

2026 SESSION RECAP



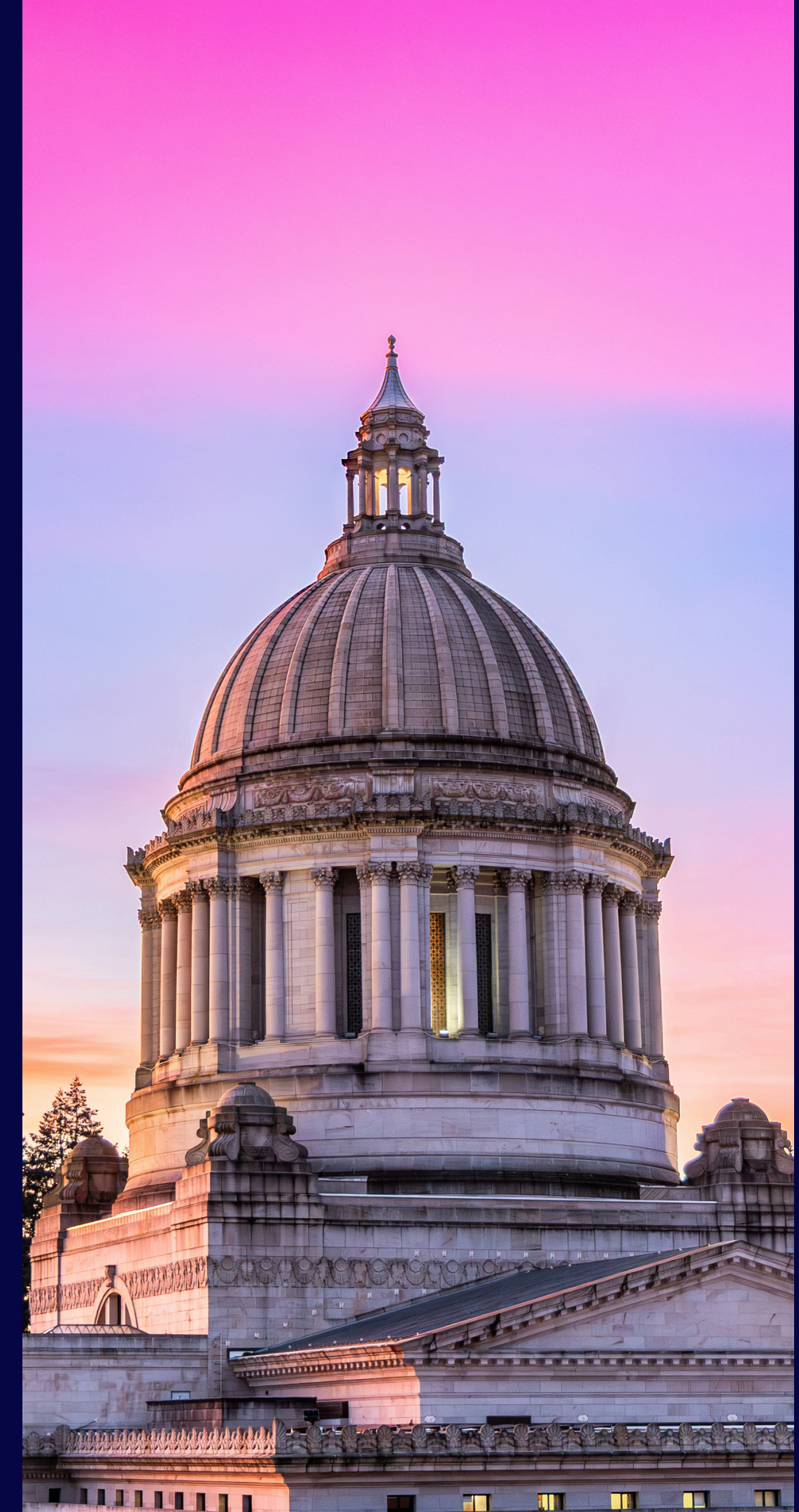
Sen. T'wina Nobles



28th Legislative District

A Challenging Year

- This session was shaped by a tight budget, flat revenue growth, and growing uncertainty from federal decisions.
- We had to make thoughtful and difficult choices.
- Throughout it all, our focus stayed the same: protecting people and preserving progress.



Our Caucus Priorities

- Protect students and working families from harmful cuts.
- Preserve essential services like education, health care, and public safety.
- Expand access to opportunity through education and workforce pathways.
- Build a more fair and sustainable future for Washington.



Our Community Priorities

Top issues residents want the Legislature to address:

1. Housing affordability
2. Community safety
3. Health care affordability
4. Environmental protection
5. Early learning and child care

Biggest cost pressures for families:

1. Food
2. Health care
3. Housing/rent
4. Transportation
5. Utilities
6. Education and student debt



Protecting K-12 Education

- No cuts to constitutionally protected basic education funding.
- Maintained major investments in the last biennial budget.
- Continued support for:
 - Special education and students with disabilities
 - School meals and student nutrition
 - Materials, supplies, and operating costs for schools
- Focused reductions away from the classroom to minimize impact on students.
- Defend students from AI-based surveillance technology to protect student privacy and fairness.
- Further representation by proposing policy providing instruction on Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Latino American, and Black American history in public schools.



Supporting Students

- Continued investments in programs that help students stay on track:
 - Homeless student supports
 - Dual credit and college access programs
 - Ninth Grade Success initiatives
- Strengthened protections and supports for our most vulnerable students.
- Recognized that student success requires stability both inside and outside the classroom.
- Emphasizing the importance of Running Start for diverse student pathways.



Higher Ed & Workforce

- No cuts to state financial aid programs.
 - Workforce Education Investment Account
 - Higher Education Fund Split Fix
- Protected access to college for low-income students, foster youth, and underserved communities.
- Funded Senate Bill 5963 to align Passport to Careers with the Washington College Grant.
- Focused reductions on administrative costs — not student-facing services.
- Continued investment in workforce training and career-connected learning.
 - Strengthened behavioral health training for construction apprenticeships.
- Ensuring access to abortion healthcare for public institution students.
- Introduced policy to streamline paperwork processes to prevent students from missing out on financial aid opportunities.
- Supporting WSAC student completion of the FAFSA and WASFA

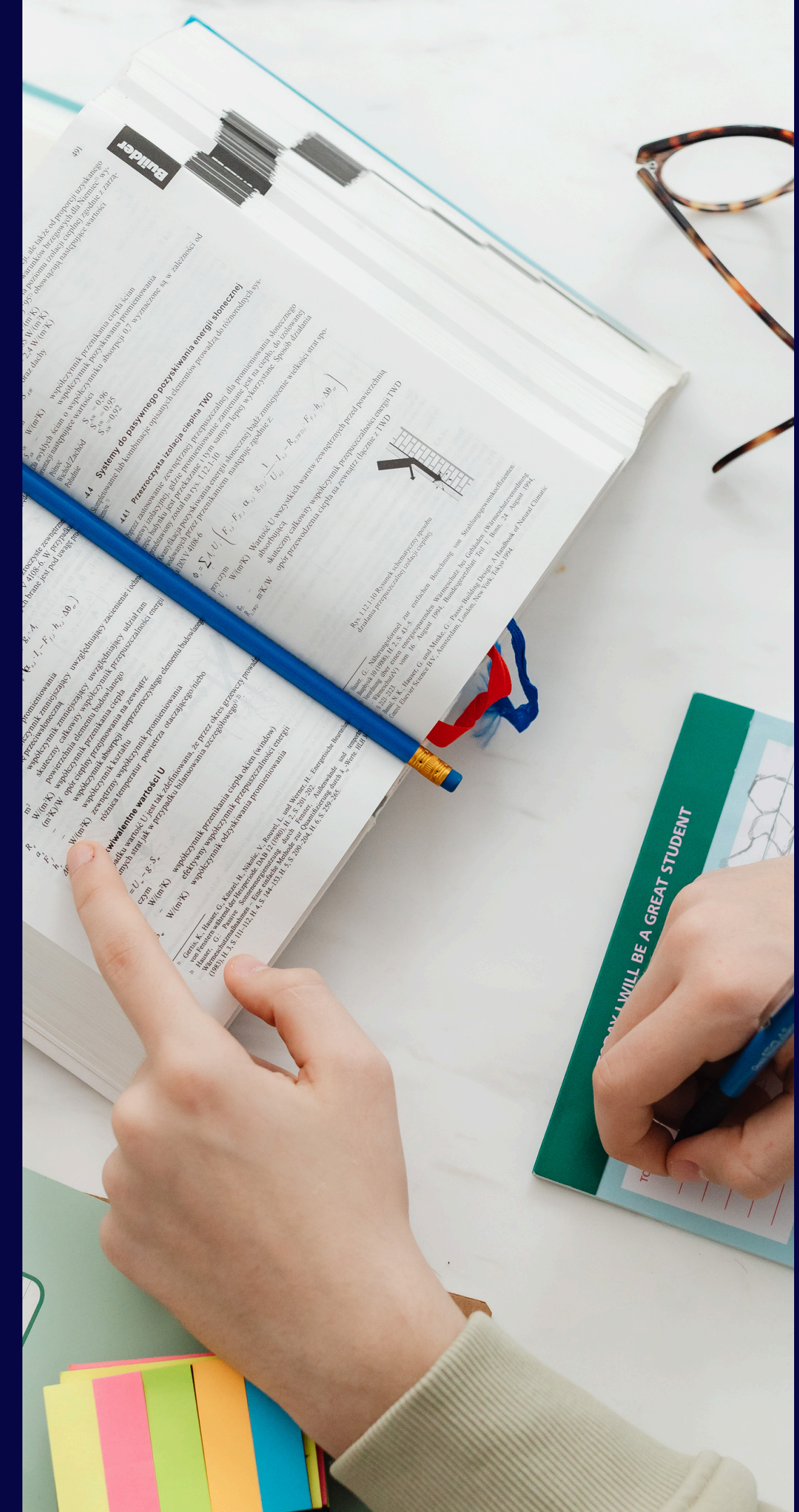


A Student-Centered Budget

- Prioritized funding for programs that directly support students.
- Reduced administrative spending across higher education institutions.
- Maintained critical supports for student success and completion.
- Made intentional choices to protect opportunity, even in a constrained budget year.
- Proposed improvements for equity in educator training resources for student experience.

Strengthening Ed Policy

- Improved school safety and student protections.
- Increased transparency and support in special education systems.
- Strengthened early literacy standards to support long-term success.
- Expansion of access for military families to Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program to set military children up for primary education success.
- Ensured protections remain in place for unhoused students.



The Whole-Student Focus

- Continued investment in housing stability and homelessness prevention.
- Strengthened access to food and nutrition programs.
- Expanded behavioral and mental health supports.
- Recognized that students succeed when their basic needs are met.
- Support military families and early-learners for long-term success



Building a Fairer Tax Code

The Millionaires Tax

- Begins to address Washington's regressive tax structure.
- Asks the wealthiest households to contribute more to shared investments.
- Funds essential services like education, health care, and child care.
- Helps create a more stable, sustainable revenue system for the future.
- Expands Working Families Tax Credit
- Results won't be seen until 2029

Lowering Costs

- Expanded tax relief for small businesses across the state.
- Increased access to the Working Families Tax Credit.
- Reduced costs on everyday essentials to help families make ends meet.
- Continued focus on affordability across housing, child care, and health care.
- Simplifying the total-loss vehicle transfer process
- Codified the Community Reinvestment Program



Housing Affordability

- Housing remains one of the biggest cost pressures for families.
- Focused on increasing supply and reducing barriers to building.
- Advanced policies to:
 - Open more land for housing development
 - Streamline permitting and reduce delays
 - Improve renter protections and transparency
- Continued work toward more stable and affordable housing options.



Public Safety & Trust

- Strengthened accountability and professionalism in law enforcement.
 - Intent to defy laws due to disagreement is not a respectful way to lead in law enforcement.
- Advanced policies to ensure officers meet clear certification standards.
- Increased transparency and protections in use of technology and data.
 - Automated License Plate Recognition regulations
- Took steps to prevent impersonation of law enforcement and improve public trust.
 - Ban of masks during public interactions
- Focused on safety strategies that center community trust and accountability.
 - Prohibition of immigration enforcement to enter sensitive spaces.
- Streamline safety standards for spring-blade knives
- Passing of the Ebony Alert bill



Responsible Budget Choices

- Made targeted reductions in non-core and administrative areas.
- Protected classrooms, students, and essential services wherever possible.
- Maintained long-term investments while keeping the budget stable.
- Focused on minimizing harm and protecting progress.

Other Budget Highlights

- \$1 million for a statewide birth doula hub and referral system.
 - Expands maternal and reproductive health access
- \$3.5 million restored for Treehouse's Graduation Success program
 - Supports foster youth with education specialists and resources.

Investing in the 28th

- Delivered meaningful investments directly back to our communities.
- Focused on health, education, infrastructure, and economic stability.
- Prioritized projects that improve daily life for families in the 28th.



Transportation

~\$241 million in the 28th District

- Safety improvements along State Route 7
- Puyallup Avenue transit investments
- Safe Routes to School improvements
- I-5 corridor upgrades, including JBLM and Nisqually Delta
- Tacoma Narrows Bridge preservation



Increasing Safety and Equity

- Pierce County Transit and regional mobility improvements.
- Rail upgrades at 6th Ave & S. 19th Street
- Ferry landing improvements (Anderson Island & Steilacoom)
- REAL ID and Driver License Assistance expansion
- Data privacy protections and traffic stop transparency
- Tribal traffic safety investments

Capital Investments

\$20.4 million+ for the 28th District

- \$500K — Alameda Lighting Safety (University Place)
- \$22K — Curran House upgrades (University Place)
- \$206K — Fort Steilacoom Park preservation
- \$103K — Hoffman Hill seismic improvements
- \$5M — Lakewood Nourish Market & Connection Center
- \$6M — Joint Force Readiness Center replacement



What This Means for Our Community

- Safer roads and more reliable infrastructure.
- Stronger support for students, families, and working people.
- Expanded access to health care, food, and housing.
- Real investments improving affordability and quality of life.

Looking Ahead

- Continue addressing student housing and basic needs.
- Expand affordability and economic opportunity.
- Strengthen workforce and education pathways.
- Build on the progress made this session.





QUESTIONS?

CONTACT MY OFFICE

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**SENATE
DEMOCRATS**
PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST