



# Washington State Legislature 2024

## WA State Senior Citizens Lobby

Cynthia Stewart  
February 22, 2024



# Second Half of Biennium

- Short session: 60 days  
(1/8/24 – 3/7/24)
- Today is day 36, more than half-way through
- Cutoff for floor action in the chamber of origin is Tuesday
- Then Committee public hearings resume (on bills from the opposite chamber)



## Bills Filed; Bills Passed to Date

- **1,524** Bills Introduced in House of Representatives (2023 & 2024); **457** House bills passed by House to date; **187** in 2024
- **1,354** Bills Introduced in Senate (2023 & 2024); **414** Senate bills passed by Senate; **197** in 2024
- **281** Bills passed both Chambers (2023 & 2024); **only 1** to date in 2024 (a procedural bill)



# Key Legislative Issues - Revenue



- Most new revenue bills are dying
- No change to WA State regressive tax structure this year
- No relief from property tax cap of 1% growth for local governments

# Housing/ Homelessness

- **Rent Stabilization** – failed in Senate; could still pass House
- Allow new kinds of housing (e.g., **co-living**) – moving forward
- **Transit-oriented development** could still pass House
- Some **local option funding** opportunities are possible



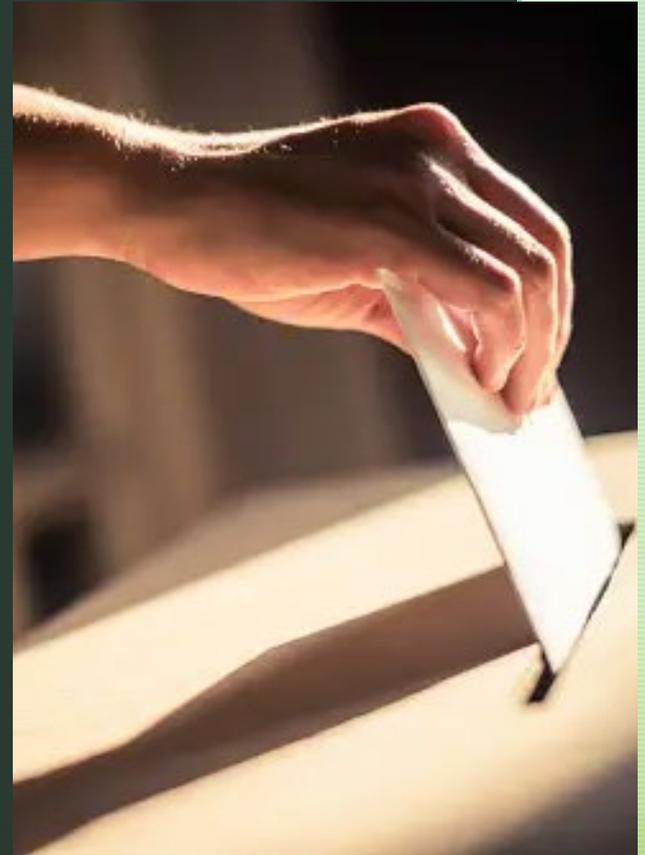


# Health Care

- Keep Our Care Act - passed Senate
- Resolution for Federal Universal Health Care Program - passed Senate
- Changes to the operations and governance structure of participants in the health care marketplace – passed Senate
- Protecting consumers from out-of-network health care services charges – passed Senate

# Elections

- Protecting Elections and Election Workers – passed House
- Prohibiting Campaign Contributions and Expenditures by Foreign-Influenced Corporations – did not move forward
- Giving cities and towns the freedom to switch their general elections to even-numbered years – passed House



# Criminal Justice

- Police Accountability – most bills did not move
- Authority for Attorney General to Investigate criminal conduct arising from police use of force – passed House
- Sentencing reform – still in play
- Prison reform bills – not moving



# Environment & Climate Crisis



- Recycling Bills still in play:  
ReWRAP (producer responsibility for recycling)  
& Bottle Bill

- Grant program to address extreme weather events – passed House
- Zero emission school bus program – passed House

# Session Context: 6 Initiatives Filed

- I-2109 - Repeal the capital gains tax
- I-2111 - Prohibit a state income tax
- I-2113 – Loosen restrictions on police vehicle chases
- I-2081 - Parental Rights
- I-2117 – Repeal the Climate Commitment Act; prohibit carbon cap and trade
- I-2124 – Opt Out Of State-run Long Term Care Coverage



# Supplemental Budgets to be Announced Soon: Revenue Forecast

- Forecast drives budget
- Forecasts are produced in November, February, June and September
- November forecast drives Governor's budget
- February forecast drives Legislature's budget
- February forecast – February 14



# Cut-Offs

- Tues., 2/13/24 – Cutoff for bills to pass House of origin (except fiscal)
- Wed., 2/21/24 – Cutoff in committee, Opposite Chamber
- Mon., 2/26/24 – Cutoff for fiscal & transportation bills, Opposite Chamber
- Fri., 3/1/24 – Cutoff for all but budget, initiatives, NTIB, and conference items
- Wed., 3/7/24 – End of Session

| Sunday | Monday                | Tuesday | Wednesday             | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| 28     | 27                    | 30      | 31                    | 1        | 2      | 3        |
| 4      | 5                     | 6       | 7                     | 8        | 9      | 10       |
| 11     | 12                    | 13      | 14<br>Valentine's Day | 15       | 16     | 17       |
| 18     | 19<br>Presidents' Day | 20      | 21                    | 22       | 23     | 24       |
| 25     | 26                    | 27      | 28                    | 29       | 1      | 2        |

© www.calendarlabs.com

| Sunday              | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday            | Saturday |
|---------------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| 25                  | 26     | 27      | 28        | 29       | 1                 | 2        |
| 3                   | 4      | 5       | 6         | 7        | 8                 | 9        |
| 10                  | 11     | 12      | 13        | 14       | 15                | 16       |
| 17                  | 18     | 19      | 20        | 21       | 22                | 23       |
| 24                  | 25     | 26      | 27        | 28       | 29<br>Good Friday | 30       |
| 31<br>Easter Sunday | 1      | 2       | 3         | 4        | 5                 | 6        |

© www.calendarlabs.com

Thank You!

