleader for mediocrity." Average Is Not Good Enough! It is time for change. I'll appreciate your vote.*

**Contact**

(253) 267-8555; david@electdavidolson.com; https://electdavidolson.com



**Patty  
Kuderer**

(Prefers Democratic Party)

**Elected Experience**

State Senator, 2017-present, State Representative, 2015-2016. Chair, Housing Committee 2019-present; former Vice Chair, State Government & Elections 2018-2022; former member Healthcare - Labor & Commerce - Business, Financial Institutions & Insurance Committees.

**Other Professional Experience**

Trial attorney for 35+ years; former prosecutor and city attorney; significant experience handling insurance claims, employment discrimination and serious injury cases.

**Education**

BA, University of Minnesota. JD, William Mitchell College of Law.

**Community Service**

Awarded the "Golden Acorn" for my volunteer service with Chinook Middle School PTSA. Volunteered with my kids' schools, Sacred Heart Social Concerns, Congregations for the Homeless, NARAL Pro-Choice Washington, Virtue's Children Nepal, and Chrysalis Domestic Violence Center.

**Statement**

Ever since my daughter was born critically ill in the NICU and I had to fight my insurance company to allow her doctors to provide life saving care, I have made it my life's mission to ensure no family ever has to go through that same trauma. With my experience as a litigator representing workers in employment discrimination cases and my strong background in advocacy and public service, I bring a unique set of qualifications to the role of Insurance Commissioner.

As a legislator, I've been a leading voice on healthcare issues, sponsoring legislation to create a public option for healthcare in Washington, and advocating for greater access to mental health services and protections against surprise medical billing.

As Insurance Commissioner, I'll work tirelessly to enact policies that prioritize consumer protection and lowering costs, promote transparency within the insurance industry, and expand access to essential healthcare services for all Washingtonians. I'll also lead on addressing the increased insurance costs being created by climate change and protecting coverage of reproductive healthcare.

I have spent my life helping the powerless stand up to those with the most power, and I respectfully ask for your vote so I can fight for you too.

**Contact**

(206) 593-2203; info@pattykuderer.com;  
www.pattykuderer.com



**Phil  
Fortunato**

(Prefers Republican Party)

**Elected Experience**

31st District State Senator since 2017; 31st District State Representative elected 2016; 47th District State Representative 1998-2000

**Other Professional Experience**

Environmental training and consulting. International trade in Europe and Asia. Owner of small contracting business. Founding Director and first President of the PNW Erosion Control Association.

**Education**

Rutgers University, Cook College of Agriculture; Landscape Architecture.

**Community Service**

I've been married for 45 years, have 5 children, 3 of whom are decorated U.S. Marines Corps veterans. Knights of Columbus member - 4th Degree, Project Rachel, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Sons & Daughters of Italy, Liberian Association of WA.

**Statement**

I'm running to make Washington's insurance market more affordable for families and seniors. Misguided activist policies of the Legislature and the Insurance Commissioner have limited choice and made insurance unaffordable.

How much businesses pay for insurance has a direct impact on the prices you pay for things, including groceries and even your rent. Add to that a 20% increase in insurance costs, and it's even harder for seniors on fixed incomes and families to make ends meet. The insurance industry needs reasonable, not burdensome regulations. As a state Senator, I fought for affordable and consumer-driven options that encourage more competition, more choices, and lower costs for consumers. I know what works and it's not agenda driven regulations that drive up costs without providing better and more affordable care.

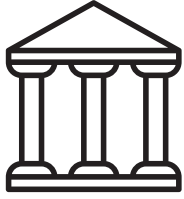
I've experienced firsthand the health insurance challenges faced by my own grandson who has a rare disease. For him it is a life and death struggle. You and your doctor should be determining your health care decisions, not the insurance companies.

A Vote for Phil Fortunato will lower costs, provide predictability and availability in Washington's insurance markets, so you can get the insurance protection your family deserves.

**Contact**

(253) 680-9545; Phil@VoteFortunato.org;  
www.VoteFortunato.org





# Qualifications & Responsibilities

Legislators must be registered voters of their district.

## Legislature

Legislators propose and enact public policy, set a budget, and provide for the collection of taxes to support state and local government.

### State Senator

The Senate has 49 members; one from each legislative district in the state. Senators are elected to four-year terms, and approximately one-half the membership of the Senate is up for election each even-numbered year. The Senate's only exclusive duty is to confirm appointments made by the governor.

### State Representative

The House of Representatives has 98 members; two from each legislative district in the state. Representatives are elected to two-year terms, so the total membership of the House is up for election each even-numbered year.



Candidate statements are printed exactly as submitted. The Office of the Secretary of State does not make corrections of any kind or verify statements for truth or fact.



Candidates submitted their information for this pamphlet prior to printing. For the most current information, sign in to [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov).



### What is “party preference?”

Each candidate for partisan office may state a political party that they prefer.

A candidate's preference does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the party, or that the party approves of or associates with that candidate.

Candidates may choose to not state a political party preference.

In each race, the two candidates who received the most votes in the August Primary appear on your November General Election ballot.



## Jeff Wilson

(Prefers Republican Party)

### Elected Experience

Current State Senator 2020; Port of Longview Commissioner 2016

### Other Professional Experience

Small Business Owner

### Education

Mark Morris High School; Western Washington University, studied business and history

### Community Service

Longview School District Advisory, Planning and Facility Committee; Commission on Salaries of Elected Officials; Past Commodore LYC, County Homeless Housing Task Force; Longview Public Service Group; Past President 23 Club; Police Citizen Award recipient for community safety; Key to the City of Longview and distinguished Extra Mile Award recipient. Along with wife Trisha and their children, Jeff focuses on giving back to our community by raising funds and volunteering for charitable causes.

### Statement

As State Senator, Jeff has kept his campaign promises to promote government transparency and accountability. Jeff has continually stood up against reckless spending and government overreach that continues to burden Washington families. Since being elected in 2020, Senator Wilson has championed critical legislation such as catalytic convertor theft, workers' safety, and environmental stewardship. The rail overpass project in Aberdeen is one of the many examples of proven leadership that generates results while serving in office in Olympia. Jeff has a proven track record of providing bipartisan legislation that supports the issues of the 19th District.

We deserve representation that understands our District isn't Seattle. Jeff knows our largely rural district has conservative values at the heart of our communities. With a proven track record and common sense approach to the important issues facing our communities, Jeff is prepared and ready to continue representing the people of the 19th legislation district.

### Contact

(360) 270-8079; jeffwilsonforsenate@gmail.com;  
www.jeffwilsonforsenate.com



## Andi Day

(Prefers Democratic Party)

### Elected Experience

None

### Other Professional Experience

Commercial Fishing; Small Business (owner/operator); Consultant: Destination marketing, development & planning; Pacific County Tourism, Executive Director; Vice Chair Pacific County Lodging Tax Advisory Committee; Past President, State of Washington Tourism Board; Past President, WSDMO: Washington Destination Management Organizations; National Board of Advisors, WSU Carson College of Business, Marketing

### Education

WSU B. A. History; Univ. of Alaska Anchorage, studied Secondary Education; Naselle High School

### Community Service

President, Cougar Crew Alumni Assoc.; Executive Board, WSU Alumni Association, Chair Scholarship Committee; Vice President, Twin Harbors Chapter WSUAA; Rowing Coach, youth & masters; Member and volunteer for numerous nonprofit and community groups

### Statement

A fifth-generation Washingtonian and third-generation resident of the 19th Legislative District, I currently live in Seaview with my 13-year-old son. I understand the challenges and opportunities facing our rural communities. Growing up in a commercial fishing family with close ties in oystering and timber, I was a first-generation student at WSU, a college athlete (crew), and have since gained diverse professional experience; as an entrepreneur and as a business executive.

Serving in statewide industry leadership roles, representing small businesses, communities, municipalities and tribes throughout the district and state, I have a proven track record of finding solutions, bringing home resources and job creation. I am passionate about building rural economies and resilience, improving education and healthcare, protecting natural resource-based industries, ensuring access to affordable housing, improving infrastructure, protecting basic rights like access to reproductive healthcare, including abortion and IVF, and supporting responsible gun ownership. Being an effective voice in Olympia and making a difference for the people of the 19th requires working hard, serving with honor, listening to and representing everyone in the district. I will be in the room and at the table, working with others to get results for you.

Vote Andi Day for a brighter future.

### Contact

(360) 214-6440; Info@VoteAndiDay.com; VoteAndiDay.com



**Jim  
Walsh**

(Prefers Republican Party)

**Elected Experience**

Our current State Representative and the Chairman of the Washington State Republican Party. Jim is the ranking Republican of the Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee and a member of the Human Services, Youth & Early Learning, Rules and Transportation committees.

**Other Professional Experience**

Jim owns and operates a small book publishing business.

**Education**

Bachelor of Arts, cum laude, Amherst College.

**Community Service**

Jim is active in our community. Youth basketball coach, Grays Harbor YMCA. 2006-2022. Exhibitor, Aberdeen "Splash Day" Festival. 2008-present. Charter participant, Aberdeen Founder's Day Parade. 2015-present.

**Statement**

Thanks for trusting me to represent you in Olympia. Common sense has been rare at the Capitol lately, but our values are popular statewide. While Seattle extremism increases crime, hurts kids and kills jobs, I wrote—and passed into law—initiatives that fix Washington. Restore police pursuit of criminals. Confirm no state income tax. Create a Parents' Bill of Rights. More good reforms are coming!

Leadership like this sets me apart from other lawmakers. With your vote, I'll continue to defend our district and the state. Together, we'll lower the cost of living, promote good schools and make our state safe again.

**Contact**

(360) 693-4285; jim@electjimwalsh.org;  
www.electjimwalsh.org



**Mike  
Coverdale**

(Prefers Democratic Party)

**Elected Experience**

Westport Planning Commission, Westport Tourism Committee, Grays Harbor Fire District 3, Westport Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of Grays Harbor County Board of Adjustments.

**Other Professional Experience**

1978-1981 Army Warrant Officer, UH1 Pilot 25th Infantry Div, 1982-1985 Evergreen/Frontier Helicopters, 1985-1991 Pilot at University of Missouri Life Flight, 1992-Present Owner/ Designated Broker Windermere Real Estate / Westport

**Education**

Ocosta High School 1977, Army Aviation Training 1978, Missouri Real Estate Course 1987, Washington Real Estate Course 1991, Washington Designated Broker Course 1992

**Community Service**

Kiwanis Scholarship Auction Chair 1993-2001, Kiwanian of the Year 1995, Holm Community Service Award 1999 & Realtor of the Year 2004 Grays Harbor Association of Realtors

**Statement**

*A Grays Harbor native*, I returned home in 1991 after service as a helicopter pilot. Raising my family, leading on critical issues in our community and running a small business, I know the challenges we face. For 4 terms in office, Jim Walsh has failed to deliver. Having the loudest voice doesn't mean others are listening. We all lose when *partisan politics* take priority over getting things done! I understand how to communicate between parties with differing interests and will be a voice to ensure that policies and investments from Olympia address our unique challenges. I would appreciate your vote.

**Contact**

(360) 581-3399; Mike@Mike19.com; Mike19.com



**Joel  
McEntire**

(Prefers Republican Party)

**Elected Experience**

Elected to the Washington State House of Representatives in 2020 and again in 2022; Elected as Chair of the Wahkiakum Republican Party 2018-2020; Serve on Capital Budget, K-12 Education, Higher Education Committees

**Other Professional Experience**

Served in the United States Marine Corps for 13 years deploying overseas 3 times; Worked in various educational capacities as a public school teacher, program counselor for masters degree students, and a private math tutor

**Education**

Bachelors degree in Evolutionary Ecology from Central Washington University; Masters degree in Mathematics Education from Western Governors University

**Community Service**

Served in various capacities with my local church: Sunday school Teacher, Men's group leader

**Statement**

In the past 4 years, I have been a voice in Olympia for common sense, and a government that honors tax payer dollars, and intends to spend them wisely. Clearly, there is much more work that needs to be done. With schools that are failing and infrastructure efforts mismatched with allocated funds, we can do so much better for the tax payers of Washington State. My efforts and voice will continue to advocate for the interests of Southwest Washington and the good people here.

**Contact**

(360) 532-6800; info@joelmcentire.org; joelmcentire.com



**Terry  
Carlson**

(Prefers Democratic Party)

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**

My name is Terry Carlson. I am a lifelong Washingtonian and have lived in Longview for over eight years. I'm a proud member of the International Association Machinists/ Woodworkers Union W536, I am currently the Recording Secretary and Organizer. I am also the Vice President of the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Central Labor Council. Through my career in the timber industry, I have worked everywhere in the 19th LD. Our family is a union household. I know the opportunities and struggles families experience every day. I will bring my know-how to the job and do my absolute best to represent you in Olympia.

**Education**

No information submitted

**Community Service**

No information submitted

**Statement**

We have opportunities ahead that need effective representation in Olympia. Our 19th LD representative's extreme views result in very little legislative state funding for infrastructure projects. I trust the majority of citizens of the 19th LD value and believe the following: Public Education, Worker's Rights, Women's Healthcare/Pro-Choice/Privacy, Dignity and Respect for all people, Future Working-Class Opportunities in energy, natural resources and small business, Anti Corporate Greed, Democracy. I fight for the working class. I cooperate with others to get things done in Olympia. We deserve better. I am asking for your vote.

**Contact**

(564) 244-5880; electterrycarlson@gmail.com; electterrycarlson.com



**John  
Braun**

(Prefers Republican Party)

**Unopposed**

**Elected Experience**

State Senator 20th Legislative District, 2013-Present

**Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted

**Education**

Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering, University of Washington, 1989; Master's Degree in Business Administration, University of Michigan, 1999; Master's Degree in Manufacturing Engineering, University of Michigan, 1999

**Community Service**

Member, Centralia College Foundation Board; Former Member, Providence Centralia Hospital Community Board; Former Member, Timberland Regional Library Board of Trustees; Former Member, National Association of Manufacturers President's Council; Former Member, St. Joseph School Commission; Former Member, Centralia Youth Soccer Board

**Statement**

John Braun runs a family business that employs nearly 300 people in our community and manufactures emergency vehicles sold across North America. He retired as a Captain in the Navy Reserve after 31 years of service. His wife, Marlo, is a nurse and together they have four wonderful adult children.

In Olympia, Senator Braun has a proven record of delivering real results on jobs, education, the budget, and protecting the most vulnerable. He authored the first tuition cut in state history, reducing tuition by thousands, and helping to make college and trade schools more affordable for families. He developed the plan to ensure the state met its constitutional mandate to fund basic education, helping ensure the quality of a child's education was available to rural schools as well as urban. He advocates for the developmentally disabled and mentally ill. He is seeking re-election to ensure the taxpayer's voice is heard in Olympia, and to see that those who need the help most get help.

Senator John Braun listens. He works hard for us. He fights effectively for our families and communities.

He would be honored to have your vote.

**Contact**

(360) 508-6540; johnbraun@votebraun.com;  
www.votebraun.com





**Peter  
Abbarno**

(Prefers Republican Party)

**Elected Experience**

2020-Present serving as State Representative in the 20th Legislative District. 2015-2020 served as Centralia City Councilmember.

**Other Professional Experience**

2010-Present, Attorney and Owner of Althausen Rayan Abbarno, LLP.

**Education**

2009, University of Washington School of Law, Master of Laws in Taxation; 2008, Vermont Law School, Juris Doctor, 1997, State University of New York at Fredonia, Bachelor of Arts.

**Community Service**

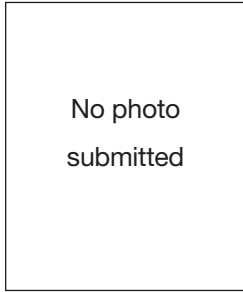
Centralia College Foundation (2012-Present); served on Lewis Economic Development Council (2015-2020); served as student Mentor in Chehalis and Morton school districts; served with Watch D.O.G.S. in Centralia schools; Hub City Mission; Lewis County Special Olympics; Forgotten Children’s Fund, and Lewis County Bar Association and Legal Aid.

**Statement**

I am an attorney, business owner, and your 20th legislative district state representative. Most importantly I am a husband and father who believes in building stronger families and stronger communities. If re-elected, I will continue focusing on real solutions for ‘kitchen table’ issues facing us all; including passing meaningful tax relief; making our communities safer; advocating for a more open, transparent, and accountable government; and creating economic and educational opportunities so every child and family has an opportunity for success. Thank you for your vote!

**Contact**

(360) 508-3660; peter@electpeterabbarno.com; www.ElectPeterAbbarno.com



**Melvin Kaleolani  
Apana**

(Prefers Culture Republican Party)

**Elected Experience**

No information submitted

**Other Professional Experience**

No information submitted

**Education**

No information submitted

**Community Service**

No information submitted

**Statement**

No information submitted

**Contact**

(808) 738-6761; sigsauer57@gmail.com



Ed

## Orcutt

(Prefers GOP Party)

# Unopposed

### **Elected Experience**

Serving in his eleventh two-year term in the House of Representatives, Ed Orcutt serves on the Transportation Committee; Finance Committee (ranking member); Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee; Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee (vice chair); and Economic and Revenue Forecast Council.

### **Other Professional Experience**

Consulting forester/owner of Cascade Forest Management.

### **Education**

B.S. degree in Forest Management, University of Idaho.

### **Community Service**

An active volunteer, Ed Orcutt is a member of the Kalama Lions Club, and has served as past chairman of the Highlander Festival, member of the Columbia Theatre Board, and as a youth bowling coach.

### **Statement**

State Representative Ed Orcutt has earned a reputation in Olympia as an effective, independent leader who works hard to make things happen for the families in Southwest Washington. He's a leader in protecting taxpayers, natural resource-based jobs, property rights, and the quality of life we all enjoy.

Ed Orcutt's priorities include creating new family-wage jobs, making government agencies more responsive to the citizens they serve, and making government live within its means. That means funding education and vital services using existing revenues and protecting taxpayers from tax increases. Let's keep Ed Orcutt in the House.

### **Contact**

(360) 751-2317; [ElectEdOrcutt@kalama.com](mailto:ElectEdOrcutt@kalama.com);  
[repedorcutt.com](http://repedorcutt.com)



## Qualifications & Responsibilities

Washington judges are nonpartisan. Judges must be registered Washington voters.

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### Judges

Judicial candidates must be in good standing to practice law in Washington and are prohibited from statements that appear to commit them on legal issues that may come before them in court.

#### **State Supreme Court Justice**

The Washington Supreme Court is the highest judiciary in the state. State Supreme Court justices hear appeals and decide cases from Courts of Appeals and other lower courts. Nine justices are elected statewide to serve six-year terms.

#### **Court of Appeals Judge**

Court of Appeals judges hear appeals from Superior Courts. A total of 22 judges serve three divisions headquartered in Seattle, Tacoma, and Spokane. Court of Appeals judges serve six-year terms.

#### **Superior Court Judge**

Superior Courts hear felony criminal cases, civil matters, divorces, juvenile cases, and appeals from the lower courts. Superior Courts are organized by county into 30 districts. Superior Court judges serve four-year terms.



Candidates submitted their information for this pamphlet prior to printing. For the most current information, sign in to [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov).



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Sal  
**Mungia**

(Nonpartisan)

**Legal/Judicial Experience**

Career litigator with diverse trial and appellate experience; Former Law Clerk, Washington Supreme Court and Western Washington Federal District Court; Current Pierce County Superior Court Arbitrator; Former President, Washington State Bar Association & Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association.

**Other Professional Experience**

Instructor, Emory School of Law, Kessler-Eidson Program for Trial Techniques; Instructor, National Institute for Trial Advocacy.

**Education**

Pacific Lutheran University—B.A. Political Science, Magna Cum Laude; Georgetown University Law Center—J.D., Cum Laude.

**Community Service**

Board of Regents, Pacific Lutheran University; Vestry Board, St. Luke's Episcopal Church; Past President, Legal Aid for Washington; Past Chair, Access to Justice Board; Former Commissioner, Tacoma Human Rights Commission.

**Statement**

I am the only candidate endorsed by 8 of the 9 current Washington Supreme Court Justices. Over 100 judges believe I'm the most qualified candidate for this office. I am also the only candidate with significant appellate experience having argued at every level of state and federal appellate courts including the U.S. Supreme Court.

I was raised in a working class family in Lakewood. My parents taught me the value of hard work, fairness, family, and faith. I have always given back to the community, including by representing people for free when they couldn't afford a lawyer, serving on boards of directors of nonprofits devoted to improving access to justice, and lobbying lawmakers to increase funding for civil legal aid. Promoting equal access to the legal system has been an important part of my practice.

Over the past 40 years as a lawyer I have been recognized for my legal skills, including being named to "Best Lawyers in America" since 2011. I am rated "Exceptionally Well Qualified" by six bar associations, and am endorsed by the Washington Labor Council, Gov. Inslee, Attorney General Ferguson, and by over 40 other elected leaders.

I would appreciate your support, and your vote.

**Contact**

(206) 375-1374; [info@salforjustice.com](mailto:info@salforjustice.com);  
[www.salforjustice.com](http://www.salforjustice.com)



Dave  
**Larson**

(Nonpartisan)

**Legal/Judicial Experience**

Judge Larson is the only judge running for this position; with 16 years as a judge and 23 years as a trial attorney.

**Other Professional Experience**

Judicial Committees: Legislative, Therapeutic Courts, and Council on Independent Courts. Member of the Civic Learning Council, recipient Judge William Nevins Award for civics education, and DMCJA President's Award for protecting judicial independence.

**Education**

B.A., Public Administration, University of Puget Sound; J.D., Seattle University Law School.

**Community Service**

2022 "Best Community Leader", 2018 and 2020 "Hero" of Federal Way Schools. He attends St. Vincent DePaul Parish. A member of Kiwanis, where he founded the Aktion Club, for people with developmental disabilities.

**Statement**

Judge Dave Larson is the only candidate with judicial experience. Judge Larson is the only candidate with a record of keeping our communities safe from crime. Judge Larson is the only candidate running a traditional bi-partisan campaign. Judge Larson knows Washington has the best state Constitution in America, offering stronger protections for our civil rights than the U.S. Constitution. He will protect individual rights.

We all know crime is a serious issue and Judge Larson has a nearly two decade record of keeping us safe from crime as a trial judge. His innovative reforms have been recognized nationwide; many of his ideas have been adopted by our legislature. These reforms are supported by other judges, police chiefs and sheriffs, mayors, legislators, and the people who work directly with those suffering from addiction and untreated mental illness.

Judge Larson is the only candidate running a campaign that reaches out to Democrats and Republicans, Labor and Business, Eastern and Western Washington, and everyday citizens. We can return to a less political and more trusted court system by voting for Judge Larson.

Judge Larson's leadership, innovations, intellect, ethics, and commitment to fairness make him exactly what we need on our state Supreme Court.

**Contact**

(206) 805-4024; [campaign@larsonforwa.org](mailto:campaign@larsonforwa.org);  
<https://larsonforwa.org>



**Steve  
Gonzalez**

(Nonpartisan)

**Unopposed**

**Legal/Judicial Experience**

Current Supreme Court Chief Justice and Justice since 2012. Ten years as King County Superior Court Judge. Former Assistant US Attorney, Domestic Violence Prosecutor, and business lawyer.

**Other Professional Experience**

Co-Chair of Board for Judicial Administration. Former Chair, statewide Access to Justice Board, Interpreter Commission and Traveling Court and Court Security Committees. National instructor on prosecuting international terrorism. State Constitutional Law Instructor at Gonzaga University.

**Education**

JD, UC Berkeley. BA with Honors, Pitzer College. Rotary International Scholar in Economics. Honorary Doctorates from Gonzaga and University of Puget Sound.

**Community Service**

Board member, Washington Leadership Institute, Northwest Minority Job Fair. Teaches civics in schools, and mentors students.

**Statement**

Chief Justice Steve Gonzalez is a husband and father with a distinguished career serving the people of Washington and protecting the integrity of our judicial system. He writes clear opinions that support our rights and the rule of law.

He spent a decade as a King County Superior Court Judge and earned a reputation as a fierce advocate for judicial access and fairness. As a lawyer, he prosecuted terrorism, hate crimes, and domestic violence. He was also a business attorney and regularly did free work for people who could not pay.

Justice Gonzalez was named “Mentor of the Year” and “Outstanding Judge of the Year” by several organizations, including the Washington State Bar. He is rated “Exceptionally Well Qualified” by ten bar associations, including the Veterans Bar, Joint Asian Bar, and Washington Women Lawyers.

Justice Gonzalez has bipartisan support. He is endorsed by his Supreme Court colleagues and by judges and elected leaders across the state. He also enjoys broad community support. A longer list of his supporters can be found at [JusticeGonzalez.com](http://JusticeGonzalez.com).

**Contact**

(206) 682-7328; [info@justicegonzalez.com](mailto:info@justicegonzalez.com);  
[justicegonzalez.com](http://justicegonzalez.com)

**Voter tip:**

Remember to sign and date your ballot return envelope. Your signature is important, and we need it to accept your ballot.





**Sheryl Gordon****McCloud**

(Nonpartisan)

**Unopposed****Legal/Judicial Experience**

Elected to the Washington Supreme Court in 2012 and re-elected in 2018 after more than 25 years as an accomplished lawyer; taught part-time at Seattle University School of Law

**Other Professional Experience**

Chair, Supreme Court's Gender & Justice Commission; liaison to Bar Association's Council on Public Defense; member, Court's Rules Committee, responsible for rules governing trials throughout the state – such as rules targeting race discrimination in jury selection; recipient of awards from Washington Women Lawyers and Cardozo Society

**Education**

J.D., University of Southern California Law School; B.A., State University of New York at Buffalo

**Community Service**

Frequent speaker at school, community, legal, and court-related events

**Statement**

Justice McCloud has participated in all the significant cases the Court has considered in the last decade. Her decisions reflect careful attention to constitutional rights and civil liberties. McCloud's judicial independence was foreshadowed by her long career as a lawyer, starting as a public defender. She always made time to serve indigent clients, often in the most difficult contests with the government.

As a justice, her fairness, hard work, clear writing, and intellect have earned her awards, endorsements, and ten "Exceptionally Well Qualified" ratings from groups with varying points of view across the state. She is endorsed by Democrats, Republicans, Independents, and community leaders – all of whom believe in the importance of an independent judiciary and the rule of law.

Endorsements include 12 current & former Supreme Court justices; 150 judges statewide; National Women's Political Caucus of Washington; former Attorney General Rob McKenna, current Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell; Northwest Tribal Court Judges Association; Washington State Labor Council; Washington Conservation Action; Washington Education Association PAC; King, Pierce, and Snohomish County Democrats. For a complete list of ratings and endorsements see: [www.justicesherylmccloud.com](http://www.justicesherylmccloud.com)

**Contact**

(425) 466-0619; [justicesherylmccloud@gmail.com](mailto:justicesherylmccloud@gmail.com); [justicesherylmccloud.org](http://justicesherylmccloud.org)



**Bernard F.  
Veljacic**

(Nonpartisan)

**Unopposed**

**Legal/Judicial Experience**

2014-2020 Clark County Superior Court Judge;  
2021-present Washington Court of Appeals Judge

**Other Professional Experience**

1998-2000 Co-founder, Union Gospel Mission Legal Services; 2001-2010 Clark County Prosecutor's Office; 2010-2011 Barker Martin, P.S.; 2011-2014 Clark County Prosecutor's Office

**Education**

1994 Whittier College; 1998 Seattle University School of Law

**Community Service**

Rotary Club; George and Donald Simpson Inns of Court; YMCA Mock Trial; Coached Basketball and Soccer; Waste Connections Christmas Bike Build; Numerous other volunteer efforts

**Statement**

I currently serve as Acting Chief Judge of Division II of the Washington Court of Appeals, an intermediate appellate court. It is an honor to serve our state by providing resolution to legal disputes brought to the court - thank you for trusting me with this heavy responsibility.

I reside in Clark County with my family. I have gained broad experience from my combined 10 years on the bench during which I've presided over all matters that come before our state courts: civil cases, administrative appeals, and criminal cases among them. As a lawyer I represented entities and individuals in both state and federal courts. In my role as judge, I seek to carefully listen to each litigant, remain faithful to the law, and decide each case fairly. When not on the bench, I exercise, spend time with my family, and enjoy camping, fishing and hunting. Due to word limit, additional biographical information can be found at [https://www.courts.wa.gov/appellate\\_trial\\_courts/bios/?fa=atc\\_bios.display&folderid=div2&fileID=veljacic](https://www.courts.wa.gov/appellate_trial_courts/bios/?fa=atc_bios.display&folderid=div2&fileID=veljacic)

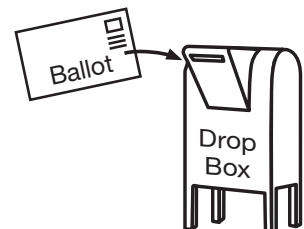
Thank you.

**Contact**

(360) 553-6108; [bernardveljacic@gmail.com](mailto:bernardveljacic@gmail.com)

**Voter tip:**

On Election Day,  
use a drop box  
before 8 p.m. Visit  
**VoteWA.gov** to find  
the nearest drop box.



## Your signature is needed to make sure your ballot gets counted.

The signature on your return envelope is compared to the signature on your voter registration record. Trained election officials are responsible for verifying each and every signature.

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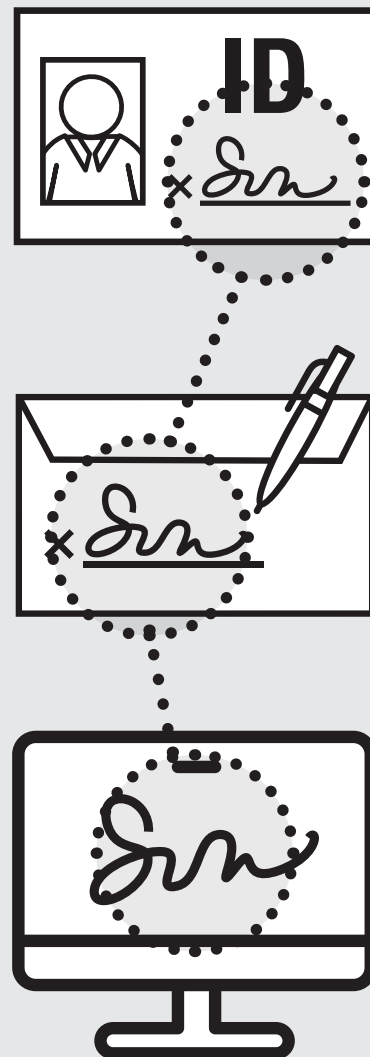
If your signature is missing or does not match your voter registration record, the county elections office will contact you by mail **before results are certified**. They may call or email if you gave them this info.

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If you registered to vote online or through Department of Licensing, the signature from your driver's license, permit, or state ID will be on your voter registration record.

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Voters can track and check their ballot status at **VoteWA.gov**.



Cowlitz County Official Local

# Voters' Pamphlet

November 5, 2024 General Election

**No postage needed when mailing your ballot**



**Look for your General Election ballot by October 22, 2024**

Published by the Cowlitz County Auditor's Office

(360) 577-3005 | [www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections](http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections)

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**Note:** To significantly reduce taxpayer costs, only a single version of the Voters' Pamphlet is mailed to every household in Cowlitz County. It is countywide and not tailored to any particular district.

Your ballot will contain only the races and issues that you are eligible to vote on based on where you live.

### Participating jurisdictions:

Cowlitz County, Cowlitz County Public Utility District, City of Kelso, City of Longview, Fire Protection District No. 7

### Cover photo provided by:

Tom Gunn

## Voter Registration Deadlines:

Online and by mail - October 28, 2024 by 5:00 p.m.  
 In person - November 5, 2024 by 8:00 p.m.



### It is illegal to:

- Vote if you are not a United States citizen;
- Vote if you have been convicted of a felony and have not had your voting rights restored;
- Cast a ballot or sign a ballot declaration on behalf of another voter.

Please report suspected incidences of voter fraud or election law violations to the Washington Secretary of State's Office.

Phone: (360) 902-4180

Email: [elections@sos.wa.gov](mailto:elections@sos.wa.gov)



# From the Auditor

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Dear Voters,

On November 5, 2024, you will have the opportunity to help shape the future of our country, state, and local community by electing our leaders. This pamphlet is a great resource and will assist you in making informed decisions. I encourage you to read the candidate statements, visit candidate websites, and attend candidate forums before casting your ballot. The best decisions are made by informed voters.



Ballots will be mailed to registered voters on Friday, October 18, 2024. Here are a few things you can do to prepare for this election:

**Check your registration status.** If your name, address, or signature has changed since you last voted, please update your information at [votewa.gov](http://votewa.gov) or contact our office at (360) 577-3005.

**Vote early.** Voting early ensures your ballot is received on time and provides plenty of time to resolve potential issues, such as forgetting to sign your envelope.

**Use a ballot drop box.** We encourage you to return your ballot in one of our safe and convenient ballot drop boxes. There are eight ballot drop boxes across Cowlitz County. If you choose to use a postal drop box, please make sure to check the last pick-up time on the box to ensure your ballot is picked up and postmarked on or before Election Day, November 5, 2024.

**Track your ballot.** Once you've returned your ballot, you can check your ballot status at [votewa.gov](http://votewa.gov) to verify that it was received and accepted. You can also sign up for text alerts.

No matter who you are, this upcoming election is very important. I want you to feel confident in knowing that election administrators understand they are part of the foundation upon which our democratic republic rests. We take this responsibility very seriously. The Cowlitz County Elections Office has a lot of hard work ahead to pull off another flawless election and I know my staff and I are up to the job! Should you have questions or concerns about the process, please contact us. We are here to help.

Your right to vote is one of the most important rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. The opportunity to vote for public servants of your choice and help decide how tax dollars are spent is a privilege, secured and preserved by men and women willing to fight and sacrifice their lives for the right to be heard; this should not be taken lightly or for granted.

Exercise your right to vote and make informed choices!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Fundingsland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Carolyn Fundingsland  
Cowlitz County Auditor

# Accessible voting



## Using Clear Access

Cowlitz County voters who are unable to vote their ballot in the standard way have the option to vote independently using an accessible voting unit (AVU). The Clear Access AVU can display larger type or provide an audio ballot for persons with visual or cognitive disabilities. The equipment supports a number of assistive switches.

Beginning 18 days before each primary or election, the Clear Access unit is available from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Election Day from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Cowlitz County Elections Office.

# Ballot drop box locations

Choose one of our eight convenient locations.

**Castle Rock** - 137 Cowlitz St W, in front of the Castle Rock Library

**Kalama** - N 1st St, near the Kalama Post Office boxes

**Kelso** - Bridge Market Ln, between Oak St and the Allen Street Bridge

**Kelso** - 207 N 4th Ave, Admin Building North Entrance parking lot

**Longview** - Broadway St, east of the Longview Post Office boxes

**Longview** - Civic Center Circle, across from Broadway St, near the Longview Post Office boxes

**Ryderwood** - 208 Morse St, near the Ryderwood Library

**Woodland** - City parking lot at Davidson and 2nd St, near the City's utility payment drop box

Ballot drop boxes are open 24 hours a day starting October 18, 2024, and close promptly at 8:00 p.m. on Election Night, November 5, 2024.



We recommend dropping your ballot in one of our secure drop box locations. If you choose to mail your ballot instead, ballots come with prepaid postage, so no stamp is necessary. Don't be late! Mail early so that your ballot is postmarked by Election Day, November 5, 2024.

# Keep your registration current

While the Elections Office is continually updating the voter rolls with information from the Department of Licensing, the post office, local obituaries, and a monthly public health deceased list, you can do your part by following these simple steps:

- Update your address with the Elections Office whenever it changes. Address changes can be made through [votewa.gov](http://votewa.gov), by email, mail, or phone until October 28, 2024. You may update your registration in-person until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 5, 2024.
- If you are a snowbird or a college student, call or email our office to set up a seasonal or temporary mailing address.
- Return to Sender! If you receive a ballot for a person who does not live at your address, write “Does not live here” on the unopened envelope and put it back in the mail. Do not drop in a ballot drop box.
- If you receive mail for a recently deceased voter, write “Deceased” on the unopened envelope, and put it back in the mail. We will research and follow up.



## Candidate and measure statements are printed exactly as submitted.

No spelling, punctuation, or grammatical corrections have been made.

Cowlitz County does not confirm that statements are true or factual. The candidate or committee is responsible for content.

This provides voters a candid, unedited view of submissions.

# Need to register or get a ballot?

## Three ways to register and obtain a ballot:

- Online - [votewa.gov](http://votewa.gov)
- By mail - Call us at (360) 577-3005 and we will mail you a form or a ballot.
- In person - Cowlitz County Elections  
207 N 4th Ave, Room 205  
Kelso, WA 98626

## To register to vote you must be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- A legal resident of Washington State.
- At least 18 years old. (If you are 16 or 17, you can sign up as a Future Voter and be automatically registered to vote when you qualify.)
- Not disqualified from voting due to a court order.
- Not serving a sentence of total confinement for a Washington felony conviction.
- Not currently incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state felony conviction.



**Steve  
Rader**

(Prefers Republican Party)

My wife and I have lived in Cowlitz county for 30 years. We have raised our family here and have been business owners for 25 years. We have dealt with excessive and restrictive policies from our state government. Including taxation, fees, and mandates that increase the cost of living and prevent our community from growing. I will fight against these impositions.

Ensuring your tax dollars are spent in a fiscally responsible manner, with transparency, is something I take very seriously. I will work for accountability at all levels of the county's business. I am dedicated to working in collaboration with all citizens to create an atmosphere of integrity and service that leads to trust and prosperity for generations to come.

I will bring a different level of leadership, communication, and perspective. I will work to unify our community leaders throughout the county to work together to bring about change and opportunity for the citizens of our great county.

I humbly ask for your vote for Cowlitz County Commissioner. I will be honored to represent you. I will work tirelessly to create a culture where the government is focused on serving the citizens - not the other way around.

**Contact Information**

Phone: (360) 957-3780

Email: [steve@believe-insteve.com](mailto:steve@believe-insteve.com)

Website: [www.believe-insteve.com](http://www.believe-insteve.com)



**Mike  
Reuter**

(Prefers Republican Party)

From day one I can bring the same strong, sensible leadership to Cowlitz County as commissioner that I brought to Kalama as mayor for the last seven years. I believe that having a great staff is crucial for success in managing a large organization and will focus on employee retention; I will respect and value the expertise and professionalism of county staff. It was Kalama's experienced collaborative leadership team that helped the city to become such a forward-thinking economic powerhouse in the area.

As a strong supporter of economic development, I believe this shouldn't be a single idea or industry, but a mindset focused on quality of place investments. Companies should be encouraged to work together symbiotically and prioritize adding value to our abundant local resources for sustainability and long-term job growth.

I will bring my experience of municipal governance and institutional knowledge to Cowlitz County as commissioner, especially important with two experienced commissioners leaving.

Leadership experience: *Mayor of Kalama*, currently, seven years. *Past President Woodland-Kalama Kiwanis / Past President of the Kalama Lions / Chairman- Kalama Walk-N-Knock / Chairman- Kalama Parks and Recreation / Vice Chairman- Kalama Housing Authority*  
Committees and Boards: *CAP Board Member / Kalama Planning Commission*

**Contact Information**

Phone: (360) 957-8487

Email: [reuterforcommissioner@gmail.com](mailto:reuterforcommissioner@gmail.com)



**Amy  
Norquist**

(Prefers Democrat Party)

Born and raised in Cowlitz County, I grew up fishing and playing in our beautiful rivers, parks, and forests. I have tremendous love for this place and our people.

Right now, we face many challenges. Too many families are struggling. Unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness, and crime are all barriers to the pursuit of happiness.

We have the assets to be great; we can be a magnet for small businesses, industry, recreation, tourism, and those seeking improved quality of life. We cannot do that without leaders who have a vision for the future; a vision that includes innovation, new partnerships, and collaborators helping to secure increased resources from the state and federal government. Together we can build and restore basic infrastructure like roads, bridges, and water systems; spark economic development and industry, create new family wage jobs, keep our community safe, build affordable housing and address homelessness, and protect our land, air, and water.

As your Commissioner, I will work tirelessly to build community and unite us to proactively tackle our challenges and leverage our assets to bring abundance, joy, and opportunity to the citizens of Cowlitz County.

**Contact Information**

Phone: (360) 425-0749

Email: [votenorquist@gmail.com](mailto:votenorquist@gmail.com)

Website: [www.votenorquist.com](http://www.votenorquist.com)



**Steve  
Ferrell**

(Prefers Republican Party)

My name is Steve Ferrell, I'm proud to call Cowlitz County home. I was born here and I've lived here my entire life. I attended school in Longview, Toutle Lake, and Castle Rock. I had a paper route and I worked in our family business, Ferrell Lumber. My deep roots give me a unique understanding of the challenges we face.

I worked at Longview Fibre for 36 years. I started in 1973 as a laborer, moved into the mechanics, and became a Journeyman Electrician. I was promoted to Electrical/Instrumentation Supervisor. I worked in that role from 1993 until I retired in 2008. I was active in the union, in 1990 I was elected chairman of the bargaining board and represented over 1500 hourly employees.

I served as a PUD Commissioner from 1983–1988. My involvement helped stop the runaway WPPSS (WHOOPS) projects and saved ratepayers billions of dollars.

I have actively participated in the Commissioner Meetings for the past few years. Through this participation, I have come to understand the needs of our community well. Please vote for me, Steve Ferrell, I will work to solve problems while watching that your tax dollars are spent thoughtfully, carefully, wisely, and responsibly.

**Contact Information**

Phone: (360) 431-9739

Email: [steve@electsteveferrell.com](mailto:steve@electsteveferrell.com)

Website: [www.electsteveferrell.com](http://www.electsteveferrell.com)





Duane  
**Dagleish**

(Nonpartisan)

**Unopposed**

As a lifelong resident of Cowlitz County, I feel I have served my first term with the Cowlitz PUD with integrity, valuable hands-on experience and competence.

My 40 years in the Electrical Wholesale business has brought knowledge of power and transmission, business negotiations, and has been invaluable while serving this community. Originally while running for this position, my focus was to improve transparency, make sure the PUD was being as fiscally responsible as possible, work with the county on the landfill project to capture the gases and convert them to power and with a continued focus on safety. All of which I feel I have accomplished.

Issues at the heart of this next term, will be the BPA contract as it is up for negotiation to keep our rates as low as possible in this current climate. State and Federal legislation keeps being introduced that could harm our local utility and in turn, you the ratepayer. I am steadfast in my determination to do everything I can to ensure as minimal impact as possible, while sustaining the integrity and focus of the last 6 years.

It is with gratitude I thank you for your continued support.

**Contact Information**

Phone: (360) 261-2864

Email: wineauxjd@gmail.com

Cowlitz County

## Proposition 1

### Sales and Use Tax for Chemical Dependency or Mental Health Treatment or Therapeutic Courts

The Cowlitz County Board of Commissioners is calling for an advisory election to determine whether a sales and use tax for chemical dependency or mental health treatment services or therapeutic courts at a rate of 1/10th of 1% set forth in Cowlitz County Code Ch. 3.19, should be readopted and reinstated within Cowlitz County.

Should a sales and use tax for chemical dependency or mental health treatment services or therapeutic courts at a rate of 1/10th of 1% be readopted and reinstated within Cowlitz County?

Yes

No

See complete resolution text at:  
[co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections](https://co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections)

## Explanatory Statement

Cowlitz County previously collected a one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) mental health sales tax (the “tax”). The Cowlitz County Board of Commissioners (the “Board”) let the tax expire on March 31, 2024, and the County no longer collects the tax. The Board passed a resolution calling for an advisory vote to help it determine whether to readopt and reinstate the tax.

If the Board were to readopt and reinstate the tax, the County would be legally obligated to use the revenue solely to operate or deliver chemical dependency or mental health treatment programs and services, and to operate or deliver therapeutic court programs and services as allowed by state law. “Programs and services” includes, but is not limited to, treatment services, case management, and housing that are a component of a coordinated dependency or mental health treatment program or service.

Previously, Cowlitz County used the revenue to operate or contract with many therapeutic court and community-based programs, and the tax would be used to maintain or expand these programs in Cowlitz County. The Therapeutic Court & Inmate Services programs previously funded were as follows: adult drug court; SAFE court (juvenile drug court); HOPE court (family treatment court); mental health court; community court; jail services; and youth services center. The community-based programs previously funded were as follows: Community House on Broadway; Cowlitz County Child Advocates (CCCA); Cowlitz Community Network; Cowlitz Family Health Center; Emergency Support Shelter; Lower Columbia Headstart; Mental Health Support for Law Enforcement; Cowlitz Indian Tribe; and WSU Extension.

Statements “for” and “against” this measure are on next page

### Argument For Prepared by

**Chairperson:**  
Steve Warning  
warning0926@comcast.net  
(360) 442-1219

### Argument Against Prepared by

**Chairperson:**  
Tim Shay  
redvette4c@proton.me  
(360) 430-9987

## Argument For

Re-implementing the 1/10th of 1% behavioral health sales tax in Cowlitz County is a proven investment in public safety, community health, and economic stability. This tax has funded essential chemical dependency and mental health programs, including case management. The cessation of this tax jeopardizes these vital services. Reinstating the tax ensures these life-saving programs continue to benefit our community and those in need.

Research consistently demonstrates the cost-effectiveness of therapeutic courts, which reduce recidivism by up to 50%. By addressing the root causes of criminal behavior—substance abuse and mental health issues—these courts help restore families and relationships, reduce crime, and build stronger communities. Participants often become active, constructive members of the community, further enhancing societal well-being.

The benefits of these programs are clear. Communities investing in mental health and addiction treatment see marked decreases in crime rates. Jurisdictions with well-funded behavioral health programs report fewer property and violent crimes. Treating addiction helps individuals reclaim their lives and enhances public safety, resulting in safer neighborhoods.

Opponents may argue that the tax, which amounts to only \$.10 to every \$100.00 spent, is an unnecessary expense. However, untreated mental health and addiction lead to higher costs in law enforcement, emergency services, and healthcare. Investing in these programs saves taxpayer money by reducing demand for these services. The benefits extend beyond individuals receiving treatment, contributing to a healthier, safer, and more economically stable community for everyone. Re-implementing the behavioral health tax is a sound financial and public safety decision.

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## Rebuttal of Argument Against

This tax was passed in 2012 by elected county commissioners who incorporated substantial public input through hearings. Its purpose and allocation were transparently discussed.

While it's true that criminal justice and behavioral health programs involve administration, this tax supports vital services across various areas, not just administrative costs.

The effectiveness of these programs is regularly reviewed and reported. Concerns about future tax rate increases are irrelevant as State legislation does not allow for increases.

## Argument Against

This tax was imposed on the people and businesses of Cowlitz County without any input or vote from the community, most people are not even aware that this tax exists. The tax collects between 2 and 3 million dollars annually and these funds are spread out between 17 different administrations.

Government programs = more administration, in time government programs become mostly administrative entities.

The return on investment of this tax is impossible to track no one seems to have any number(s) to support the success or failure of these programs.

They mention “expand these programs” in the statement which is another clue that the administration has every intention to grow. Will they raise the rate the same way they installed this tax? Without anyone knowing?

How many taxes can we afford?

Reject this tax and give 3 million dollars back to the people of Cowlitz County

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## Rebuttal of Argument For

The fact that the behavioral health sales tax was allowed to sunset didn't mean that anything went away. All these programs will continue years into the future. Especially because changes in drug laws have removed the incentives to attend drug court. In practice the tax has been collected to fund a drug court that no one attends. There is no proof that therapeutic courts have any effect on crime.

City of Kelso

## Proposition 1

### Sales and Use Tax for Transportation Improvements

The Kelso City Council adopted Resolution No. 24-1294 concerning a sales and use tax to fund transportation improvements. This proposition would increase the sales and use tax rate to .30% from .10% (a two-cent increase per \$10 sale) to be collected from taxable retail sales and uses in Kelso for a period of ten years to pay the costs of transportation projects identified in Kelso's Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

See complete resolution text at:  
[co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections](http://co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections)

## Explanatory Statement

This Proposition would increase the City sales and use tax rate to three-tenths of one percent (0.30%) to be collected from taxable retail sales and uses in the City for a period of ten years. The City by City Council ordinance currently imposes a sales and use tax of one-tenths of one percent (.10%) on taxable retail sales and uses. This Proposition would increase this rate by two-tenths of one percent (.20%). The revenue generated from the tax is restricted and would be used to fund transportation projects identified on the City's Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

Statements "for" and "against" this measure are on next page

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### Argument For Prepared by

**Chairperson:**

Mike Karnofski  
mikeakarnofski@gmail.com  
(360) 431-0626

Brian Wood  
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John Simpson  
sjsimpson@comcast.net

---

### Argument Against Prepared by

**Chairperson:**

Tim Shay  
redvette4c@proton.me  
(360) 430-9987

## Argument For

Not all roadways are created equal when it comes to public funding. Federal and State governments take care of their highways as well as a small number of local Kelso roads that are designated as arterials or “freight mobility” roads. Since over 80% of Kelso’s streets are classified “residential,” they are not eligible for Federal or State maintenance monies. Therefore, the allowance for almost all street repairs and improvements within the city limits must be raised by the City.

In a 2022 workshop, the Kelso City Council reviewed the health of the city’s streets. A consulting firm confirmed that many of our roads are in serious disrepair. The estimated cost to repair or reconstruct those roads exceeds \$14 million.

After exploring several options, the City Council acted to create a Transportation Benefit District which approved a 0.1% sales tax to raise a portion (approximately \$350,000) of the amount needed to improve street surfaces.

The City now seeks the voters’ approval to add an additional 0.2% to the City’s sales tax. This tax would generate approximately \$1 million in revenue per year to further address road maintenance and rebuilding. This levy equates to 2 cents for every \$10 spent within Kelso. This is paid by everyone who purchases goods (excluding groceries) and services not just Kelso residents.

Voting, “Yes” is an excellent opportunity for our community to take positive action to repair Kelso’s streets and roads.

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## Rebuttal of Argument Against

The tax isn’t intended to cover short fall in revenue. Funds will be used to repair residential streets that aren’t eligible for Federal or State funding.

Street conditions are a significant concern of Kelso citizens. The tax will allow the City to complete many of the projects that they have been unable to fund.

The tax amounts to \$0.20 for a \$100 purchase. A significant amount of sales taxes are paid by non-Kelso residents.

## Argument Against

The City of Kelso wants to raise the sales tax rate to cover their “anticipated” shortfall in tax revenue.

The City of Kelso promises to use this extra money for funding “the Transportation Projects” which is part of a six year plan.

The City of Kelso plans to keep this increase for the next ten years.

Points to think about;

Are you satisfied with the condition of the streets and roads in Kelso?

Will additional taxes drive away or prevent new business from coming to Kelso?

How many tax increases can you afford?

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## Rebuttal of Argument For

They hired a consulting firm? How much did it cost to find out what they already knew? 14 million to fix all the streets, yet the raise in the tax only would generate 1 million a year. It’s obvious that not a lot of street work has taken place in decades. Now they want you to pay more. A million dollars will evaporate into the administration and not one street will be worked on.



City of Longview

## Proposition 1

### Authorization of an Increase in the Sales and Use Tax in Longview

The City Council of Longview adopted Resolution no. 2506 concerning a sales and use tax to fund police services.

This proposition would authorize an increase in the sales and use tax by one-tenth of one percent (.1% equaling a one cent increase per \$10 sale) to be collected from the selling price of all taxable retail sales within the City in accordance with RCW Chapter 82.14. The increase would fund enhanced police services, criminal justice assistance and ensure public safety.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

*See complete resolution text at:  
[co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections](http://co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections)*

## Explanatory Statement

The Longview City Council passed Resolution No. 2506 to allow voters to decide whether to pass a proposition authorizing an increase in the sales and tax use in Longview of one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) on the selling price to fund enhanced police services and community safety.

This proposition provides that the City would at minimum maintain its current general fund support of the Longview Police Department. The revenue generated from the proposition would be used to increase minimum staffing levels by hiring additional patrol officers. The minimum patrol levels have remained at current levels since 1980, while the population has increased by 22.8% and calls for police services have increased by 43%. Police and community safety are vital to the health and well-being of the community and the Police Department currently faces and increased call volume, coupled with additional complexity in the calls received, resulting in a significantly increased length of time per call to ensure the application of de-escalation patrol tactics consistent with Washington State law.

Statements “for” and “against” this measure are on next page

### Argument For Prepared by

**Chairperson:**

Erik Halvorson  
contact@safelongview.com  
(564) 333-9724

Spencer Boudreau

Connie Lantz

### Argument Against Prepared by

**Chairperson:**

Chuck Wallace  
wallacecharlesr@gmail.com  
(360) 957-9017

## Argument For

With a 43% rise in calls for service but no increase in patrol staffing since 1980, the Longview Police Department is working hard to keep up with the needs of our growing community. The City Council recognizes the need to match police resources to the priorities of the public.

This proposition proposes a 0.1% sales tax increase to fund additional police officers, equivalent to one penny per ten-dollar purchase. This investment will generate approximately \$500,000 annually, providing essential funds to ensure adequate police staffing and improve public safety.

Increased police presence can reduce crime by deterring criminal activity and improving response times. More officers mean quicker reactions to emergencies, preventing situations from escalating and reducing the likelihood of crime. Additional staffing also allows for more thorough investigations and enhances proactive policing efforts.

Supporting this proposition means investing in the safety and well-being of Longview's residents. It ensures our police department can keep pace with the city's growth and provide high-quality service. A vote in favor of this measure is for a safer, more secure community. Vote yes to enhance our police force, maintain public safety, and ensure a safer community for all.

## Argument Against

Policing is not the entirety of good public safety; it is merely the start. Our local criminal justice system is experiencing a state of financial desperation, even more so than the Longview Police Department (LPD). More cops generating more cases will put further stress on an overburdened criminal justice system. There is zero guarantee of crime reduction with a new sales tax. The SAFE campaign does not want to acknowledge this imbalance.

City Council wanted Proposition #1 so they can avoid making difficult decisions about the city budget. City Council told the community they wanted to hear input on Proposition #1. Due to the dysfunctional climate at City Hall, public input didn't happen. The local police union loves Proposition #1 because it will strengthen its ranks of due-paying members.

If you believe additional officers will be utilized to address your personal concerns, for example; issues related to homelessness, drug crimes, traffic enforcement, property crimes and theft - think again. LPD already knows what they will do with these funds and is not interested in hearing your thoughts.

A "No" vote will signal to our City Council the need for them to do their jobs and effectively fund public safety. A "Yes" vote won't solve the crime problem and encourages City Council to continually ask voters' for more money.

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## Rebuttal of Argument Against

None submitted.

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## Rebuttal of Argument For

None submitted.

Fire Protection District No. 7

### Proposition 1

#### Property Tax Levy for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

The Board of Cowlitz-Skamania County Fire Protection District No. 7 adopted Resolution No. 7-24 concerning a proposition to maintain and adequately fund District operations.

This proposition authorizes the District to restore its regular property tax levy to \$1.11 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be assessed in 2024 and collected in 2025. The funds will maintain and improve fire protection, emergency medical services and facilities, replace apparatus and equipment, and provide for firefighter safety. The maximum allowable levy in 2024 shall serve as the base for subsequent levy limitations as provided by chapter 84.55 RCW.

Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

### Explanatory Statement

Cowlitz-Skamania County Fire Protection District No. 7 provides emergency fire protection and emergency medical services to its citizens. Due to the statutory 1% limitation on property tax increases, the Fire District’s current levy has dropped to approximately \$.76 per thousand in 2023. The maximum regular levy rate for Washington fire districts is \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

If approved by the voters, this proposition will authorize the District to establish its levy rate at \$1.11 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2025. The dollar amount levied in the 2024 year shall serve as the District’s future tax levy base.

The Board of Commissioners has determined that this proposition is necessary to maintain an effective level of services, fire fighter staffing, equipment and facilities in light of rising costs, rising demands and the continued growth of our community. Approval of this measure will allow the District to maintain the level of fire protection and emergency medical services provided to its citizens while providing for firefighter safety.

*See complete resolution text at:  
[co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections](http://co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections)*

Statements “for” and “against” this measure are on next page

#### Argument For Prepared by

**Chairperson:**  
Scott Johns  
computer\_\_geek@yahoo.com  
(503) 714-5434  
www.csfd7.org

#### Argument Against Prepared by

**Chairperson:**  
Ruthellen Dunlap  
notaxescowlitzco@gmail.com

## Argument For

Your fire department needs our support in this levy lid lift proposal. As a dedicated team of volunteers, they strive to provide the highest level of emergency services to our community, but they need your help to continue that mission.

### *Why the Levy Lid Lift is Necessary*

The levy lid lift will allow them to invest in essential equipment, training, and facilities to maintain and improve response, ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents. Modern firefighting and medical equipment are crucial for effective emergency response. This levy will fund the replacement of outdated gear, ensuring our volunteers have the tools they need to protect lives and property. Our volunteers are the backbone of the fire department. To retain and attract dedicated individuals, they need to offer comprehensive training programs and provide adequate support. The levy will enable them to invest in these areas, ensuring our team is well-prepared to handle any emergency. The levy will support necessary maintenance and upgrades to fire stations, ensuring they meet current safety standards and can accommodate modern equipment.

### *Your Vote Matters*

Under Washington law fire tax rates decrease as property values increase. This decrease has dropped the fire departments overall taxation rate. Supporting this levy lid lift means supporting the safety and well-being of your neighbors, friends, and family. Our volunteer fire department is committed to serving you, but they need the necessary resources to do so effectively. A yes vote will ensure they can provide the highest-quality emergency services our community deserves.

## Argument Against

None submitted.

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## Rebuttal of Argument Against

None submitted.

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## Rebuttal of Argument For

None submitted.

# VoteWA

## Use VoteWA to:



Register to vote



Check or update your voter registration information

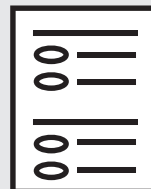
View a list of your elected officials



Contact your county elections office

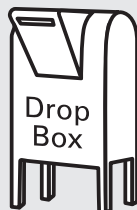


View your personalized Voter Guide



Fill out or print a replacement ballot

Find an official ballot drop box



Check the status of your ballot



Sign in to **VoteWA.gov** to access your customized voting information.

Tracking your ballot is easier than ever! Sign up for text notifications when you register or update your info at **VoteWA.gov**.



When reviewing online or printed information, think about:

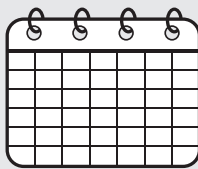
### Who made this, and who is it for?

Was it a company, or an individual person? Who is the intended audience?



### Why did they make it?

Think about the purpose. Is it to inform, entertain, or persuade?



### When was this made?

Is the information relevant today?



### What makes it believable?

Is there evidence from a reputable source or expert?

### How might other people read this message?

Consider how someone with a different background might interpret it.



### Ask the experts

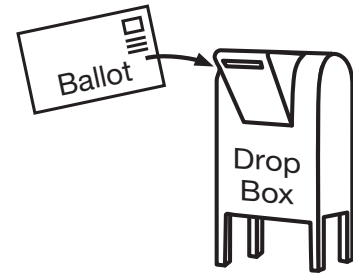
Consult a fact-checking site or ask an official source. Get trusted info from your county auditor or elections office.



1

### Your county receives your ballot

Deposit your ballot in an official drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day, or return your ballot by mail — postage paid — but make sure it's postmarked by Election Day! Don't let a late postmark disqualify your ballot. The USPS recommends that you mail it back at least one week before Election Day.



Election staff will contact you before your ballot is processed if:

- Your signature is missing
- Your signature doesn't match your voter registration record

2

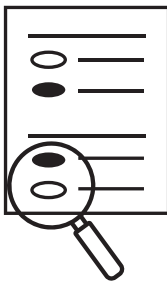
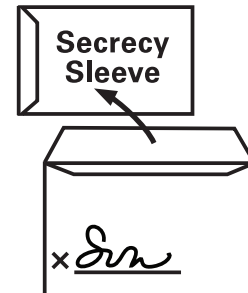
### Your signature is verified

Your signature is important and we need it to accept your ballot. The signature on your return envelope is compared to the signature on your voter registration record. If the signature matches, your ballot is accepted and you are credited for voting to ensure **only one** ballot is counted for you.

3

### Envelopes and sleeves are separated

The return envelope is opened and the secrecy sleeve containing your ballot is removed. They are separated to ensure the secrecy of your vote.



4

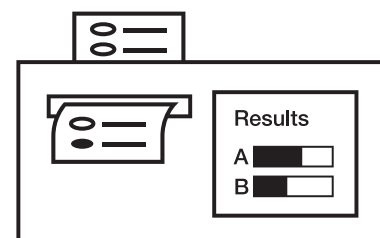
### Your ballot is reviewed and scanned

The ballot is removed from the secrecy sleeve and election staff verify that it can be successfully scanned. Each voting system is certified and tested before every election.

5

### Your ballot is counted

After 8 p.m. on Election Day all scanned ballots are tallied. Ballots will be scanned and tallied over the next several days until all the votes are counted. Every county conducts a post-election audit.



## Before an Election

### Voting systems certification and testing



Ballot counting equipment is tested and certified by an independent testing authority and the State of Washington.

Voting systems are not connected to the internet.

### Pre-election audit: logic & accuracy tests

Before every election, counties test their voting systems to make sure the machines are correctly set up and accurately counting votes.

### Voter registration database

Washington's statewide voter registration database is constantly maintained and updated as voters become registered, move, change their name, pass away, or are no longer eligible to vote.

All eligible voters are automatically mailed ballots. Only one ballot per voter is accepted.

### Contact your local county elections office to learn more



## During an Election

### Paper ballots



Voting on paper ballots allows election officials to audit results of an election after votes are counted.

### Signature verification

Trained election officials compare your signature to your voter registration file to confirm your identity and eligibility.

If your signature is missing or doesn't match, your ballot is "Challenged" and you are notified. Once your signature is verified, your ballot status will update to "Accepted".

### VoteWA

Check the status of your ballot at [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov). Once your ballot status is updated to "Accepted," your ballot will be opened and scanned. Only one ballot per voter is accepted.

### Chain of custody

Ballots are sealed in secure, tamper-evident containers and at least two staff are present whenever your ballot is handled.

### Scanning and tabulation

Ballot scanners and vote counting machines are physically secured in locked rooms. Election staff sign in and out each time the room is opened, and always in groups of two or more.

## After an Election

### Post-election random batch audits



Your local election officials hand count randomly selected precincts or ballot batches and compare those numbers to the voting system totals to make sure the vote counting machines counted correctly.

### Post-election risk-limiting audit

Your local election officials examine a statistically significant, randomly selected sample of ballots to help ensure the reported outcome is correct.

### Full ballot reconciliation

Your local election officials keep detailed records of the steps taken to process each ballot or group of ballots, creating an audit trail.

A final report at the end of the process includes a summary of the ballots received and counted.

**New Washington resident**

Welcome! Register to vote online, by mail, in person, or when you get your new driver's license, permit, or ID at the Department of Licensing. You may not vote in more than one place, so cancel your previous voter registration.

**Military or overseas voter**

Register to vote anytime on or before Election Day. You may receive your ballot by mail, email, or fax. Spouses and dependents also away from home have the same voting rights.

**College student**

Register to vote using either your home or school address, but you may not vote in more than one place. Your ballot can be mailed to you anywhere in the world; however, your residential address must remain in Washington.

**Non-traditional address voter**

Use any physical location you consider your residence such as a shelter, park, or marina. Your mailing address can be general delivery at a local post office, a PO Box, or an address of a trusted friend or relative. A federally recognized tribe may designate tribal government buildings to serve as residential or mailing addresses for voters living on tribal lands.

**Seasonal resident**

Vote in Washington even if you're away during an election. To ensure you receive your ballot, update your mailing address at [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov) or with a county elections office. Your ballot can be mailed to you anywhere in the world; however, your residential address must remain in Washington. You may not vote in more than one place.

**Person convicted of a felony**

If you were convicted of a felony in Washington, your right to vote is restored when you are no longer serving a sentence of total confinement in prison. After your right to vote is restored, you must re-register to vote in order to receive a ballot.

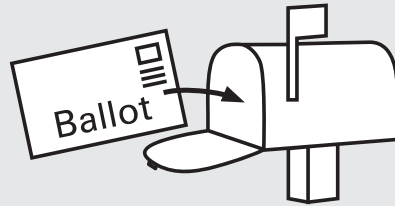


1

**Vote by mail**

Washington votes by mail every election.

We were the second state in the nation to adopt vote by mail and the first to provide all postage paid. A ballot is mailed at least 18 days before each election, ensuring you have time to cast an informed ballot without waiting in line.



2

**Online voter registration**

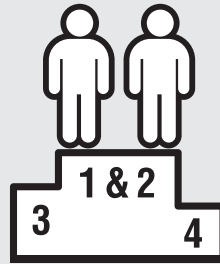
We offer online voter registration. Register to vote or update your address at **VoteWA.gov**.



3

**Top 2 Primary**

Washington uses a Top 2 Primary system where the two candidates who receive the most votes in the August Primary Election advance to the November General Election, regardless of their party preference.



4

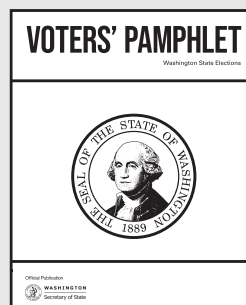
**No party affiliation**

Washington voters do not register by party affiliation. Vote for any candidate regardless of their party preference.

5

**Voters' Pamphlet**

Only a few states produce a Voters' Pamphlet like this one. The state pamphlet is mailed to every household before each General Election.



6

**Same day registration**

Citizens can register and vote a ballot in person during the voting period until 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Visit a county elections office (listed at the end of this pamphlet).





## Student Mock ELECTION

The Student Mock Election is a non-partisan, educational event that teaches kids to be informed voters. Over 500,000 students have participated in Washington's annual Student Mock Election since 2004.

- Students vote on candidates and measures, just like they will in the future.
- Participants learn about the unique vote-by-mail elections process used in our state.
- Non-partisan and free to all public, private, tribal, and homeschool K-12 students.

### Free resources for educators:

- Teacher toolkit includes print-friendly Voters' Pamphlet, lessons from Teaching Elections in Washington State curriculum book, posters, and coloring sheet.

Visit [sos.wa.gov/mockelection](https://sos.wa.gov/mockelection) for more info.

Want to be notified of the next Student Mock Election?  
Scan with your smartphone camera to sign up.



### Voter tip:

The ballot return envelope has free postage, but don't let a late postmark disqualify your ballot. The USPS recommends that you mail a week before Election Day.



### Voter tip:

Remember to sign and date your ballot return envelope. Trained election officials are responsible for verifying each and every signature.





### How do I read measure text?

Language in double parentheses with a line through it is existing state law; it will be taken out of the law if this measure is approved by voters.

#### **~~(sample of text to be deleted)~~**

Underlined language does not appear in current state law but will be added to the law if this measure is approved by voters.

#### **sample of text to be added**

## Complete Text

### Initiative Measure No. 2066

AN ACT Relating to promoting energy choice by protecting access to gas for Washington homes and businesses; amending RCW 80.28.110, 35.92.050, 80.28.425, 80.---,---, 19.27A.020, 19.27A.025, and 19.27A.045; adding a new section to chapter 35.21 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 36.01 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 70A.15 RCW; creating a new section; repealing RCW 80.---,---, 80.---,---, and 80.---,---; and repealing 2024 c 351 ss 1 and 21 (uncodified).

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The people find that having access to natural gas enhances the safety, welfare, and standard of living of all people in Washington. The people further find that preserving Washington's gas infrastructure and systems will promote energy choice, security, independence, and resilience throughout the state. Natural gas is a convenient and important necessity because it: Serves as a backup source of energy during emergencies; provides consumers with more options for heating, sanitation, cooking and food preparation, and other household activities, helping to control their costs; and sustains essential businesses, such as restaurants.

(2) Unfortunately, due to recent policy and corporate decisions, the people's ability to make choices about their energy sources is at risk. Therefore, the people determine that access to gas and gas appliances must be preserved for Washington homes and businesses, by strengthening utilities' obligation to provide natural gas to customers who want it, and by preventing regulatory actions that will limit access to gas.

**Sec. 2.** RCW 80.28.110 and 2024 c 348 s 6 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Every gas company, electrical company, wastewater company, or water company, engaged in the sale and distribution of gas, electricity, or water, or the provision of wastewater company services, shall, upon reasonable notice, furnish to all persons and corporations who may apply therefor and be reasonably entitled thereto, suitable facilities for furnishing and furnish all available gas, electricity, wastewater company services, and water as demanded, except that: ~~((1))~~ (a) A water company may not furnish water contrary to the provisions of water system plans approved

under chapter 43.20 or 70A.100 RCW; ~~((2))~~ (b) wastewater companies may not provide services contrary to the approved general sewer plan; and ~~((3))~~ (c) exclusively upon petition of a gas company, and subject to the commission's approval, a gas company's obligation to serve gas to customers that have access to the gas company's thermal energy network may be met by providing thermal energy through a thermal energy network.

(2) Every gas company or large combination utility shall provide natural gas to all persons and corporations in their service area or territory that demand, apply for, and are reasonably entitled to receive, natural gas under this section, even if other energy services or energy sources may be available.

**Sec. 3.** RCW 35.92.050 and 2022 c 292 s 405 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) A city or town may also construct, condemn and purchase, purchase, acquire, add to, alter, maintain, and operate works, plants, facilities for the purpose of furnishing the city or town and its inhabitants, and any other persons, with gas, electricity, green electrolytic hydrogen as defined in RCW 54.04.190, renewable hydrogen as defined in RCW 54.04.190, and other means of power and facilities for lighting, including streetlights as an integral utility service incorporated within general rates, heating, fuel, and power purposes, public and private, with full authority to regulate and control the use, distribution, and price thereof, together with the right to handle and sell or lease, any meters, lamps, motors, transformers, and equipment or accessories of any kind, necessary and convenient for the use, distribution, and sale thereof; authorize the construction of such plant or plants by others for the same purpose, and purchase gas, electricity, or power from either within or without the city or town for its own use and for the purpose of selling to its inhabitants and to other persons doing business within the city or town and regulate and control the use and price thereof.

(2) A city or town that furnishes natural gas shall provide natural gas to those inhabitants that demand, apply for, and are reasonably entitled to receive, natural gas under this section, even if other energy services or energy sources may be available.

**Sec. 4.** RCW 80.28.425 and 2024 c 351 s 18 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Beginning January 1, 2022, every general rate case filing of a gas or electrical company must include a proposal for a multiyear rate plan as provided in this chapter. The commission may, by order after an adjudicative proceeding as provided by chapter 34.05 RCW, approve, approve with conditions, or reject, a multiyear rate plan proposal made by a gas or electrical company or an alternative proposal made by one or more parties, or any combination thereof. The commission's consideration of a proposal for a multiyear rate plan is subject to the same standards applicable to other rate filings made under this title, including the public interest and fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient rates. In determining the public interest, the commission may consider such factors including, but not limited to, environmental health and greenhouse gas emissions reductions, health and safety concerns, economic development, and equity, to the extent

such factors affect the rates, services, and practices of a gas or electrical company regulated by the commission.

(2) The commission may approve, disapprove, or approve with modifications any proposal to recover from ratepayers up to five percent of the total revenue requirement approved by the commission for each year of a multiyear rate plan for tariffs that reduce the energy burden of low-income residential customers including, but not limited to: (a) Bill assistance programs; or (b) one or more special rates. For any multiyear rate plan approved under this section resulting in a rate increase, the commission must approve an increase in the amount of low-income bill assistance to take effect in each year of the rate plan where there is a rate increase. At a minimum, the amount of such low-income assistance increase must be equal to double the percentage increase, if any, in the residential base rates approved for each year of the rate plan. The commission may approve a larger increase to low-income bill assistance based on an appropriate record.

(3) (a) If it approves a multiyear rate plan, the commission shall separately approve rates for each of the initial rate year, the second rate year and, if applicable, the third rate year, and the fourth rate year.

(b) The commission shall ascertain and determine the fair value for rate-making purposes of the property of any gas or electrical company that is or will be used and useful under RCW 80.04.250 for service in this state by or during each rate year of the multiyear rate plan. For the initial rate year, the commission shall, at a minimum, ascertain and determine the fair value for rate-making purposes of the property of any gas or electrical company that is used and useful for service in this state as of the rate effective date. The commission may order refunds to customers if property expected to be used and useful by the rate effective date when the commission approves a multiyear rate plan is in fact not used and useful by such a date.

(c) The commission shall ascertain and determine the revenues and operating expenses for rate-making purposes of any gas or electrical company for each rate year of the multiyear rate plan.

(d) In ascertaining and determining the fair value of property of a gas or electrical company pursuant to (b) of this subsection and projecting the revenues and operating expenses of a gas or electrical company pursuant to (c) of this subsection, the commission may use any standard, formula, method, or theory of valuation reasonably calculated to arrive at fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient rates.

(e) If the commission approves a multiyear rate plan with a duration of three or four years, then the electrical company must update its power costs as of the rate effective date of the third rate year. The proceeding to update the electrical company's power costs is subject to the same standards that apply to other rate filings made under this title.

(4) Subject to subsection (5) of this section, the commission may by order establish terms, conditions, and procedures for a multiyear rate plan and ensure that rates remain fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient during the course of the plan.

(5) Notwithstanding subsection (4) of this section, a gas or electrical company is bound by the terms of the multiyear rate plan approved by the commission for each of the

initial rate year and the second rate year. A gas or electrical company may file a new multiyear rate plan in accordance with this section for the third rate year and fourth rate year, if any, of a multiyear rate plan.

(6) If the annual commission basis report for a gas or electrical company demonstrates that the reported rate of return on rate base of the company for the 12-month period ending as of the end of the period for which the annual commission basis report is filed is more than .5 percent higher than the rate of return authorized by the commission in the multiyear rate plan for such a company, the company shall defer all revenues that are in excess of .5 percent higher than the rate of return authorized by the commission for refunds to customers or another determination by the commission in a subsequent adjudicative proceeding. If a multistate electrical company with fewer than 250,000 customers in Washington files a multiyear rate plan that provides for no increases in base rates in consecutive years beyond the initial rate year, the commission shall waive the requirements of this subsection provided that such a waiver results in just and reasonable rates.

(7) The commission must, in approving a multiyear rate plan, determine a set of performance measures that will be used to assess a gas or electrical company operating under a multiyear rate plan. These performance measures may be based on proposals made by the gas or electrical company in its initial application, by any other party to the proceeding in its response to the company's filing, or in the testimony and evidence admitted in the proceeding. In developing performance measures, incentives, and penalty mechanisms, the commission may consider factors including, but not limited to, lowest reasonable cost planning, affordability, increases in energy burden, cost of service, customer satisfaction and engagement, service reliability, clean energy or renewable procurement, conservation acquisition, demand side management expansion, rate stability, timely execution of competitive procurement practices, attainment of state energy and emissions reduction policies, rapid integration of renewable energy resources, and fair compensation of utility employees.

(8) Nothing in this section precludes any gas or electrical company from making filings required or permitted by the commission.

(9) The commission shall align, to the extent practical, the timing of approval of a multiyear rate plan of an electrical company submitted pursuant to this section with the clean energy implementation plan of the electrical company filed pursuant to RCW 19.405.060.

(10) The provisions of this section may not be construed to limit the existing rate-making authority of the commission.

(11) The commission may require a large combination utility as defined in RCW 80.--.-- (section 2, chapter 351, Laws of 2024) to incorporate the requirements of this section into an integrated system plan established under RCW 80.--.-- (section 3, chapter 351, Laws of 2024).

(12) The commission shall not approve, or approve with conditions, a multiyear rate plan that requires or incentivizes a gas company or large combination utility to terminate natural gas service to customers.

(13) The commission shall not approve, or approve with conditions, a multiyear rate plan that authorizes a

gas company or large combination utility to require a customer to involuntarily switch fuel use either by restricting access to natural gas service or by implementing planning requirements that would make access to natural gas service cost-prohibitive.

**Sec. 5.** RCW 80.--.-- and 2024 c 351 s 3 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The legislature finds that large combination utilities are subject to a range of reporting and planning requirements as part of the clean energy transition. The legislature further finds that current natural gas integrated resource plans under development might not yield optimal results for timely and cost-effective decarbonization. To reduce regulatory barriers, achieve equitable and transparent outcomes, and integrate planning requirements, the commission may consolidate a large combination utility's planning requirements for both gas and electric operations, including consolidation into a single integrated system plan that is approved by the commission.

(2) (a) By July 1, 2025, the commission shall complete a rule-making proceeding to implement consolidated planning requirements for gas and electric services for large combination utilities that may include plans required under: (i) RCW 19.280.030; (ii) RCW 19.285.040; (iii) RCW 19.405.060; (iv) RCW 80.28.380; (v) RCW 80.28.365; (vi) RCW 80.28.425; and (vii) RCW 80.28.130. The commission may extend the rule-making proceeding for 90 days for good cause shown. The large combination utilities' filing deadline required in subsection (4) of this section will be extended commensurate to the rule-making extension period set by the commission. Subsequent planning requirements for future integrated system plans must be fulfilled on a timeline set by the commission. Large combination utilities that file integrated system plans are no longer required to file separate plans that are required in an integrated system plan. The statutorily required contents of any plan consolidated into an integrated system plan must be met by the integrated system plan.

(b) In its order adopting rules or issuing a policy statement approving the consolidation of planning requirements, the commission shall include a compliance checklist and any additional guidance that is necessary to assist the large combination utility in meeting the minimum requirements of all relevant statutes and rules.

(3) Upon request by a large combination utility, the commission may issue an order extending the filing and reporting requirements of a large combination utility under RCW 19.405.060 and 19.280.030, and requiring the large combination utility to file an integrated system plan pursuant to subsection (4) of this section if the commission finds that the large combination utility has made public a work plan that demonstrates reasonable progress toward meeting the standards under RCW 19.405.040(1) and 19.405.050(1) and achieving equity goals. The commission's approval of an extension of filing and reporting requirements does not relieve the large combination utility from the obligation to demonstrate progress towards meeting the standards under RCW 19.405.040(1) and 19.405.050(1) and the interim targets approved in its most recent clean energy implementation plan. Commission approval of an extension under this section fulfills the large combination ~~((utilities)) utility's~~ statutory filing deadlines under RCW 19.405.060(1).

(4) By January 1, 2027, and on a timeline set by the commission thereafter, large combination utilities shall file an integrated system plan demonstrating how the large combination utilities' plans are consistent with the requirements of this chapter and any rules and guidance adopted by the commission, and which:

(a) Achieve the obligations of all plans consolidated into the integrated system plan;

(b) Provide a range of forecasts, for at least the next 20 years, of projected customer demand that takes into account econometric data and addresses changes in the number, type, and efficiency of customer usage;

(c) Include scenarios that achieve emissions reductions for both gas and electric operations equal to at least their proportional share of emissions reductions required under RCW 70A.45.020;

(d) Include scenarios with emissions reduction targets for both gas and electric operations for each emissions reduction period that account for the interactions between gas and electric systems;

(e) Achieve two percent of electric load annually with conservation and energy efficiency resources, unless the commission finds that a higher target is cost-effective. However, the commission may accept a lower level of achievement if it determines that the requirement in this subsection (4) (e) is neither technically nor commercially feasible during the applicable emissions reduction period;

(f) Assess commercially available conservation and efficiency resources, including demand response and load management, to achieve the conservation and energy efficiency requirements in (e) of this subsection, and as informed by the assessment for conservation potential under RCW 19.285.040 for the planning horizon consistent with (b) of this subsection. Such an assessment may include, as appropriate, opportunities for development of combined heat and power as an energy and capacity resource, demand response and load management programs, and currently employed and new policies and programs needed to obtain the conservation and efficiency resources. The value of recoverable waste heat resulting from combined heat and power must be reflected in analyses of cost-effectiveness under this subsection;

(g) Achieve annual demand response and demand flexibility equal to or greater than 10 percent of winter and summer peak electric demand, unless the commission finds that a higher target is cost-effective. However, the commission may accept a lower level of achievement if it determines that the requirement in this subsection (4) (g) is neither technically nor commercially feasible during the applicable emissions reduction period;

~~(h) ((Achieve all cost-effective electrification of end-uses currently served by natural gas identified through an assessment of alternatives to known and planned gas infrastructure projects, including nonpipeline alternatives, rebates and incentives, and geographically targeted electrification;~~

~~(i))~~ Include low-income electrification programs that must:  
(i) Include rebates and incentives to low-income customers and customers experiencing high energy burden for the deployment of high-efficiency electric-only heat pumps in homes and buildings currently heating with wood, oil,



propane, electric resistance, or gas;

(ii) Provide demonstrated material benefits to low-income participants including, but not limited to, decreased energy burden, the addition of air conditioning, and backup heat sources using natural gas or energy storage systems, if necessary to protect health and safety in areas with frequent outages, or improved indoor air quality;

(iii) Enroll customers in energy assistance programs or provide bill assistance;

~~(iv) Provide dedicated funding for electrification readiness;~~  
~~(v) Include low-income customer protections to mitigate energy burden, if electrification measures will increase a low-income participant's energy burden; and~~

~~((vi)) (v) Coordinate with community-based organizations in the (gas or electrical company's) large combination utility's service territory including, but not limited to, grantees of the department of commerce, community action agencies, and community-based nonprofit organizations, to remove barriers and effectively serve low-income customers;~~

~~((j)) (i) Accept as proof of eligibility for energy assistance enrollment in any means-tested public benefit, or low-income energy assistance program, for which eligibility does not exceed the low-income definition set by the commission pursuant to RCW 19.405.020;~~

~~((k) Assess the potential for geographically targeted electrification including, but not limited to, in overburdened communities, on gas plant that is fully depreciated or gas plant that is included in a proposal for geographically targeted electrification that requires accelerating depreciation pursuant to RCW 80.---(1) (section 7(1), chapter 351, Laws of 2024) for the gas plant subject to such electrification proposal;~~

~~((l)) (i) Assess commercially available supply side resources, including a comparison of the benefits and risks of purchasing electricity or gas or building new resources;~~

~~((m) Assess nonpipeline alternatives, including geographically targeted electrification and demand response, as an alternative to replacing aging gas infrastructure or expanded gas capacity. Assessments must involve, at a minimum:~~

~~(i) Identifying all known and planned gas infrastructure projects, including those without a fully defined scope or cost estimate, for at least the 10 years following the filing;~~

~~(ii) Estimating programmatic expenses of maintaining that portion of the gas system for at least the 10 years following the filing; and~~

~~(iii) Ranking all gas pipeline segments for their suitability for nonpipeline alternatives;~~

~~((n)) (k) Assess distributed energy resources that meets the requirements of RCW 19.280.100;~~

~~((o)) (l) Provide an assessment and 20-year forecast of the availability of and requirements for regional supply side resource and delivery system capacity to provide and deliver electricity and gas to the large combination utility's customers and to meet, as applicable, the requirements of chapter 19.405 RCW and the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction limits in RCW 70A.45.020. The delivery system assessment must identify the large combination utility's expected needs to acquire new long-term firm rights, develop new, or expand or upgrade existing, delivery system facilities consistent with the requirements of this section and~~

reliability standards and take into account opportunities to make more effective use of existing delivery facility capacity through improved delivery system operating practices, conservation and efficiency resources, distributed energy resources, demand response, grid modernization, nonwires solutions, and other programs if applicable;

~~((p)) (m) Assess methods, commercially available technologies, or facilities for integrating renewable resources and nonemitting electric generation including, but not limited to, battery storage and pumped storage, and addressing overgeneration events, if applicable to the large combination utility's resource portfolio;~~

~~((q)) (n) Provide a comparative evaluation of supply side resources, delivery system resources, and conservation and efficiency resources using lowest reasonable cost as a criterion;~~

~~((r)) (o) Include a determination of resource adequacy metrics for the integrated system plan consistent with the forecasts;~~

~~((s)) (p) Forecast distributed energy resources that may be installed by the large combination utility's customers and an assessment of their effect on the large combination utility's load and operations;~~

~~((t)) (q) Identify an appropriate resource adequacy requirement and measurement metric consistent with prudent utility practice in implementing RCW 19.405.030 through 19.405.050;~~

~~((u)) (r) Integrate demand forecasts, resource evaluations, and resource adequacy requirements into a long-range assessment describing the mix of supply side resources and conservation and efficiency resources that will meet current and projected needs, including mitigating overgeneration events and implementing RCW 19.405.030 through 19.405.050, at the lowest reasonable cost and risk to the large combination utility and its customers, while maintaining and protecting the safety, reliable operation, and balancing of the energy system of the large combination utility;~~

~~((v)) (s) Include an assessment, informed by the cumulative impact analysis conducted under RCW 19.405.140, of: Energy and nonenergy benefits and the avoidance and reductions of burdens to vulnerable populations and highly impacted communities; long-term and short-term public health and environmental benefits, costs, and risks; and energy security and risk;~~

~~((w)) (t) Include a 10-year clean energy action plan for implementing RCW 19.405.030 through 19.405.050 at the lowest reasonable cost, and at an acceptable resource adequacy standard;~~

~~((x)) (u) Include an analysis of how the integrated system plan accounts for:~~

~~(i) Model load forecast scenarios that consider the anticipated levels of zero emissions vehicle use in a large combination utility's service area, including anticipated levels of zero emissions vehicle use in the large combination utility's service area provided in RCW 47.01.520, if feasible;~~

~~(ii) Analysis, research, findings, recommendations, actions, and any other relevant information found in the electrification of transportation plans submitted under RCW 80.28.365; and~~

~~(iii) Assumed use case forecasts and the associated energy impacts, which may use the forecasts generated by the mapping and forecasting tool created in RCW 47.01.520;~~



~~((y))~~ (v) Establish that the large combination utility has:

(i) Consigned to auction for the benefit of ratepayers the minimum required number of allowances allocated to the large combination utility for the applicable compliance period pursuant to RCW 70A.65.130, consistent with the climate commitment act, chapter 70A.65 RCW, and rules adopted pursuant to the climate commitment act; and

(ii) Prioritized, to the maximum extent permissible under the climate commitment act, chapter 70A.65 RCW, revenues derived from the auction of allowances allocated to the utility for the applicable compliance period pursuant to RCW 70A.65.130, first to programs that eliminate the cost burden for low-income ratepayers, such as bill assistance, or nonvolumetric credits on ratepayer utility bills, ~~((or electrification programs;))~~ and second to ~~((electrification))~~ programs benefiting residential and small commercial customers;

~~((z))~~ (w) Propose an action plan outlining the specific actions to be taken by the large combination utility in implementing the integrated system plan following submission; and

~~((aa))~~ (x) Report on the large combination utility's progress towards implementing the recommendations contained in its previously filed integrated system plan.

~~(5) ((In evaluating the lowest reasonable cost of decarbonization measures included in an integrated system plan, large combination utilities must apply a risk reduction premium that must account for the applicable allowance ceiling price approved by the department of ecology pursuant to the climate commitment act, chapter 70A.65-RCW. For the purpose of this chapter, the risk reduction premium is necessary to ensure that a large combination utility is making appropriate long-term investments to mitigate against the allowance and fuel price risks to customers of the large combination utility.~~

~~(6))~~ The clean energy action plan must:

(a) Identify and be informed by the large combination utility's 10-year cost-effective conservation potential assessment as determined under RCW 19.285.040, if applicable;

(b) Establish a resource adequacy requirement;

(c) Identify the potential cost-effective demand response and load management programs that may be acquired;

(d) Identify renewable resources, nonemitting electric generation, and distributed energy resources that may be acquired and evaluate how each identified resource may be expected to contribute to meeting the large combination utility's resource adequacy requirement;

(e) Identify any need to develop new, or expand or upgrade existing, bulk transmission and distribution facilities and document existing and planned efforts by the large combination utility to make more effective use of existing transmission capacity and secure additional transmission capacity consistent with the requirements of subsection (4) ~~((e))~~ (l) of this section; and

(f) Identify the nature and possible extent to which the large combination utility may need to rely on alternative compliance options under RCW 19.405.040(1)(b), if appropriate.

~~((7))~~ (6) A large combination utility shall consider the social cost of greenhouse gas emissions, as determined by the

commission pursuant to RCW 80.28.405, when developing integrated system plans and clean energy action plans. A large combination utility must incorporate the social cost of greenhouse gas emissions as a cost adder when:

(a) Evaluating and selecting conservation policies, programs, and targets;

(b) Developing integrated system plans and clean energy action plans; and

(c) Evaluating and selecting intermediate term and long-term resource options.

~~((8))~~ (7) Plans developed under this section must be updated on a regular basis, on intervals approved by the commission.

~~((9))~~ (8) (a) To maximize transparency, the commission may require a large combination utility to make the utility's data input files available in a native format. Each large combination utility shall publish its final plan either as part of an annual report or as a separate document available to the public. The report may be in an electronic form.

(b) Nothing in this subsection limits the protection of records containing commercial information under RCW 80.04.095.

~~((10))~~ (9) The commission shall establish by rule a cost test for emissions reduction measures achieved by large combination utilities to comply with state clean energy and climate policies. The cost test must be used by large combination utilities under this chapter for the purpose of determining the lowest reasonable cost of decarbonization and low-income electrification measures in integrated system plans, at the portfolio level, and for any other purpose determined by the commission by rule.

~~((11))~~ (10) The commission must approve, reject, or approve with conditions an integrated system plan within 12 months of the filing of such an integrated system plan. The commission may for good cause shown extend the time by 90 days for a decision on an integrated system plan filed on or before January 1, 2027, as such date is extended pursuant to subsection (2) (a) of this section.

~~((12))~~ (11) In determining whether to approve the integrated system plan, reject the integrated system plan, or approve the integrated system plan with conditions, the commission must evaluate whether the plan is in the public interest, and includes the following:

(a) The equitable distribution and prioritization of energy benefits and reduction of burdens to vulnerable populations, highly impacted communities, and overburdened communities;

(b) Long-term and short-term public health, economic, and environmental benefits and the reduction of costs and risks;

(c) Health and safety concerns;

(d) Economic development;

(e) Equity;

(f) Energy security and resiliency;

(g) Whether the integrated system plan:

(i) Would achieve a proportional share of reductions in greenhouse gas emissions for each emissions reduction period on the gas and electric systems;

(ii) Would achieve the energy efficiency and demand response targets in subsection (4) (e) and (g) of this section;

(iii) ~~((Would achieve cost-effective electrification of end uses as required by subsection (4) (h) of this section;))~~

(iv)) Results in a reasonable cost to customers, and projects the rate impacts of specific actions, programs, and investments on customers;

((v)) (iv) Would maintain system reliability and reduces long-term costs and risks to customers;

((vi)) (v) Would lead to new construction career opportunities ~~((and prioritizes a transition of natural gas and electricity utility))~~ for workers to perform work on construction and maintenance of new and existing renewable energy infrastructure; and

((vii)) (vi) Describes specific actions that the large combination utility plans to take to achieve the requirements of the integrated system plan.

(12) The commission shall not approve, or approve with conditions, an integrated system plan that requires or incentivizes a large combination utility to terminate natural gas service to customers.

(13) The commission shall not approve, or approve with conditions, an integrated system plan that authorizes a large combination utility to require a customer to involuntarily switch fuel use either by restricting access to natural gas service or by implementing planning requirements that would make access to natural gas service cost-prohibitive.

**Sec. 6.** RCW 19.27A.020 and 2018 c 207 s 7 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The state building code council in the department of enterprise services shall adopt rules to be known as the Washington state energy code as part of the state building code.

(2) The council shall follow the legislature's standards set forth in this section to adopt rules to be known as the Washington state energy code. The Washington state energy code shall be designed to:

(a) Construct increasingly energy efficient homes and buildings ~~((that help achieve the broader goal of building zero fossil-fuel greenhouse gas emission homes and buildings))~~ by the year 2031;

(b) Require new buildings to meet a certain level of energy efficiency, but allow flexibility in building design, construction, and heating equipment efficiencies within that framework; and

(c) Allow space heating equipment efficiency to offset or substitute for building envelope thermal performance.

(3) The Washington state energy code may not in any way prohibit, penalize, or discourage the use of gas for any form of heating, or for uses related to any appliance or equipment, in any building.

(4) The Washington state energy code shall take into account regional climatic conditions. One climate zone includes: Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Skamania, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman, and Yakima counties. The other climate zone includes all other counties not listed in this subsection ~~((3))~~ (4). The assignment of a county to a climate zone may not be changed by adoption of a model code or rule. Nothing in this section prohibits the council from adopting the same rules or standards for each climate zone.

~~((4))~~ (5) The Washington state energy code for residential buildings shall be the 2006 edition of the Washington state

energy code, or as amended by rule by the council.

~~((5))~~ (6) The minimum state energy code for new nonresidential buildings shall be the Washington state energy code, 2006 edition, or as amended by the council by rule.

~~((6))~~ (7) (a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the Washington state energy code for residential structures shall preempt the residential energy code of each city, town, and county in the state of Washington.

(b) The state energy code for residential structures does not preempt a city, town, or county's energy code for residential structures which exceeds the requirements of the state energy code and which was adopted by the city, town, or county prior to March 1, 1990. Such cities, towns, or counties may not subsequently amend their energy code for residential structures to exceed the requirements adopted prior to March 1, 1990.

~~((7))~~ (8) The state building code council shall consult with the department of enterprise services as provided in RCW 34.05.310 prior to publication of proposed rules. The director of the department of enterprise services shall recommend to the state building code council any changes necessary to conform the proposed rules to the requirements of this section.

~~((8))~~ (9) The state building code council shall evaluate and consider adoption of the international energy conservation code in Washington state in place of the existing state energy code.

~~((9))~~ (10) The definitions in RCW 19.27A.140 apply throughout this section.

**Sec. 7.** RCW 19.27A.025 and 2024 c 170 s 4 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The minimum state energy code for new and renovated nonresidential buildings, as specified in this chapter, shall be the Washington state energy code, 1986 edition, as amended. The state building code council may, by rule adopted pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, RCW 19.27.031, and RCW 19.27.---, 19.27.---, and 19.27.--- (sections 6, 7, and 8, chapter 170, Laws of 2024), amend that code's requirements for new nonresidential buildings provided that:

(a) Such amendments increase the energy efficiency of typical newly constructed nonresidential buildings; and

(b) Any new measures, standards, or requirements adopted must be technically feasible, commercially available, and developed to yield the lowest overall cost to the building owner and occupant while meeting the energy reduction goals established under RCW 19.27A.160.

(2) In considering amendments to the state energy code for nonresidential buildings, the state building code council shall establish and consult with a technical advisory group in accordance with RCW 19.27.--- (section 7, chapter 170, Laws of 2024) including representatives of appropriate state agencies, local governments, general contractors, building owners and managers, design professionals, utilities, and other interested and affected parties.

(3) Decisions to amend the Washington state energy code for new nonresidential buildings shall be made prior to December 15th of any year and shall not take effect before the end of the regular legislative session in the next year. Any disputed provisions within an amendment presented to the legislature shall be approved by the legislature before going

into effect. A disputed provision is one which was adopted by the state building code council with less than a two-thirds vote of the voting members. Substantial amendments to the code shall be adopted no more frequently than every three years except as allowed in RCW 19.27.031 and RCW 19.27.-- (section 6, chapter 170, Laws of 2024).

(4) When amending a code under this section, the state building code council shall not in any way prohibit, penalize, or discourage the use of gas for any form of heating, or for uses related to any appliance or equipment, in any building.

**Sec. 8.** RCW 19.27A.045 and 2024 c 170 s 5 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The state building code council shall maintain the state energy code for residential structures in a status which is consistent with the state's interest as set forth in section 1, chapter 2, Laws of 1990. In maintaining the Washington state energy code for residential structures, beginning in 1996 the council shall review the Washington state energy code every three years. After January 1, 1996, by rule adopted pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, RCW 19.27.031, and RCW 19.27.--, 19.27.--, and 19.27.-- (sections 6, 7, and 8, chapter 170, Laws of 2024), the council may amend any provisions of the Washington state energy code to increase the energy efficiency of newly constructed residential buildings. Decisions to amend the Washington state energy code for residential structures shall be made prior to December 1<sup>st</sup> of any year and shall not take effect before the end of the regular legislative session in the next year.

(2) When amending a code under this section, the state building code council shall not in any way prohibit, penalize, or discourage the use of gas for any form of heating, or for uses related to any appliance or equipment, in any building.

**NEW SECTION. Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 35.21 RCW to read as follows:

A city or town shall not in any way prohibit, penalize, or discourage the use of gas for any form of heating, or for uses related to any appliance or equipment, in any building.

**NEW SECTION. Sec. 10.** A new section is added to chapter 36.01 RCW to read as follows:

A county shall not in any way prohibit, penalize, or discourage the use of gas for any form of heating, or for uses related to any appliance or equipment, in any building.

**NEW SECTION. Sec. 11.** A new section is added to chapter 70A.15 RCW to read as follows:

An authority shall not in any way prohibit, penalize, or discourage the use of gas for any form of heating, or for uses related to any appliance or equipment, in any building.

**NEW SECTION. Sec. 12.** The following acts or parts of acts are each repealed:

- (1) 2024 c 351 s 1 (uncodified);
- (2) RCW 80.--.-- and 2024 c 351 s 7;
- (3) RCW 80.--.-- and 2024 c 351 s 8;
- (4) RCW 80.--.-- and 2024 c 351 s 10; and
- (5) 2024 c 351 s 21 (uncodified).

**NEW SECTION. Sec. 13.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

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## Complete Text

### Initiative Measure No. 2109

AN ACT Relating to repealing the tax on capital gains income authorized in chapter 82.87 RCW; repealing RCW 82.87.010, 82.87.020, 82.87.030, 82.87.040, 82.87.050, 82.87.060, 82.87.070, 82.87.080, 82.87.090, 82.87.100, 82.87.110, 82.87.120, 82.87.130, 82.87.140, 82.87.150, and 82.04.4497; and repealing 2021 c 196 ss 18 and 20 (uncodified).

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

**NEW SECTION. Sec. 1.** The following acts or parts of acts are each repealed:

- (1) RCW 82.87.010 (Findings—Intent—2021 c 196) and 2021 c 196 s 1;
- (2) RCW 82.87.020 (Definitions) and 2021 c 196 s 4;
- (3) RCW 82.87.030 (Distribution of revenues) and 2021 c 196 s 2;
- (4) RCW 82.87.040 (Tax imposed—Long-term capital assets) and 2021 c 196 s 5;
- (5) RCW 82.87.050 (Exemptions) and 2021 c 196 s 6;
- (6) RCW 82.87.060 (Deductions) and 2021 c 196 s 7;
- (7) RCW 82.87.070 (Qualified family-owned small business deduction) and 2021 c 196 s 8;
- (8) RCW 82.87.080 (Charitable donation deduction) and 2021 c 196 s 9;
- (9) RCW 82.87.090 (Other taxes) and 2021 c 196 s 10;
- (10) RCW 82.87.100 (Allocation of long-term capital gains and losses—Credit) and 2021 c 196 s 11;
- (11) RCW 82.87.110 (Filing of returns—Additional documentation—Penalty) and 2021 c 196 s 12;
- (12) RCW 82.87.120 (Joint filers—Separate filers—Tax liability) and 2021 c 196 s 13;
- (13) RCW 82.87.130 (Administration of taxes) and 2021 c 196 s 14;
- (14) RCW 82.87.140 (Tax criminal penalties) and 2021 c 196 s 15;
- (15) RCW 82.87.150 (Annual adjustments) and 2021 c 196 s 17;
- (16) RCW 82.04.4497 (Credit—Sale or exchange of long-term capital assets) and 2021 c 196 s 16;
- (17) 2021 c 196 s 18 (uncodified); and
- (18) 2021 c 196 s 20 (uncodified).

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## Complete Text

### Initiative Measure No. 2117

AN ACT Relating to prohibiting all state agencies, counties, and cities from implementing any type of carbon tax credit trading, also known as “cap and trade” or “cap and tax” scheme; adding a new section to chapter 70A.65 RCW; creating a new section; and repealing RCW 43.21C.520, 70A.15.1100, 70A.45.110, 70A.65.005, 70A.65.010, 70A.65.020, 70A.65.030, 70A.65.040, 70A.65.050, 70A.65.060, 70A.65.070, 70A.65.080, 70A.65.090, 70A.65.100, 70A.65.110, 70A.65.120, 70A.65.130, 70A.65.140, 70A.65.150, 70A.65.160, 70A.65.170, 70A.65.180, 70A.65.200, 70A.65.210, 70A.65.220, 70A.65.230, 70A.65.240, 70A.65.250, 70A.65.260, 70A.65.270, 70A.65.280, 70A.65.290, 70A.65.300, 70A.65.305, 70A.65.310, 70A.65.900, and 70A.65.901.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

**NEW SECTION. Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70A.65 RCW to read as follows:

All state agencies are prohibited from implementing any type of carbon tax credit trading, also known as “cap and trade” or “cap and tax” scheme, including the climate commitment act previously codified as chapter 70A.65 RCW. This prohibition applies whether the resulting increased costs are imposed on fuel recipients or fuel suppliers.

**NEW SECTION. Sec. 2.** The following acts or parts of acts are each repealed:

- (1) RCW 43.21C.520 (Review of greenhouse gas emissions from a new or expanded facility) and 2021 c 316 s 34;
- (2) RCW 70A.15.1100 (Issuance of enforceable order—Overburdened communities) and 2021 c 316 s 35;
- (3) RCW 70A.45.110 (Siting of certain facilities) and 2021 c 316 s 36;
- (4) RCW 70A.65.005 (Findings—Intent) and 2021 c 316 s 1;
- (5) RCW 70A.65.010 (Definitions) and 2022 c 181 s 10 & 2021 c 316 s 2;
- (6) RCW 70A.65.020 (Environmental justice review) and 2022 c 181 s 5 & 2021 c 316 s 3;
- (7) RCW 70A.65.030 (Environmental justice assessment) and 2023 c 475 s 1902, 2023 c 475 s 936, 2022 c 182 s 104, 2022 c 181 s 13, & 2021 c 316 s 4;
- (8) RCW 70A.65.040 (Environmental justice council—Duties) and 2022 c 182 s 105, 2022 c 181 s 14, & 2021 c 316 s 5;
- (9) RCW 70A.65.050 (Governance structure) and 2021 c 316 s 7;
- (10) RCW 70A.65.060 (Cap on greenhouse gas emissions) and 2021 c 316 s 8;
- (11) RCW 70A.65.070 (Annual allowance budget and timelines) and 2022 c 181 s 1 & 2021 c 316 s 9;
- (12) RCW 70A.65.080 (Program coverage) and 2022 c 179 s 14 & 2021 c 316 s 10;
- (13) RCW 70A.65.090 (Requirements) and 2021 c 316 s 11;
- (14) RCW 70A.65.100 (Auctions of allowances) and 2023 c 475 s 937, 2022 c 181 s 3, & 2021 c 316 s 12;
- (15) RCW 70A.65.110 (Allocation of allowances to

emissions-intensive, trade-exposed industries) and 2021 c 316 s 13;

(16) RCW 70A.65.120 (Allocation of allowances to electric utilities) and 2021 c 316 s 14;

(17) RCW 70A.65.130 (Allocation of allowances to natural gas utilities) and 2021 c 316 s 15;

(18) RCW 70A.65.140 (Emissions containment reserve withholding) and 2022 c 181 s 11 & 2021 c 316 s 16;

(19) RCW 70A.65.150 (Allowance price containment) and 2022 c 181 s 6 & 2021 c 316 s 17;

(20) RCW 70A.65.160 (Price ceiling) and 2022 c 181 s 7 & 2021 c 316 s 18;

(21) RCW 70A.65.170 (Offsets) and 2022 c 181 s 12 & 2021 c 316 s 19;

(22) RCW 70A.65.180 (Assistance program for offsets on tribal lands) and 2021 c 316 s 20;

(23) RCW 70A.65.200 (Enforcement—Penalty) and 2022 c 181 s 4 & 2021 c 316 s 23;

(24) RCW 70A.65.210 (Linkage with other jurisdictions) and 2021 c 316 s 24;

(25) RCW 70A.65.220 (Adoption of rules) and 2021 c 316 s 25;

(26) RCW 70A.65.230 (Investments—Legislative intent—Evaluation) and 2022 c 182 s 426, 2022 c 181 s 8, & 2021 c 316 s 26;

(27) RCW 70A.65.240 (Carbon emissions reduction account) and 2022 c 182 s 101 & 2021 c 316 s 27;

(28) RCW 70A.65.250 (Climate investment account) and 2023 c 475 s 938, 2023 c 435 s 12, 2022 c 253 s 2, & 2021 c 316 s 28;

(29) RCW 70A.65.260 (Climate commitment account) and 2023 c 475 s 939, 2022 c 179 s 17, & 2021 c 316 s 29;

(30) RCW 70A.65.270 (Natural climate solutions account) and 2021 c 316 s 30;

(31) RCW 70A.65.280 (Air quality and health disparities improvement account) and 2021 c 316 s 31;

(32) RCW 70A.65.290 (Joint legislative audit and review committee—Program implementation analysis. (*Expires June 30, 2030.*)) and 2021 c 316 s 32;

(33) RCW 70A.65.300 (Distributions of moneys—Annual report) and 2021 c 316 s 46;

(34) RCW 70A.65.305 (Tribal consultation) and 2022 c 253 s 1;

(35) RCW 70A.65.310 (Covered or opt-in entity compliance obligation) and 2022 c 181 s 2;

(36) RCW 70A.65.900 (Short title—2021 c 316) and 2021 c 316 s 37; and

(37) RCW 70A.65.901 (Suspension of certain sections and rules) and 2021 c 316 s 39.

**NEW SECTION. Sec. 3.** The provisions of this act are to be liberally construed to effectuate the policies, purposes, and intent of this act.

**NEW SECTION. Sec. 4.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

--- END ---

## Complete Text

### Initiative Measure No. 2124

#### OPT OUT OF STATE-RUN LONG TERM CARE COVERAGE ACT

AN ACT Relating to all Washington workers having the choice to opt out of the government-operated long term insurance scheme; amending RCW 50B.04.090; creating new sections; and repealing RCW 50B.04.085.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

**Sec. 1.** RCW 50B.04.090 and 2022 c 1 s 6 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Beginning July 1, 2023, and subject to the protections established by subsection 8 of this section, any self-employed person, including a sole proprietor, independent contractor, partner, or joint venturer, may elect coverage under this chapter. Coverage must be elected before July 1, 2026, or within three years of becoming self-employed for the first time. Those electing coverage under this subsection are responsible for payment of 100 percent of all premiums assessed to an employee under RCW 50B.04.080. The self-employed person must file a notice of election in writing with the employment security department, in the manner required by the employment security department in rule. The self-employed person is eligible for benefits after paying the long-term services and supports premium for the time required under RCW 50B.04.050.

(2) A self-employed person who has elected coverage may not withdraw from coverage unless they opt out under subsection 8 of this section.

(3) A self-employed person who elects coverage must continue to pay premiums until such time that the individual retires from the workforce or is no longer self-employed or they opt out under subsection 8 of this section. To cease premium assessment and collection, the self-employed person must file a notice with the employment security department if the individual retires from the workforce or is no longer self-employed or they opt out under subsection 8 of this section.

(4) The employment security department may cancel elective coverage if the self-employed person fails to make required payments or file reports. The employment security department may collect due and unpaid premiums and may levy an additional premium for the remainder of the period of coverage. The cancellation must be effective no later than 30 days from the date of the notice in writing advising the self-employed person of the cancellation.

(5) Those electing coverage are considered employers or employees where the context so dictates.

(6) For the purposes of this section, “independent contractor” means an individual excluded from the definition of “employment” in RCW 50B.04.010.

(7) The employment security department shall adopt rules for determining the hours worked and the wages of individuals who elect coverage under this section and rules for enforcement of this section.

(8) An employee or self-employed person in Washington

must elect to keep coverage under this Chapter. If an employee or self-employed person has elected coverage under this Chapter, the employee or self-employed person must also have the option to opt out at any time. The employment security department shall adopt rules to implement this section.

**Sec. 2.** RCW 50B.04.085 (Premium assessment-Exemptions) and 2021 c 113 s 5 & 2020 c 98 s 7 are each repealed.

**NEW SECTION. Sec. 3.** The provisions of this act are to be liberally construed to effectuate the policies, purposes, and intent of this act.

**NEW SECTION. Sec. 4.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

--- END ---

## Voter tip:



Be suspicious of calls claiming to help you fill out your ballot. If you cannot personally return your ballot, only let people you trust deliver it for you.



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elections@spokanecounty.gov

## Stevens County

215 S Oak St, Rm 106  
Colville, WA 99114  
(509) 684-7514  
elections@stevenscountywa.gov

## Thurston County

2915 29th Ave SW  
Tumwater, WA 98512  
(360) 786-5408  
elections@co.thurston.wa.us

## Wahkiakum County

64 Main St  
Cathlamet, WA 98612  
(360) 795-3219  
elections@co.wahkiakum.wa.us

## Walla Walla County

315 W Main St  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
(509) 524-2530  
elections@co.walla-walla.wa.us

## Whatcom County

311 Grand Ave, Ste 103  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
(360) 778-5102  
elections@co.whatcom.wa.us

## Whitman County

304 N Main St  
Colfax, WA 99111  
(509) 397-5284  
elections@whitmancounty.gov

## Yakima County

128 N 2nd St, Rm 117  
Yakima, WA 98901  
(509) 574-1340  
iVote@co.yakima.wa.us

## Your county elections office can help you:

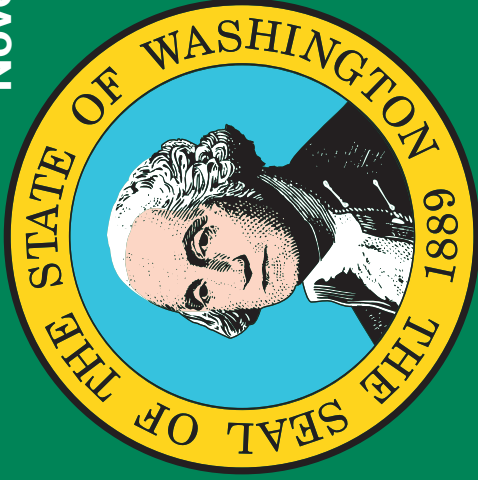
- register to vote
- update your address
- get a replacement ballot
- use an accessible voting unit
- locate your nearest ballot drop box



# VOTERS' PAMPHLET

Washington State Elections  
& Cowlitz County

General Election  
November 5



2024

Official Publication



WASHINGTON  
Secretary of State

Ballots mailed out by October 18  
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