



2026 Legislative Session Summary

We followed 27 bills in our priority areas during this 60-day legislative session. Five of those bills are on Governor Ferguson’s desk, waiting to be signed into law.

SB 5855	Banning law enforcement officers from wearing a facial covering while interacting with the public in the performance of the officer’s duties.
SB 6002	Driver Privacy Act: creates regulations for automated license plate reader (ALPR) technology data that sets limits on which agencies can use them, how long they can keep the data, and who can access that data. Important to prevent federal overreach, safeguard our privacy rights, and provide protection from out-of-state agencies seeking to do harm to people living in or visiting Washington.
HB 2266	Requiring that permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, indoor emergency housing, and indoor emergency shelters be permitted in urban growth areas wherever residential dwelling units or hotels are allowed .
HB 2442	Providing local governments tax resources and fund flexibility for affordable housing and homelessness programs through a local Real Estate Excise Tax (REET). The bill was amended to focus more on rental and supportive housing (and less on ownership options); to be determined how jurisdictions will implement this.
SB 6026	Allowing residential development in commercial and mixed-use areas in cities with a population of 30,000 or more. The cities may not require mixed-use or ground floor commercial or retail as a condition of permitting residential development in more than 40 percent of the total acreage in those zones.

Additionally, the Washington State Housing Trust Fund secured a \$55 million supplement for 2026. This is the main source of capital dollars to develop affordable homeownership options in the state.

The Washington Low Income Housing Alliance ([WLIHA](#)) shared that the “final operating budget includes \$3 million to sustain funding for the statewide Right to Counsel program that provides legal assistance to tenants involved in eviction proceedings. The final funding package

considered \$1.1 million for Right to Counsel as ongoing funding, so we will need to advocate for additional funding to sustain the program at its current staffing levels next year. The operating budget also includes \$15 million to protect the grants of recipients of Continuum of Care funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to maintain permanent supportive housing across the state.”

The Working Families Tax Credit ([SB 5768](#)) had funds that would support an age expansion that were written into the Millionaires Tax ([SB 6346](#)), which passed and is estimated to generate \$3.7 billion annually. That money can be used to fund critical services.

We are still working to learn the outcomes of other budget items, and we will update this section when we know more.

Other budget updates:

- [HB 2100](#) - Well WA Fund: considered “necessary to implement the budget” and legislative cut-off deadlines do not apply; unsure of current status.
- [SB 5797](#) / [HB 2046](#) - Tax on Financial Assets: considered “necessary to implement the budget” and legislative cut-off deadlines do not apply; unsure of current status.

Other budget updates without bill numbers:

- Funding for the WAISN Deportation Defense Hotline (WAISN)
- Codify the Community Reinvestment Program and make the \$200M funding program permanent, which funds community healing, reentry support, behavioral health, workforce pathways, and stabilization for those most harmed by discriminatory policy and the war on drugs (Washington Build Back Black Alliance [WBBA])
- Protect the Covenant Homeownership Program (WBBA)