

# Being Heard – WA State Legislature

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Coalition to End Homelessness  
January 5, 2024

Cynthia Stewart  
League of Women Voters

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# 2024 Legislative Session

## 60 days

- Begins Monday, January 8, 2024
- Ends Thursday, March 7, 2024

## 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Biennium

- No major changes expected
- Supplemental Budget
- Policy Bills Not Passed in 2023
- Some New Bills

# Some Critical Legislation Pending related to Housing & Homelessness

## Governor's Supplemental Budget

- Enhance the Rapid Capital Housing Acquisition program - \$100 million (bonds)
- Encampment Resolution Program - \$100 million (from \$60mm 2023-5 adopted budget)
- Intellectual and Development Disability housing - \$4.5 million
- Land Trust Affordable Housing Development Project - \$2.3 million (bonds)
- New Housing Emergency Fund - \$2.5 million
- Maintain Landlord Mitigation and Tenant Preservation Programs - \$7.5 million
- Support Local Housing Programs - \$10 million
- House Human Trafficking Victims - \$1.5 million
- Youth Direct Cash program - \$550,000



<https://ofm.wa.gov/budget/state-budgets/gov-inslees-proposed-2024-supplemental-budgets/highlights-gov-inslees-proposed-2024-supplemental-budget>

## Some Critical Legislation Pending related to Housing & Homelessness

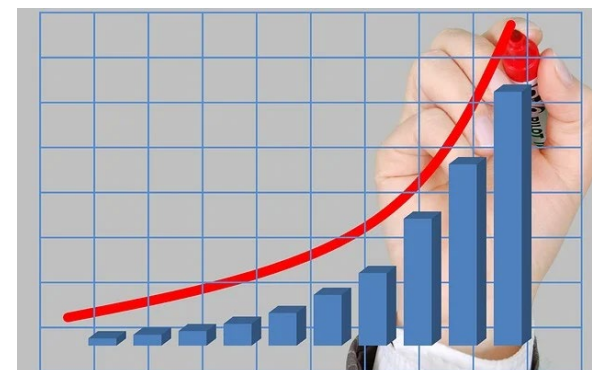
# Examples - New Bills

- **SB 5901** Co-living Housing
- **SB 5975** Finance social housing.
- **HB 2114** Improving housing stability for tenants subject to the residential landlord-tenant act and the manufactured/mobile home landlord-tenant act
- **HB 2012** Property tax exemption for nonprofits providing affordable rental housing built with city and county funds.
- **HB 2113** Concerning compliance with the housing element requirements of the growth management act.

Some Critical  
Legislation –  
Changing the  
Inequitable Tax  
Structure

# Changing the Tax Inequities – Raising More Revenue

- Wealth Tax
- Estate Tax
- Fight Back against  
Initiatives; Protect Capital  
Gains Tax
- The Washington Futures  
Fund



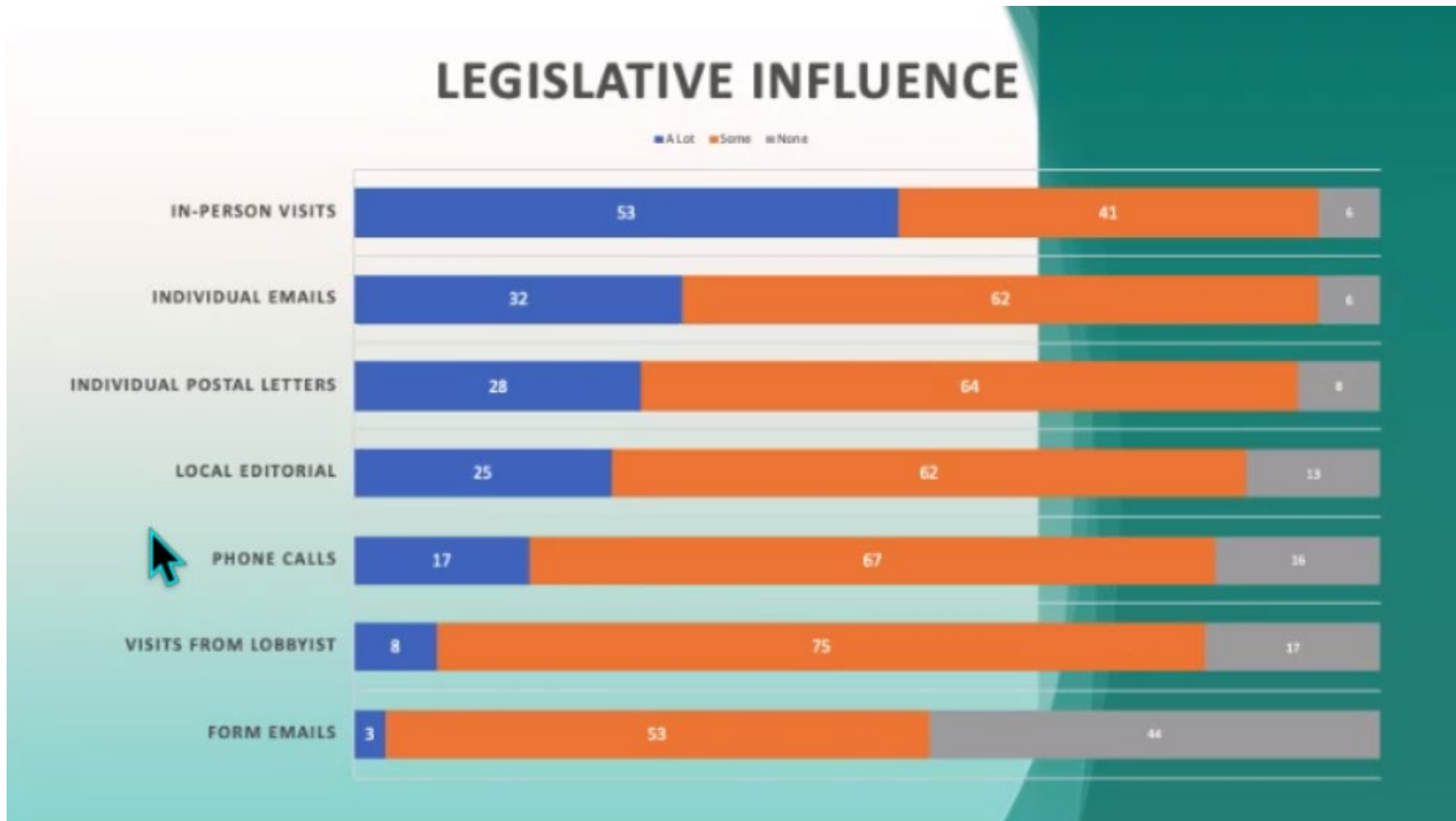


# So How Do You Make Your Voice Heard?

- In-person meetings are best; hard to get (15 minutes max)
- Phone calls work best if you establish a relationship with the Legislative Aide
- Emails work for most Legislators \*
- Letters on the record must be sent to the Committee Chair and Staff prior to the public hearing
- Testify at Committee hearings (you can do it virtually)
- Sign-in Pro/Con



# Relative Impacts of Approaches to Legislators



## \* About Emails

- Send directly to Legislator, make it personal
- If using a group action alert, add something at the beginning that is clearly from you





Frame Your  
Message –  
Same way for  
all methods,  
in-person,  
emails or  
testimony

## Plan Ahead

- What is your overall message?
- What is your story to illustrate the message?
- Why is this message important?

# Frame Your Message

Same way  
for all  
methods,  
in-person,  
emails or  
testimony

## Define the issue

- Say why it is important to you
- Tell the legislator why they should care
- Tell the legislator what you want the legislator to do

# How To Remember

1. Introduce Yourself
2. State your issue
3. Say why you care
4. Say why the Legislator should care



## A Handy Guide to Crafting Your Message

You can use your hand to help structure your Lobby Day meeting and make sure you say all you need to say.

**The first finger—the thumb—is “Introduce yourself.”**

Tell your legislator your name, where you live, and that you are one of his/her constituents.

**The second finger—the index finger—is “What is my issue.”**

You want to say, “I’m here to talk with you about Family Planning Funding” or any other issue you’re here for. Outline the basic topic and describe the bill.

**The third finger—the middle finger—is “Why I care.”**

This is where you share your personal story, and you can begin in many different ways. For example, “I care about this issue because...” or “This issue is important to me because...”

**The fourth finger—the ring finger—is “Why the legislator should care.”**

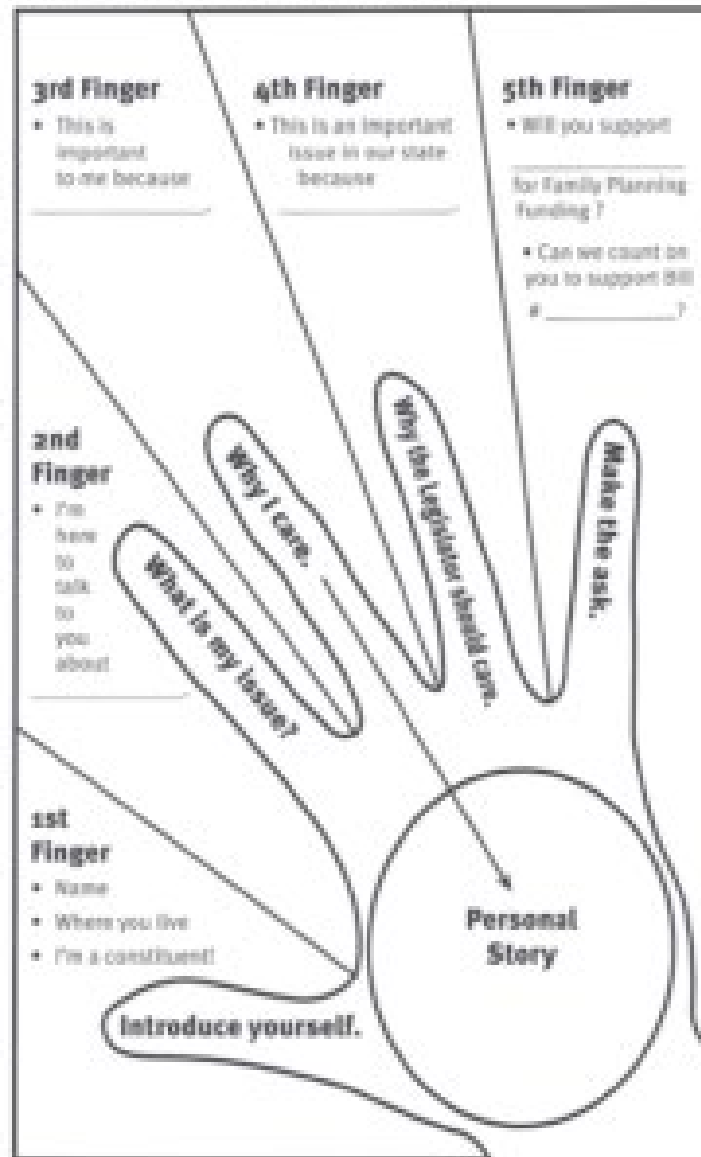
This is where you use the talking points and messages from our fact sheet. Some examples are, “This is important because reproductive health care is basic health care,” or “Did you know that for every \$4 spent on family planning, the state saves \$4, not” just be sure that all the facts you use come from the fact sheet!

**The fifth finger—the pinky—is “Make the ask.”**

This is the part where you ask for their support. You can say, “Will you support bill # \_\_\_\_\_?” and “Can we count on you to support Family Planning Funding?”

**Really, the whole hand – is a handshake and “Thank you for your time.”**

Be sure to express your appreciation for the legislator’s time and for considering the issues you’ve brought up today.



5. Make the “ask”

# And Be Sure to Say Thank You!

- Reinforce your message and appreciation with a follow-up note to the Legislator
- Get legislator and Legislative Aide email at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/Rosters/Members> or Firstname.Lastname@leg.wa.gov



# How to Engage with Legislative Process

<https://leg.wa.gov>

Look up your legislators

The screenshot shows the Washington State Legislature website. A sidebar on the left contains a list of navigation links. The main content area includes a survey announcement, a 'What's happening on the floor?' section with a table of scheduled hearings, and a 'Highlights' section. On the right, a 'Let Your Voice Be Heard' sidebar contains several links. Three red arrows originate from the text 'Look up your legislators' and point to the 'Find Member Information/Rosters' link, the 'Find' link, and the 'Your District & Legislators' link in the right sidebar.

**Legislature Home**

- House of Representatives
- Senate
- Find Your District
- Laws & Agency Rules
- Bill Information
- Agendas, Schedules, & Calendars
- Legislative Committees
- Coming to the Legislature
- Civic Education
- Legislative Agencies
- Legislative Information Center
- Email Updates (GovDelivery)

**Interested in helping to improve the Legislature website? We want to hear from you!**  
We are redesigning our website and want your feedback. We are looking for volunteers to participate in future research. [Start survey](#)

**What's happening on the floor?**  
The Legislature will convene for a Regular Session on January 8, 2024.  
[House Floor Calendar](#) | [House Display Board](#) | [Senate Floor Calendar](#) | [Senate Display Board](#)

Please check the Committee Schedules website for the most up-to-date information concerning individual committee meeting dates and agendas.

Scheduled hearings and floor sessions: 01/04/2024

Committee	Agenda	Date/Time	Location	View Video	Last Updated
JLARC - Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee (J)	Agenda	1/04/2024 10:00 AM	HHR C and Virtual	<a href="#">View Video</a>	12/28/2023
JLARC I-900 Subcommittee for SAO Performance Audits (O)	Agenda	1/04/2024 1:00 PM	HHR C and Virtual	<a href="#">View Video</a>	12/28/2023
Joint Transportation Committee (J)	Agenda	1/04/2024 1:30 PM	SHR 1	<a href="#">View Video</a>	11/20/2023

\* Pilot for 2024 Session

**Highlights**  
**Legislative Hotline: 1.800.562.6000**  
**ASL Interpretation Pilot for Committee Hearings**  
For information about the 2024 session pilot program providing ASL interpretation for select committee hearings, see the Accessibility Information page.  
**Employment Opportunities**  
**Public Records Requests**  
For information about submitting a public records request to either the House or the Senate, please follow the links below:  
[House Public Records Request](#) | [Senate Public Records Request](#)

**Let Your Voice Be Heard**  
[Contact Your Legislators](#)  
[Communicate with a Legislator or Participate in a Committee Hearing](#)  
[Find Member Information/Rosters](#)  
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**Find**  
[Laws & Rules](#)  
[Your District & Legislators](#)  
[Bills](#)  
[Committee Meeting Schedules & Agendas](#)  
[Audio & Video on TVW](#)  
**About the Legislature**  
[House](#)  
[Senate](#)  
[Committees](#)  
[Legislative Agencies](#)

# Find Status of Bill – in Committee

<https://leg.wa.gov>

Check the calendar

Washington State Legislature

Legislature Home

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# Find Status of Bill – by Number

Get Bill Information – many options

(note the year)

The screenshot shows the Washington State Legislature website. The top navigation bar includes a search bar and a dropdown menu. The main content area is titled "WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE" and features a sidebar with links to various legislative resources. The "Bill Information" section is highlighted, showing a search bar with a dropdown menu for "Bill number" and a "Search" button. Below the search bar, there are two main sections: "Standard Reports" and "Advanced Reports". The "Standard Reports" section lists various reports such as "Profiled Bills", "House Introductions (latest) All Intros", "Senate Introductions (latest) All Intros", "Bill Status Report (formerly Daily Status)", "Standing Committee Reports", "House Floor Activity Report", "Senate Floor Activity Report", and "Conference Committee Reports". The "Advanced Reports" section lists "Detailed Legislative Reports", "Text of a Legislative Document", "Bills by Sponsor", "Roll Calls on a Bill", "Bills In/Out of Committee", "Bills By Citation", "Companion Bill Report", "Selected Step Reports", "Legislative Action Reports", "Statistical Reports", "Paper Hanging Reports", and "Leader Offline Report". Red arrows point from the text annotations to the search bar and the "Standard Reports" section.

Search the Web

Bill Information

https://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/

WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE

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View All Links

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Bill Information

Search by Bill Number

Bill number

Bill Initiative

2023-24

Search

Find Specific Text in a Bill

Search the full text of a bill

Standard Reports

Common information requested most often

Reports

Profiled Bills

Retrieve a report of the bills that have been profiled in the House and Senate for the current biennium.

House Introductions (latest) All Intros

Lists the bills to be introduced in the House today.

Senate Introductions (latest) All Intros

Lists the bills to be introduced in the Senate today.

Bill Status Report (formerly Daily Status)

Retrieve a list of all bills and their current status.

Standing Committee Reports

Retrieve daily lists (during session) of bills reported out of standing committees. Past biennia: 2021-22, 2019-20, 2017-18

House Floor Activity Report

Retrieve the House Calendar and link to bill text, amendments, bill histories, and roll call votes.

Senate Floor Activity Report

Retrieve the Senate Calendar and link to bill text, amendments, bill histories, and roll call votes.

Conference Committee Reports

Review the proposed amendments from the joint ad hoc committees formed to resolve differences of opinion about bills in dispute between the House and Senate. Also includes:

Advanced Reports

More detailed information used less often

Detailed Legislative Reports

Historical information back to 1991.

Bill Information

Text of a Legislative Document

Bills by Sponsor

Roll Calls on a Bill

Bills In/Out of Committee

Bills By Citation

Companion Bill Report

Status

Selected Step Reports

Legislative Action Reports

Statistical Reports

Paper Hanging Reports

Leader Offline Report

# Get Help from Allies

## League of Women Voters of WA Legislative Newsletter

– sign up at <https://www.lwvwa.org/page-18731>

- Provides issue descriptions, status reports, action alerts, sign pro/con opportunities on many issues

## WLIHA (WA Low Income Housing Alliance) Action Alerts

– sign up at <https://secure.everyaction.com/-gZPY8k0qkaHQyrUqmpC5g2>

- Provides guidance when action is needed

## Economic Opportunity Institute Action Alerts

– sign up at

[https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001sWE8kxl6JomELF6dugrRFUiBGqP7dXVIM7ZS5fm6piQh6loicAU72m18YPSeGolwX-6Nw\\_fGQ-vWNgTWPrJuYBDEYopDdWwLNeEMnGXtM4M%3D](https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001sWE8kxl6JomELF6dugrRFUiBGqP7dXVIM7ZS5fm6piQh6loicAU72m18YPSeGolwX-6Nw_fGQ-vWNgTWPrJuYBDEYopDdWwLNeEMnGXtM4M%3D)

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