

2026 Legislative Session Update



The Big Picture

- 60-day session
- Sent 268 bills to the governor's desk: 174 passed with strong bipartisan support, and 108 passed unanimously.
- Passed supplemental operating, capital, and transportation budgets.

Federal Response

- HB 2105 – The Immigrant Worker Protection Act strengthens protections for immigrant workers
- SB 6002 – Establishing guardrails for the data collected by automated license plate readers like Flock cameras
- SB 5855 – Prohibits law enforcement from wearing masks to hide their identity when interacting with the public
- HB 2165 – Prohibits the impersonation of law enforcement officer
- SB 6081 – Protects transgender people by excluding sensitive information from public disclosure

Affordability

- HB 1903 – Creating a statewide energy assistance program to help provide financial support for low-income Washingtonians
- SB 6162 – Providing more property tax relief for seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities
- HB 2242 – Ensures that families won't have to pay more for preventive services like vaccines or routine cancer screenings
- HB 2479 – Strengthening state investigations into wage theft so workers get the pay they earned
- HB 2294 – Protecting access to grocery stores by ensuring new stores can open in the same location when a store closes

Millionaires Tax (SB 6346)

- A 9.90% income tax that **only applies to households making more than a million dollars a year** (not including assets such as houses, investments, or personal property)
- Revenue goes to K-12, healthcare, childcare, and higher education
- Expands the Working Families Tax Credit to 460,000 more Washingtonians
- Doubles the Small Business Tax Credit so 59% of WA businesses will not owe any B&O tax
- Eliminates sales tax on diapers, OTC medication, and hygiene products
- These all go into effect in 2029 when revenue starts to come in

Health Care

- SB 5917 – Improving access to abortion medication
- SB 6182 – Establishing an Abortion Savings Program to ensure stable, long-term funding for abortion services
- HB 2155 – Prevents AI tools from being titled in a way that suggests they are a registered nurse
- HB 2548 – Establishes safeguards for Washingtonians when health care providers consolidate

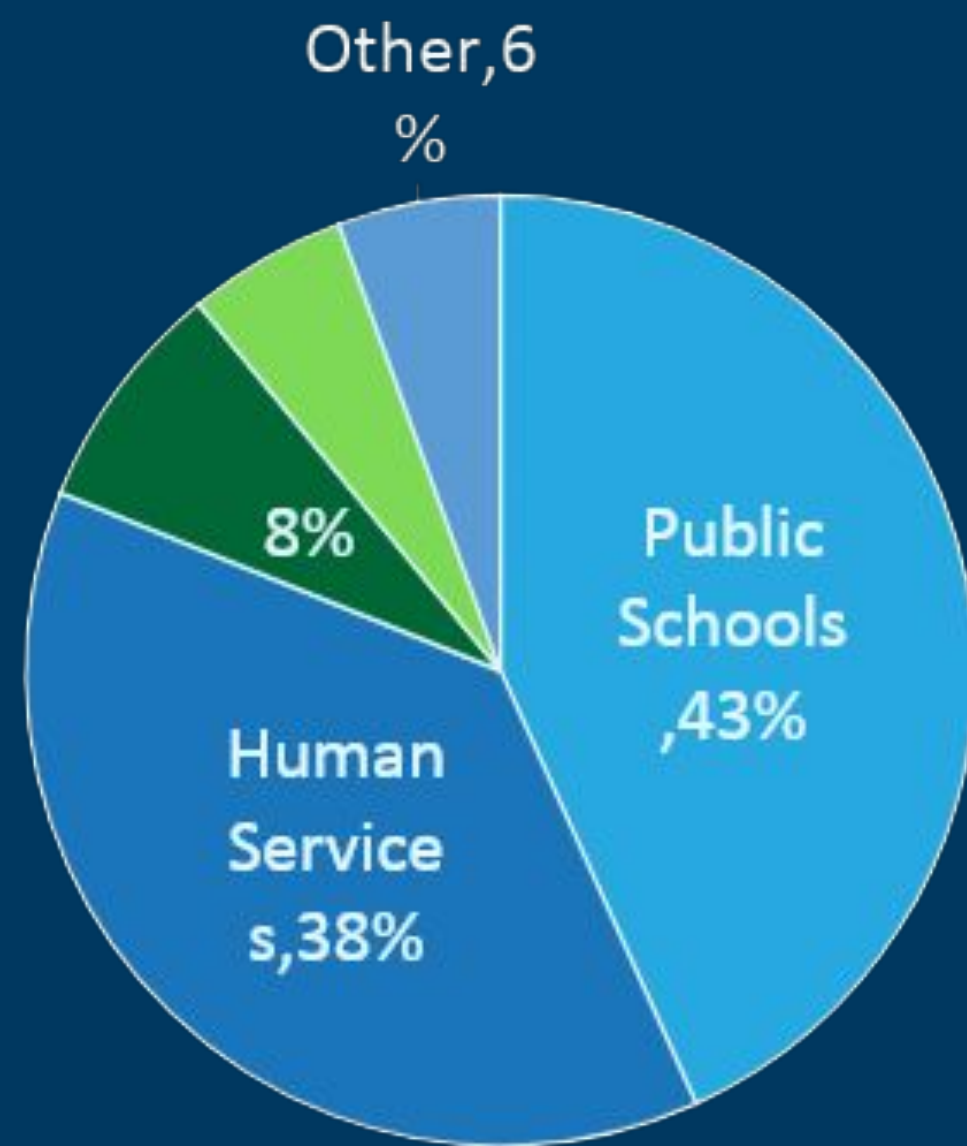
Climate Change

- HB 2215 – Strengthens the voter-approved Climate Commitment Act by closing loopholes for large fuel suppliers
- SB 5982 – Closes a loophole for ports and large-scale data centers to ensure they aren't bypassing emissions laws
- HB 2296 – Making energy-saving upgrades more affordable by working with utilities to pay for upgrades over time
- HB 2496 – Strengthening tribal consultation on energy projects to ensure tribes can raise concerns about cultural resources, treaty rights, and sacred sites

Operating Budget

- Protects funding for food, shelter, and health
- Maintains all food assistance programs
- Continues last year's new investments in K-12 education
- Over \$370 million in new costs because of the Federal Government's H.R.1, which cut services at the state level and imposed new restrictions on federal programs

Operating Budget



*Other includes: Other education, governmental operations, natural resources, transportation, and courts/legislature

Transportation Budget

- Supports statewide mobility, infrastructure, and sustainability goals
- Fulfills the funding commitment to build three new ferries, and allocates \$28 million for maintenance capacity to help get ferries repaired faster
- \$45 million for state and local flood-related highway recovery loans so repair can get under way as we wait for federal funding
- \$1.3 billion for road and bridge preservation

Capital Budget

- Builds upon the record-setting 2025-27 capital budget with an additional \$200 million in housing and homelessness funding, including \$123 million for the Housing Trust Fund
- \$109 million in new funding for school construction
- \$41 million for flood recovery and prevention in response to the December 2025 floods
- Climate Commitment Act funding to clean energy and environmental projects statewide

Capital Budget – 2026 Funded Projects

Project	Funding
Museum of Glass HVAC	\$2,000,000
Restoration & Preservation of Historic Stained Glass Windows	\$232,000
Rise Above Foundation Safety & Infrastructure Upgrades	\$254,000
Ruston Community Center ADA-Accessibility Renovation	\$590,000
Clark Place	\$319,000
NETP Trickling Filter Upgrade	\$1,700,000
Oxbow Basin Study	\$309,000
HVAC Replacement at Al Davies Club	\$231,000
LED Lighting & Controls at Pierce County Buildings	\$960,000
Our Sisters' House Permanent Home	\$1,800,000

Questions?

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