



2026 Legislative Session Recap

WSAMA Spring Conference

April 23, 2026



2026 Legislative Session

60-day Session: January - March

Election year

Democratic majorities: 30-19 Senate, 59-39 House

Economic environment: budget shortfall, uncertainty at the federal level especially related to medicaid and food assistance

Supplemental budgets: Operating, Capital, Transportation

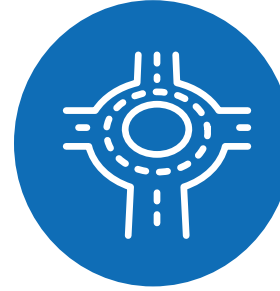
Focus: Millionaires Tax, addressing budget shortfalls

2026 AWC Legislative Priorities



Indigent defense

Increase state support and funding for indigent defense services. Enhance state support for increasing the indigent defense workforce.



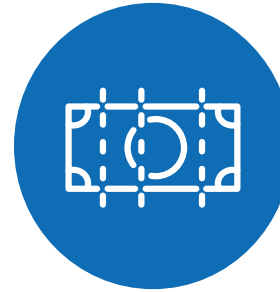
Transportation

Increase sustainable revenue that supports local transportation preservation, maintenance, and operations and includes direct distributions to cities and towns.



Housing supply

Provide time to implement recent state housing legislation. Increase housing investments and provide local funding options.



Shared revenues

Continue the historical revenue-sharing partnership between the state and its cities and towns, which provides stability and continuity for local budgets.

AWC's 2026 significant issues

- Increase revenue flexibility
- Public safety funding
- Streamline the wastewater nutrient general permit
- Infrastructure funding
- Address PFAS liability and clean up
- Support capital facilities planning
- Preserve public employer management rights
- Reduce inefficient and costly requirements
- Public records and public safety tools
- Support programs to reduce homelessness
- Reduce city liability exposure
- Funding fish barrier removal
- Enhanced emergency management support
- Behavioral health treatment capacity
- Increase technical assistance and community engagement in land use
- Reduce costs and improve consistency in land use decisions
- Update UGA development

Budget outcomes



Operating

- Reduces cannabis revenues by \$5 million and funds other state-shared revenues at expected levels
- \$375 million PWAA transfer
- Reduces \$600,000 from alternative response team grant program
- \$880 million from LEOFF 1 pension restatement (**HB 2034**) to budget reserve in 2029 to repay use for general fund and \$539 million to Climate Commitment Account



Transportation

- \$180 million temporary diversion of existing legislative appropriations to local projects
- \$34 million increase to Safe Routes to Schools grants
- \$33.4 million increase to Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety programs
- \$15 million in forgivable loans to cities recovering from 2025 extreme weather events



Capital

- \$375 million transfer from PWAA to general fund with \$279.5 million in bond revenue backfill



Public safety & criminal justice

Passed

HB 1909 – Court unification task force

HB 2165 – False identification as a police officer

HB 2323 – Blue envelope program for neurodiverse traffic stops

SB 5855 – Prohibiting face coverings by law enforcement

SB 5880 – Permitting toxicology testing by private laboratories

SB 5974 – Updating police and sheriff qualifications and roles



Public safety & criminal justice *cont.*

Did not pass

HB 2102 – Legal financial obligations

HB 2163/SB 5913 – Clarifying Supreme Court's indigent defense role

HB 2389/SB 6062 – Juvenile offender release opportunities

SB 5280 – Consumer protections for crypto kiosks

SB 5912 – Indigent defense task force



Emergency management

Did not pass

HB 2351 – Limiting federal immigration enforcement in emergency operation zones



Homelessness

Passed

HB 2266 – STEP housing (housing for homeless)

Did not pass

HB 2489 – Public camping ordinances



Housing

Passed

HB 1687 – Social housing

HB 1859 – Bonus density for religious institutions

HB 1974 – Land banking

SB 6027 – Housing revenue sources flexibility

Did not pass

HB 1443 – Mobile dwellings

HB 2559/SB 5576 – Local option short-term rental tax



Land use & planning

Passed

HB 2239 – Family burial grounds

HB 2294 – Negative use restrictions (grocery and drug stores)

HB 2418 – Project permit shot clocks

HB 2624 – Land sold for public purpose

SB 6026 – Housing in commercial and mixed-use zones

SB 6309 – Sound Transit permits



Land use & planning *cont.*

Did not pass

HB 1175 – Neighborhood cafes and stores

SB 5609 – SEPA cultural review

SB 5633 – Subdivision reform

SB 6274 – Street frontage improvements in GMA



Environment and natural resources

Passed

HB 2199 – Derelict vessels

Did not pass

SB 6271 – Mattress producer responsibility



General government

Passed

HB 1710 – Washington Voting Rights Act AGO preclearance

HB 1750 – Washington Voting Rights Act expansion

HB 2632 – Modernizing noncitizen terminology

SB 5925 – Attorney General civil investigative powers

Did not pass

HB 2095 – Protecting vulnerable road users

HB 2210 – Ranked-choice voting for local jurisdictions

SB 6239 – Tort reform



Open government

Passed

HB 1170 – AI content notice requirements

SB 6002 – Regulation of automated license plate readers

Did not pass

HB 2661 – PRA modernization task force

SB 6000 – OPMA clarification during declared natural disasters



HR & labor relations

Passed

HB 2105 – Immigrant Workers Protection Act

HB 2303 – Ban on microchipping employees

SB 5847 – Medical access in worker's compensation claims

SB 6014 – Pregnancy-related accommodation requirements

Did not pass

HB 1622 – AI bargaining

HB 2144 – Employee notice for electronic monitoring

SB 5972 – Correctional workers interest arbitration



Budget & finance

Passed

HB 2334 – Elimination of pennies

HB 2442 – Local revenue flexibility

SB 6113 – Technical changes to sales taxes on services

SB 6346 – Millionaires tax

Did not pass

HB 2120/SB 5879 – Eliminating JLARC lodging tax report

HB 2270 – Lodging taxes for new tourism-related purposes

HB 2650 – Notifications for REET and lodging taxes



Economic development

Passed

HB 2451 – Tax increment financing stakeholder bill



Transportation

Passed

HB 1980 – Private employer transportation services pilot

SB 6066 – Establishing crash prevention zones

SB 6110 – Work group on regulating e-motorcycles



Transportation

Did not pass

HB 1529 – Allowing county assistance for city road maintenance

HB 2172 – Route jurisdiction transfer and abandonment processes

SB 5081 – Allowing remote start of unattended vehicles

SB 5581 – Extending safe system strategies for infrastructure

SB 6243 – Regulating the operation of autonomous vehicles

SB 6311 – Requiring pedestrian passage in construction zones



Public works & infrastructure

Passed

HB 1302 – Authorizing utility connection charge waivers

HB 1903 – Creating a low-income energy assistance program

HB 1906 – Increasing transparency in water system rates

HB 2215 – CCA compliance obligations for fuel suppliers

HB 2353 – Increasing predesign thresholds for capital projects

HB 2420 – Increasing small works roster contract limits

SB 6302 – Addressing alleged misclassification of independent contractors in the finishing trades on public works projects



Public works & infrastructure

Did not pass

SB 5061 – Paying prevailing wages when work is performed

SB 5176 – Prompt payment on public works projects

SB 6096 – Deferred water and sewer utility connection fees



WSAMA Legislative Committee

2026 Rapid Response Teams:

Land Use

Criminal Justice

Open Government

Public Works & Contracting

HR & Labor Issues

Contact:

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Session law resources

[AWC's Bill tracker](#)

Filter bills by category: All | Search for bills by bill number: Search

Bill category	Bill number	Bill title/description	AWC analysis	Status	Notes
★ Affordable housing	HB 1717	Sales tax waiver on construction materials	Proposal authorizes cities to waive sales tax on construction materials for affordable housing	House - Policy Committee Hearing	
★ Affordable housing	HB 1859	Bonus density program for religious institutions	Bills propose reduction in affordable units for bonus density program for religious institutions	House - Policy Committee Hearing	Requires 50% of units to be affordable
★ Affordable housing	SB 5885	Bonus density program for religious institutions	Bills propose reduction in affordable units for bonus density program for religious institutions	Senate - Policy Committee Hearing	Requires 20% of units to be affordable
★ Budget & finance	HB 2289	2025-2027 supplemental operating budget	Governor's 2025-27 supplemental budget proposals sweep more of Public Works Assistance Account but increase funds for housing and introduce a millionaires' tax	House - Fiscal Committee Hearing	Governor's proposal
★ Budget & finance	HB 2295	2025-2027 supplemental capital budget	Governor's 2025-27 supplemental budget proposals sweep more of Public Works Assistance Account but increase funds for housing and introduce a millionaires' tax	House - Fiscal Committee Hearing	Governor's proposal
★ Budget & finance	HB 2306	2025-2027 supplemental transportation budget	Governor's 2025-27 supplemental budget proposals sweep more of Public Works Assistance Account but increase funds for housing and introduce a millionaires' tax	House - Fiscal Committee Hearing	Governor's proposal
★ Budget & finance	SB 5998	2025-2027 supplemental operating budget	Governor's 2025-27 supplemental budget proposals sweep more of Public Works Assistance Account	House - Fiscal Committee Hearing	Governor's proposal

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Legislative Bulletin Session Recap – Bill charts

By topic: Advocacy; News; [Session Recap](#)

Bill #	Description	Status
HB 1260	Document recording fee allocation	Law; effective July 27, 2025.
HB 1240	Vehicle residence impounds	Did not pass.
HB 1380	State regulation of public camping	Did not pass.
HB 1653	Tow truck payments/indigent owners	Did not pass.
SB 5484	Tow truck payments/indigent owners	Did not pass.

Advocacy

Homelessness

Session recap



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Washington Cities



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