

# 2024 Legislative Issues

Presentation to  
January 2024 LWVTPC Unit Meetings

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Team

# 2024 Session

- Second half of Biennium; Short Session: 60 days (1/8/23 – 3/7/23)
- Bills remaining from 2023 session
  - If they still don't pass in 2024 and sponsor wants to still try, they are reintroduced in 2025 with a new number
  - A few new bills are introduced (527 as of 1/4/24)
- Supplemental budget (adjustments) will be adopted



# Off to a Running Start



- Full week of committee hearings and executive sessions starting Monday
- Governor has produced supplemental budget request
- Leadership has announced their priorities



# Session Context: Revenue Forecast

- Forecast drives budget
- Forecasts are produced in November, February, June and September
- Revenues for last biennium were higher than forecast
- The forecast for this year is positive

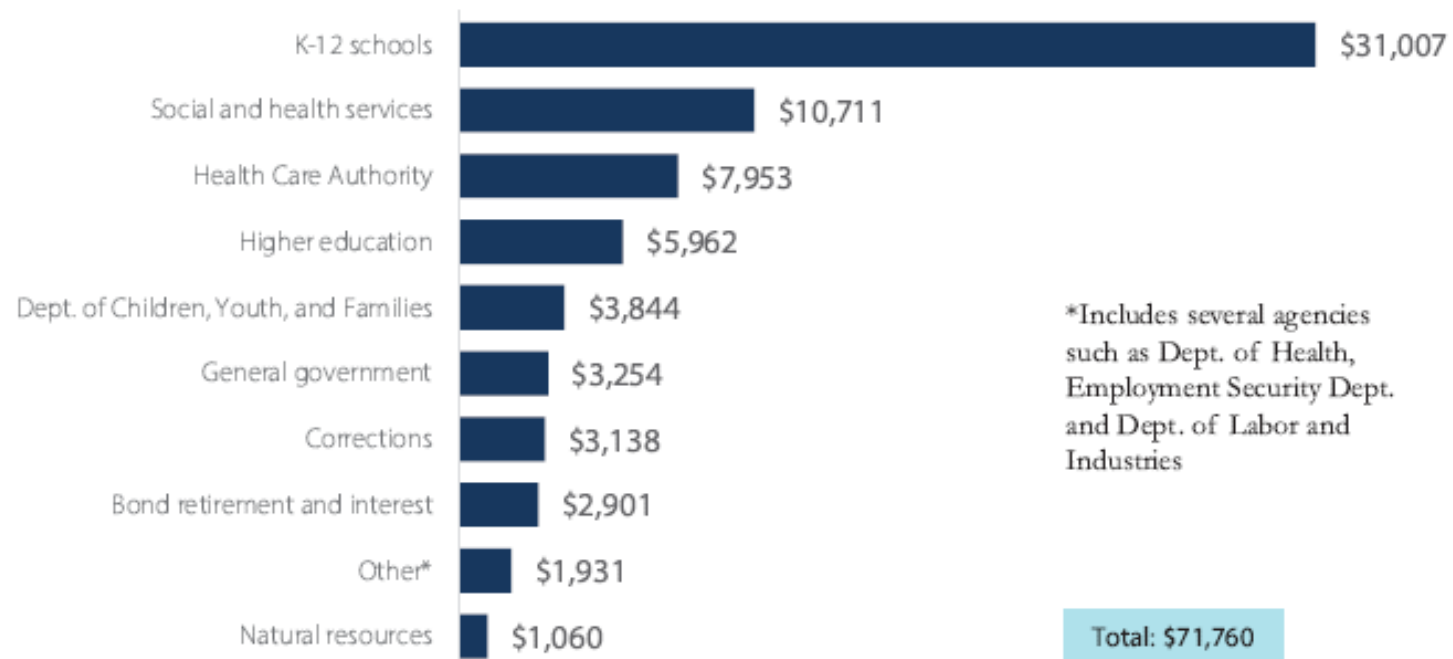


# Session Context

## Governor's Proposed 2024 Supplemental Budget

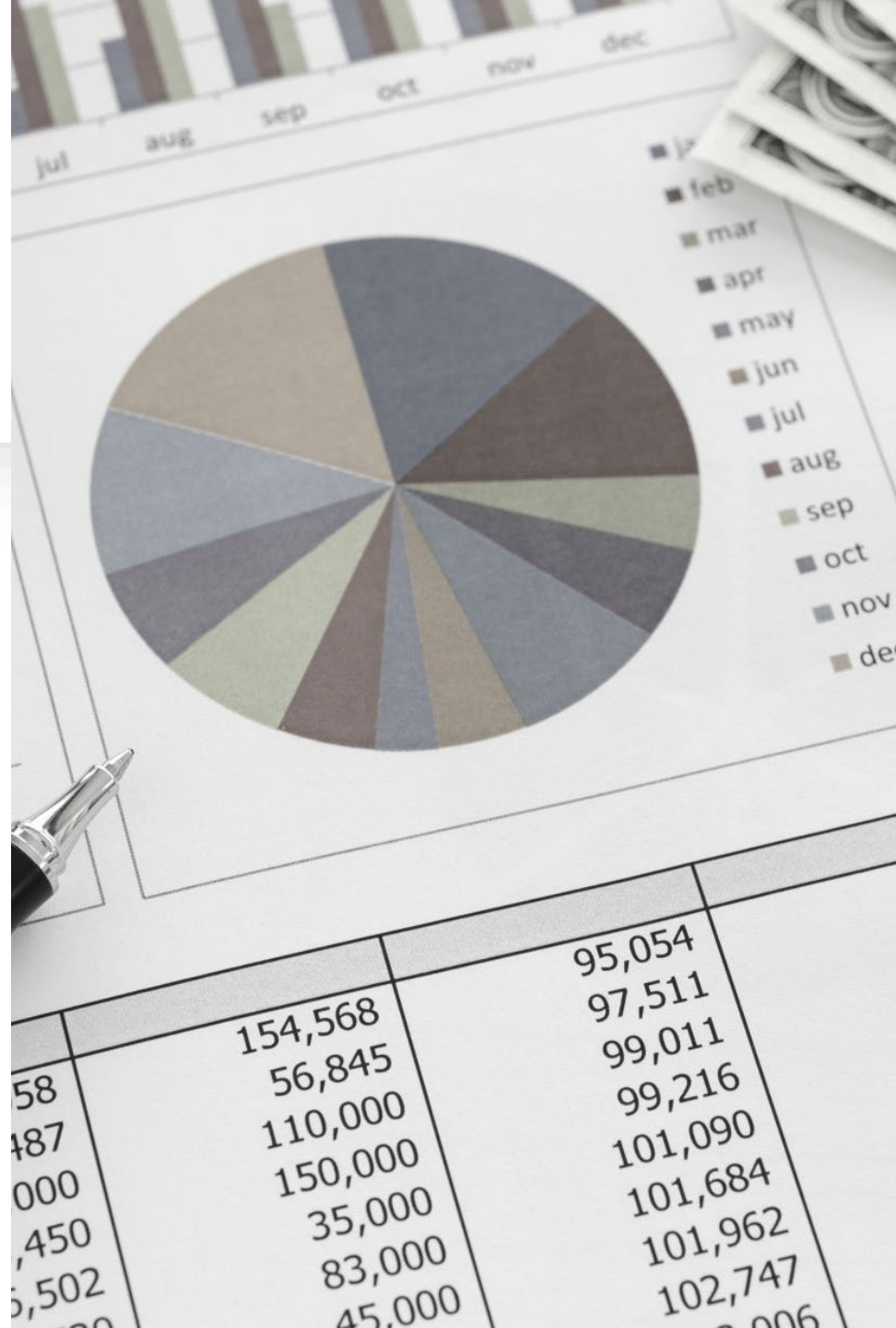
2024 Supplemental omnibus operating budget  
funds subject to outlook

*Dollars in millions*



# Budget Issues

- Budget drives programs
- Still not enough money to meet many needs
- Raising taxes is problematic, especially during a campaign year
  - WA has the most regressive tax structure in the US;
  - This affects those at the lowest incomes the most





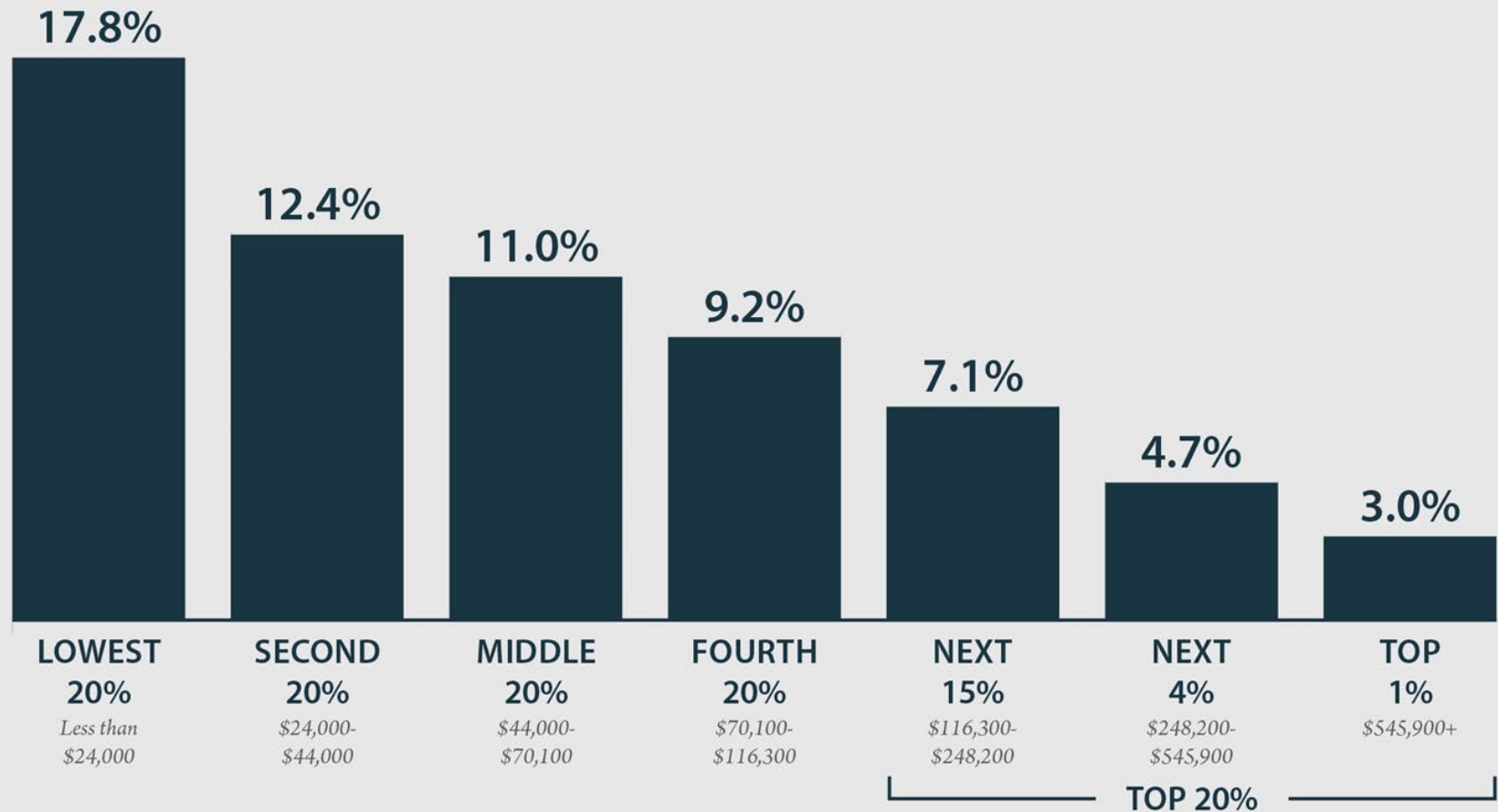
# Issues – Tax Structure

REGRESSIVE



## TOTAL STATE AND LOCAL TAXES IN WASHINGTON

*Share of Family Income*



# Racial Disparities

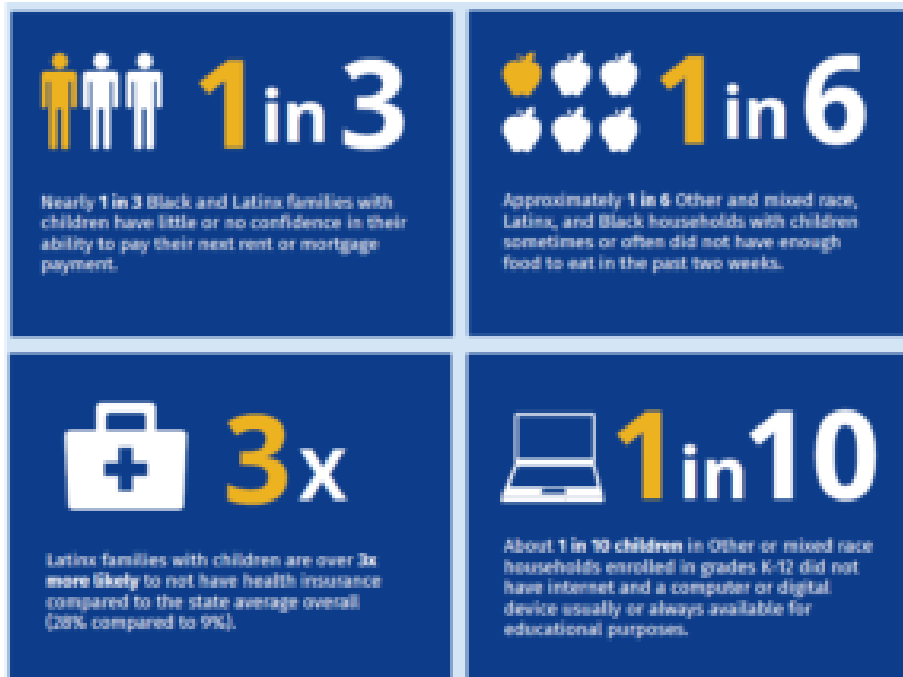
## WA State Budget & Policy Center reports that...

1 in 3 Black & Latinx families  
– can't pay rent/mortgage

1 in 6 non-white households  
with children do not have  
enough food

Latinx families with children  
are 3 times more likely to  
have no health insurance

1 in 10 non-white children  
do not have internet or  
digital device





# Session Context:

## 6 Initiatives Filed

- I-2109 - Repeal the capital gains tax
- I-2111 - Prohibit a state income
- 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





## Legislative Leadership Priorities

- Behavioral Health
  - Housing
  - Transportation
- + Initiatives



# Issues to Watch:

## Proposals to Change Tax Structure

- 2019 Tax Structure Work Group Appointed
- 2021
  - Capital Gains tax
  - Working Families tax credit
- 2022
  - Report to Legislature due in December
- **2023 Tax change proposals – Still on the table**
  - **Wealth tax, Estate Tax**
  - **Replace B&O tax w/ margin tax**
  - **Local govt. property tax limit increase**



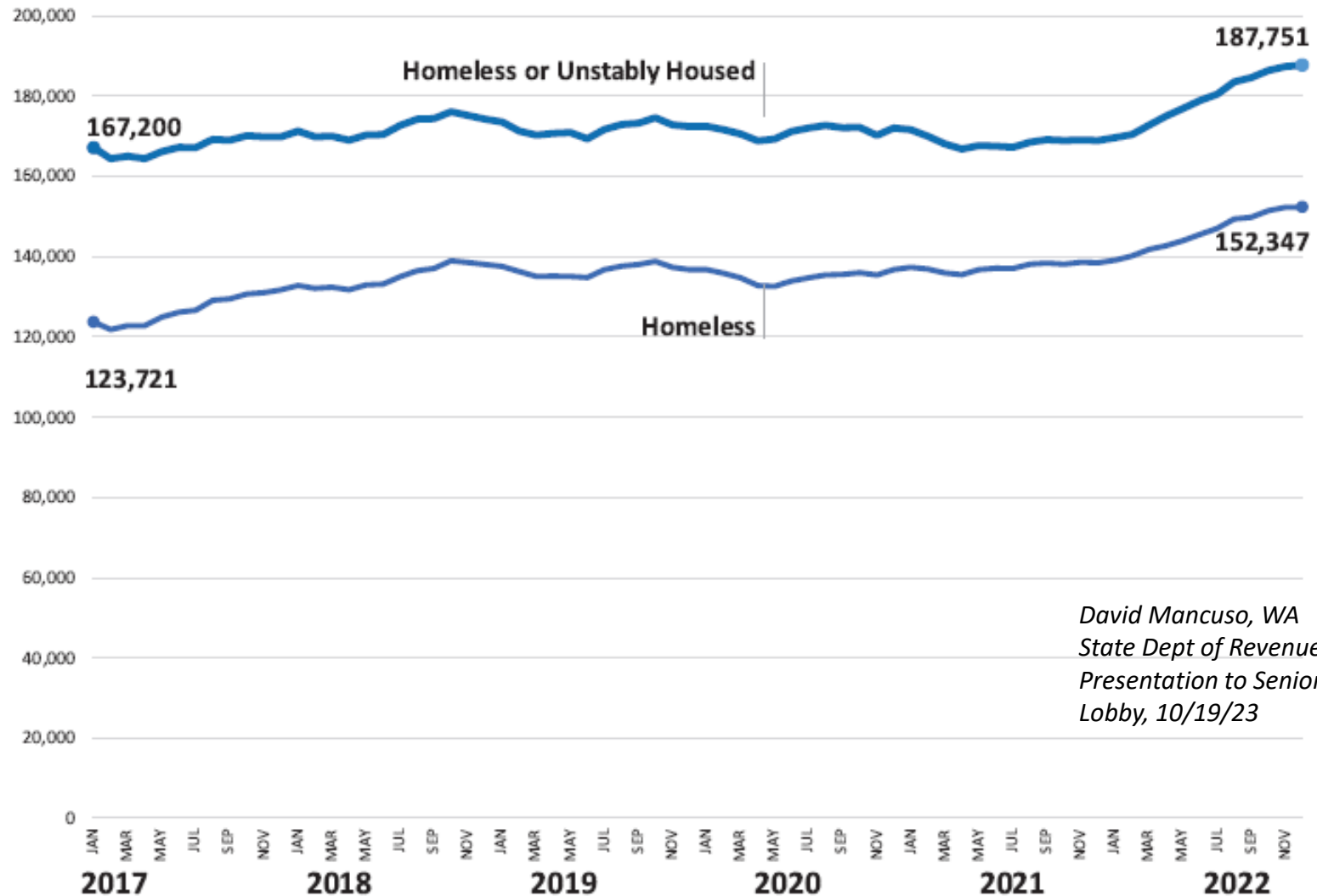
# Issues to Watch:

## Housing/Homelessness

- Problems
  - Housing shortage
  - Income inequality
    - Homeless
    - Cost-burdened, at risk for homelessness
  - Cost of housing
  - Just five states (California, New York, Florida, **Washington**, and Texas) account for 55 % of unhoused people.
- Solutions
  - Prevent loss of housing
  - Create new housing
  - Subsidize housing for lowest income people
  - Provide supportive housing for those with long-term need
  - Help people get ahead with education, training, reasonable wages

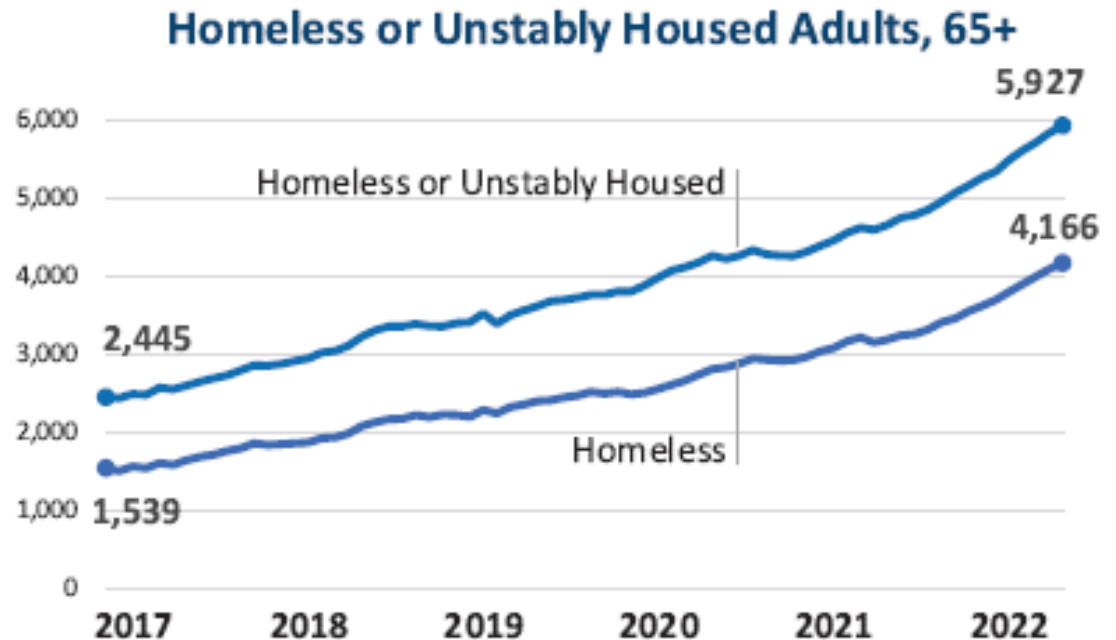
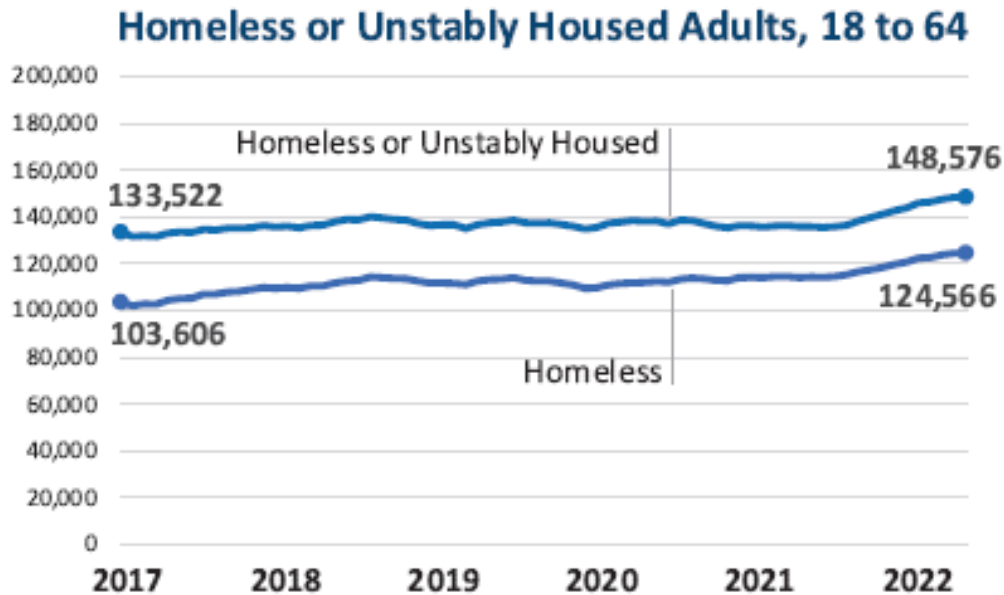
# Seniors are the Fastest-Growing Unhoused Population

## Homeless or Unstably Housed, All Ages



David Mancuso, WA  
State Dept of Revenue,  
Presentation to Senior  
Lobby, 10/19/23

# Seniors are the Fastest-Growing Unhoused Population in WA





# 2024 Legislative Proposals for Housing/ Homelessness

- Rent Stabilization
- Allow new kinds of housing (e.g., co-living)
- Other tenant protections, especially mobile/manufactured housing residents
- Permanent funding with progressive revenue to build affordable homes at the scale the crisis requires.







## Issues to Watch: Health Care

- Inadequate workforce for all needs
- Non-secular care providers with restrictions
- Protection of freedom of reproductive choice
- Long-term care funding
- Many behavioral health needs

# 2024 Health Care Legislation



- SB 5241 Concerning material changes to the structure of participants in the healthcare marketplace (previously Keep Our Care Act (KOCA)). Would **limit/condition mergers and acquisitions of hospitals and healthcare facilities.**
- SJM 8006 Requesting that the Federal Government create a **Universal Health Care Program.**
- SJR 8202 Senate Joint Resolution. Amending the State **Constitution to address reproductive freedom.**

# Issues to Watch: Behavioral Health Care

- **Problem:** Lack services relative to need
- **Anticipated Legislative Proposals:**
  - Increase the behavioral health **workforce**.
  - Increase access to behavioral health **services** in underserved areas and for underserved populations.
  - Provide behavior health services in **locations convenient** and familiar to persons who might need those services, places such as schools and physicians' offices.
  - **Ensure access** to behavioral health services at every level across the spectrum of services, from preventative care to inpatient hospitalization.



# Issues to Watch: Transportation

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- **Problems:**

- Inadequate alternatives
  - To single-occupancy motor vehicles
  - For non-drivers, disabled, seniors, low-income
- Cost of infrastructure
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Ferry System Problems

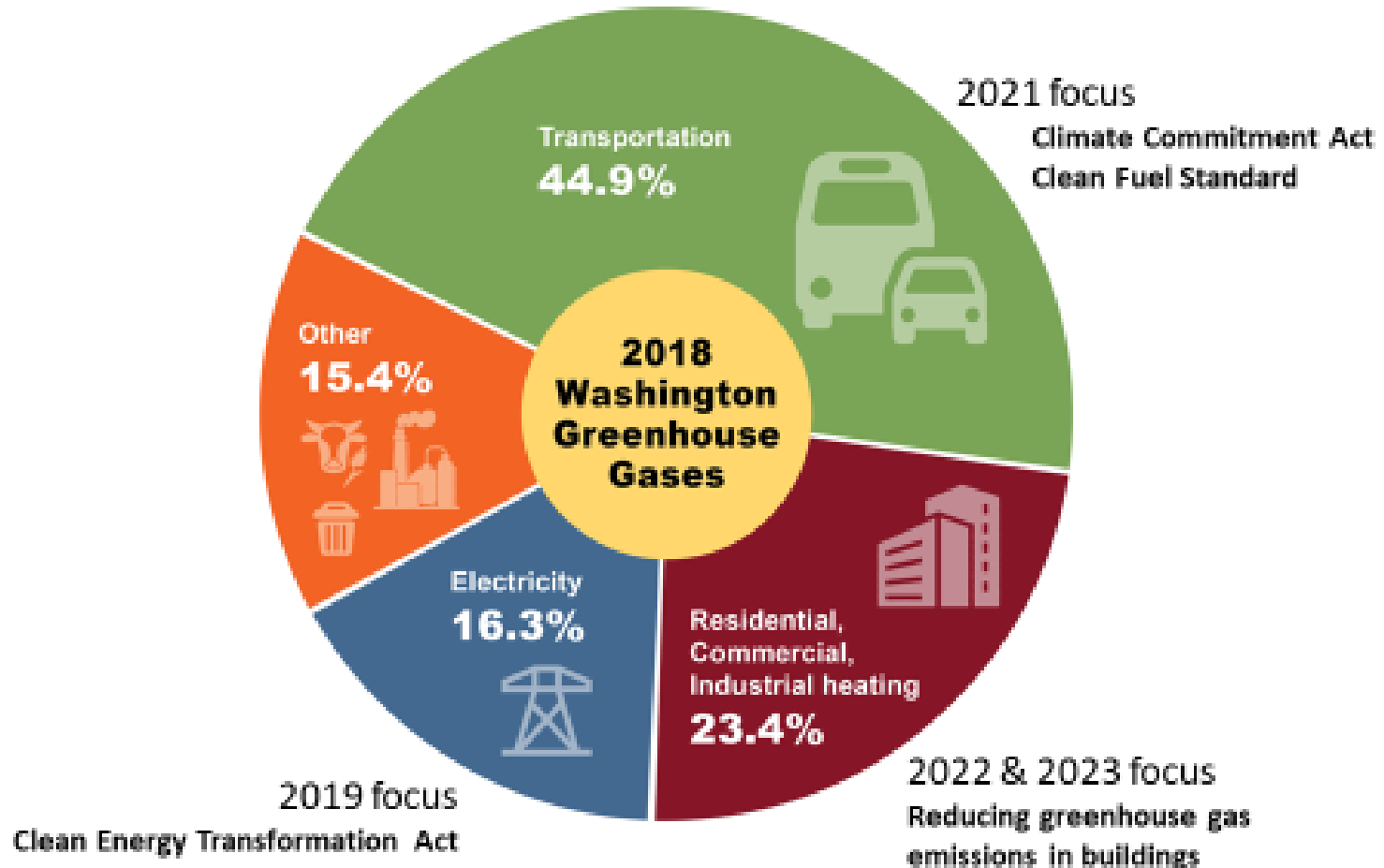
- **Anticipated Legislative Proposals:**

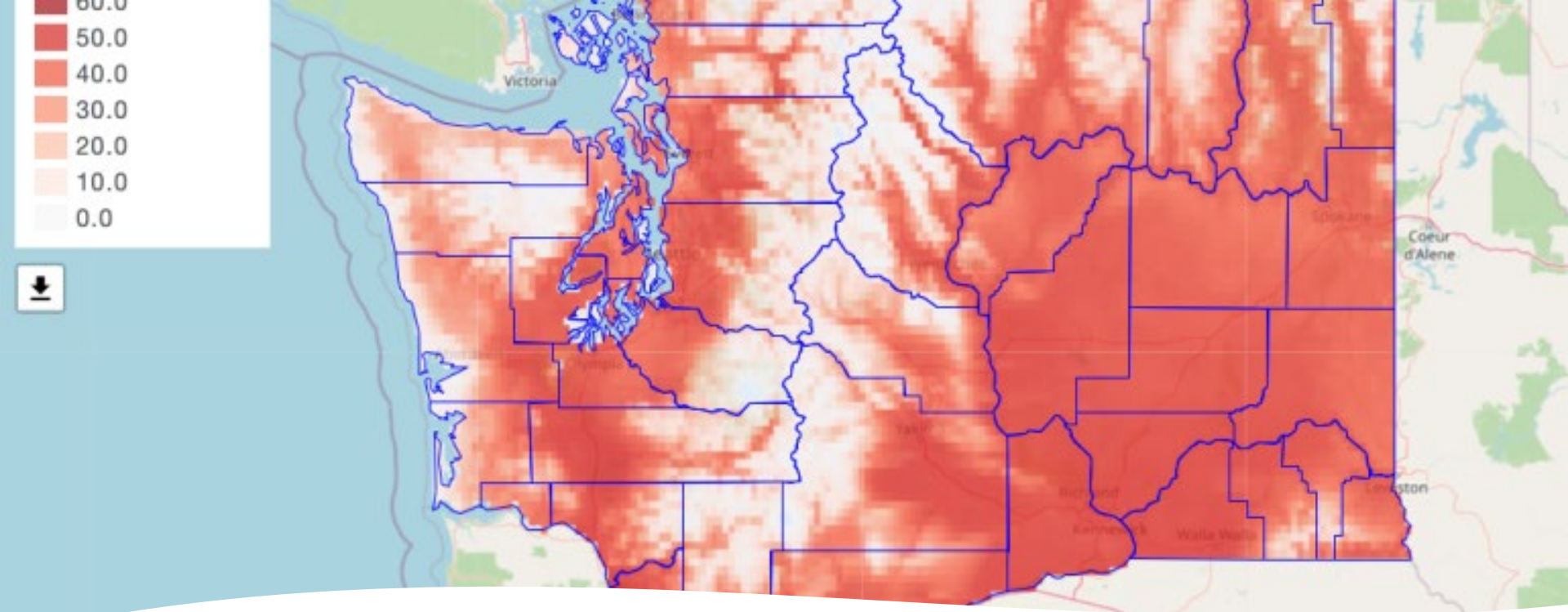
- Transit-oriented development
- Increased funding for transit
- Examination of how railroads can be better utilized
- Alternative fuels
- New Airport



# Climate Change & Transportation

## WA's GHG Inventory





## Issues to Watch: Climate Change

### Anticipated legislative proposals:

- Green (no emission) School Buses
- Continued work on salmon recovery strategies
- Old-growth Forest preservation

# Issues to Watch: Criminal Justice

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- **SB 5624 Implementing Recommendations of the Substance Use Recovery Services Advisory Committee** (SURSAC) to recognize that substance use disorders should be treated as a public health issue, not a criminal justice issue.
- **HB 1087 Ending Long-Term Solitary Confinement**, prohibiting solitary confinement except for emergencies, medical isolation, or when requested by the person who is incarcerated.
- **HB 1586 Vehicle Pursuit Study Group**, authorizing the Criminal Justice Training Commission to create a work group to study vehicle pursuits and come up with policy recommendations.
- **HB 1513 Improving Traffic Safety**, preventing law enforcement officers from pulling people over for violations that don't impact safety, limit searches following traffic stops, and provide funding to help people fix violations.
- **HB 1579 Independent Prosecutions for Police Use of Force**, setting up an Independent Prosecutions Unit in the Attorney General's Office to prosecute crimes involving the use of deadly force by police officers.
- **HB 1479 Restricting Use of Restraint and Isolation of Students in Public Schools**, banning use of isolation and mechanical and chemical restraints except when school resource officers are making arrests.
- **HB 1445 Attorney General Investigations and Reform**, giving the AGO to investigate law enforcement and local corrections agencies that have engaged in systemic violations of the WA State Constitution or state laws.

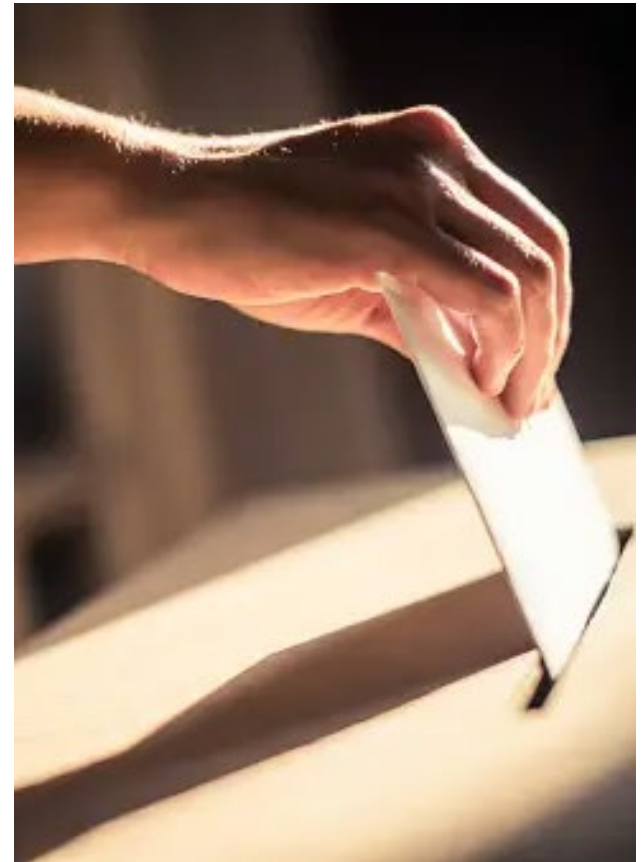




# Issues to Watch: Democracy

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- **HB 1241 Protecting Elections and Election Workers**, increasing penalty for harassment of an election official
- **HB 1885/SB 5832 Prohibiting Campaign Contributions and Expenditures by Foreign-Influenced Corporations**, foreign-influenced corporate spending in elections, protect the basic principle of democratic self-government, and improve trust in our elections.
- **HB 1882** Giving cities and towns the freedom to switch their **general elections to even-numbered** years.



# Legislative Web Site: <https://leg.wa.gov/>

The screenshot shows the Washington State Legislature website. A red arrow points from the text 'Committee hearings' to the 'Scheduled hearings and floor sessions' section, specifically to the 'Today' dropdown menu. Another red arrow points from the text 'Find bills & status' to the 'Bills' link in the 'Find' sidebar menu.

**Legislative 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)

During 2021, in response to COVID-19, the House and Senate have made operational changes to adhere to public health guidance. Please go to the House Covid-19 Operations and Senate Covid-19 Operations plans for more details. All proceedings can be viewed on TVW. To view legislative proceedings click here for TVW. Please click here to go to the committee website pages. To contact your Legislator click here for a Roster of Members.

**What's happening on the floor?**  
The Legislature will convene for a Regular Session on January 10, 2022.  
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: **Today** ▼

Committee	Agenda	Date/Time	Location	View Video	Last Updated
JLARC - Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee (J)	Agenda	12/01/2021 10:00 AM	Virtual	<a href="#">View Video</a>	11/29/2021

**Highlights**  
**Legislative Hotline: 1.800.562.6000**  
Election Results  
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](#)  
2021 Redistricting Commission  
Visit the Redistricting website to stay connected with the work of the Commission.

**More Information**  
**Get bills via web services:** The Legislature makes bill, committee, and law information available via web services for developers using automated systems. For more information, see the Legislative Web Services page.  
**Budget Links**

**Let Your Voice Be Heard**  
[Contact Your Legislators](#)  
[Participating in the Process](#)  
[Find Member Information/Rosters](#)  
[Accessibility Information](#)  
**Find**  
[Laws & Rules](#)  
[Your District & Legislators](#)  
[Bills](#)  
[Committee Meeting Schedules & Agendas](#)  
[Audio & Video on TVW](#)  
**About the Legislature**  
[House](#)  
[Senate](#)  
[Committees](#)  
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[Legislative Information Center](#)

You can participate:

- Virtual testimony
- Sign-in for/against bills online

Find bills & status

# Visiting the Capitol Campus

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://des.wa.gov/services/facilities-and-leasing-management/capitol-campus/visiting-during-legislative-session>. The page has a blue header and a left sidebar with a navigation menu. The main content area is titled 'Visiting During Legislative Session' and includes sections for 'Parking', 'Campus events', 'EV charging stations', 'Shuttle service', and 'Food options on-campus'. The sidebar menu includes 'Facilities and Leasing Management', 'Capitol Campus Construction Projects', 'Capitol Campus', 'Buildings', 'Capitol Campus Emergency Alerts', 'Capitol Campus Lost and Found', 'Capitol Master Plan', 'Featured Project Archive', 'Getting to the Capitol', 'Hours', 'Memorials and Artwork', 'Open Carry of Weapons Prohibited in State Capitol Buildings and on West Campus Grounds', 'Parks and Attractions', 'Requirements for Using the Capitol Campus', 'Schedule an Event', 'Tours', 'Trees of the Capitol Campus', 'Visiting During Legislative Session', and 'Volunteer as a State Capitol Tour Guide'.

**Facilities and Leasing Management**

- Capitol Campus Construction Projects
- Capitol Campus**
  - Buildings
  - Capitol Campus Emergency Alerts
  - Capitol Campus Lost and Found
  - Capitol Master Plan
  - Featured Project Archive
  - Getting to the Capitol
  - Hours
  - Memorials and Artwork
  - Open Carry of Weapons Prohibited in State Capitol Buildings and on West Campus Grounds
  - Parks and Attractions
  - Requirements for Using the Capitol Campus
  - Schedule an Event
  - Tours
  - Trees of the Capitol Campus
  - Visiting During Legislative Session
  - Volunteer as a State Capitol Tour Guide

**Visiting During Legislative Session**

Home > Services > Facilities and Leasing Management > Capitol Campus > Visiting During Legislative Session

We're delighted to welcome you to the beautiful Capitol Campus in Olympia! The 2024 Legislative Session is scheduled to convene Monday, Jan. 8, and adjourn Thursday, March 7.

## Parking

View the [DES interactive map](#) to find metered parking areas. The cost is \$2 an hour between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Parking on weekends and evenings is free. Visit the [City of Olympia website](#) to learn about parking in downtown Olympia.

ADA parking is available in campus parking lots and garages on a first-come, first-use basis.

## Campus events

View the [Capitol Campus event calendar](#) for a list of events and activities in public spaces on the Washington State Capitol Campus. Some of these events and activities may impact parking and traffic on the campus. To be alerted of impacts, [sign up for Capitol Campus updates](#).

## EV charging stations

Electric vehicle (EV) charging stations are available for visitors at [Capitol Gateway Park](#), the [Natural Resources Building](#), and on [level A of the Plaza Garage](#). View the [DES interactive map](#) for details on energy charging fees and EV station parking fees.

## Shuttle service

We will provide a shuttle service between the Plaza Garage and the West Campus for visitors and state employees during the 2024 Legislative Session.

The shuttle runs on a 15-minute scheduled loop from 6:15 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on weekdays. [View the shuttle route.](#)

## Food options on-campus

<https://des.wa.gov/services/facilities-and-leasing-management/capitol-campus/visiting-during-legislative-session>

# Other Resources

- Legislature's Web Site: <https://leg.wa.gov/>
- League of Women Voters Legislative Newsletter: <https://www.lwwa.org/League-Newsletters>
- Universal Health Care Commission: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/who-we-are/universal-health-care-commission>
- Tax Structure Work Group: <https://taxworkgroup.org/>
- WA Low Income Housing Alliance: <https://www.wliha.org/>
- Disability Rights WA: <https://www.disabilityrightswa.org/>

# Resources, cont'd

- Health Care for All: <https://www.healthcareforallwa.org/>
- Health Care is a Human Right: <http://healthcareisarightwa.org/>
- Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action (PSARA):  
<https://www.psara.org/>
- Washington State Budget and Policy Center:  
<https://budgetandpolicy.org/>
- Balance Our Tax Code: <https://balanceourtaxcode.com/>
- AARP WA: <https://states.aarp.org/washington/>
- Transportation Choices Coalition:  
<https://transportationchoices.org/>