

Senator Brad Hawkins

Legislative Session Preview



**Senator
Brad Hawkins**

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SUBSCRIBE TO MY E-NEWSLETTER

My office sends email newsletters throughout the year. To keep current on legislative issues important to our district, please visit my website and add yourself to my distribution list. My email newsletters are distributed approximately monthly throughout the year and more frequently during legislative sessions.

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

- fiscal.wa.gov (State budgets)
- leg.wa.gov (Legislature)
- tvw.org (Session video)

Dear 12th District residents,

The Washington State Legislature will convene for a 60-day legislative session on January 8th. This session will be busy for me as I will continue serving on the Higher Education and Transportation committees and as the Ranking Member on the Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee. The “short session” is expected to be very fast paced.

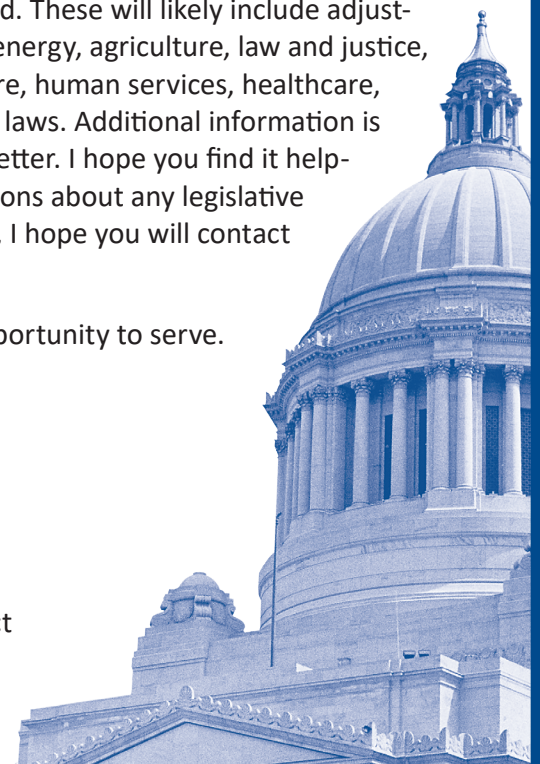
In accordance with our State Constitution, the Legislature alternates between longer and shorter sessions depending on when the state’s two-year budgets are developed. Last year, all three budgets were approved for the 2023-25 biennium, which began on July 1, 2023. The operating budget (\$69.8 billion), transportation budget (\$13.5 billion), and capital budget (\$9.0 billion) were finalized on the final days of the 105-day session after much negotiation. The Legislature will likely make modest updates to all three of these budgets during the 60-day session.

In addition to updating the three budgets, other bills will be debated and approved. These will likely include adjustments to education, energy, agriculture, law and justice, environment, childcare, human services, healthcare, and higher education laws. Additional information is detailed in this newsletter. I hope you find it helpful. If you have questions about any legislative proposals or budgets, I hope you will contact my office.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

Brad Hawkins
State Senator
12th Legislative District



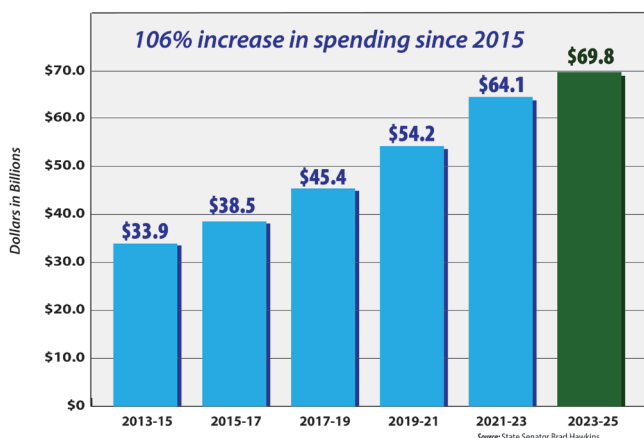
Senator Brad Hawkins • 12th District

Budget Updates Expected

During our 60-day session, the Legislature will make adjustments to each of the three state budgets. This is a common process that involves updating revenue projections and refining spending plans. These updates are referred to as “supplemental” budgets and are approved approximately halfway through each two-year budget period. Here is a look at the three 2023-2025 budgets:

- **Operating Budget (\$69.8 billion):** The operating budget funds the day-to-day operations of the state, including early learning, K-12 education, higher education, health and human services, criminal justice, natural resources, courts, and other areas.
- **Transportation Budget (\$13.5 billion):** The transportation budget funds the construction and maintenance of the state transportation system, including the maintenance and preservation of roads, bridges, and ferries. This budget also funds transportation agencies and commissions.
- **Capital Budget (9.0 billion):** The capital budget funds construction and maintenance of state buildings, public school matching grants, higher education facilities, public lands, state parks, community projects, and other public assets.

Operating Budget Growth



The state operating budget has grown significantly over recent years, far outpacing population growth and inflation. Some of these spending increases were in response to the 2012 State Supreme Court’s McCleary decision on K-12 education funding. The budget approved for 2023-2025 is \$69.8 billion. This level of spending concerns me considering the uncertainty in the national economy.

Transportation Update



I have had multiple discussions with City of Monroe officials about the SR 522 Project. “Finishing 522” is a top transportation priority. At the State Capitol from left to right: Councilmember Heather Fulcher, Councilmember Tami Kinney, Mayor Geoffrey Thomas, and Councilmember Jason Gamble with me in the Senate chambers.

- **State Route 522:** The design will widen SR 522 between Monroe and Maltby and add an interchange at Paradise Lake Road and Maltby Road. Over \$30 million has been appropriated to the project so far for design, engineering, and right-of-way acquisition through 2027. Construction could cost \$200 million or more and is not yet funded.
- **Hwy 2 Improvements:** Sultan leaders have identified a corridor improvement plan that includes several project components, which will be completed as funding is acquired, including replacing the Wagley Creek Bridge and fish culvert, adding a two-lane roundabout at Sultan Basin Road and Highway 2 and at Old Owen Road and at Main Street, and expanding the highway to four lanes.
- **Hwy 18 Widening:** A new interchange at I-90 and SR 18 will improve safety and traffic flow near North Bend. The projects include widening two miles of SR 18 to Issaquah/Hobart Road and five miles of SR 18 from Issaquah/Hobart Road to Deep Creek over Tiger Mountain. It is funded at \$665 million.
- **State Route 202/203:** SR 202 through Fall City and SR 203 between Fall City and Monroe receive significant usage and are in need of safety and traffic flow improvements, including a roundabout near Carnation. I look forward to continuing discussions to identify possible transportation solutions.

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How To Follow...

Every session, hundreds of bills are proposed, but only a small number successfully advance through the full process. Last year, over 2,300 bills were introduced with approximately 400 approved. My office would like to be a helpful resource for you about proposed legislation and budgets. Here are some good ways to follow legislative activities:

- **Legislative Hotline:** 1-800-562-6000
- **Television Washington:** tvw.org
- **State Budgets:** fiscal.wa.gov
- **Governor's Website:** governor.wa.gov
- **State Supreme Court:** courts.wa.gov
- **Commerce:** commerce.wa.gov
- **Transportation:** wsdot.wa.gov
- **Children & Families:** dcyf.wa.gov
- **Public Schools:** ospi.k12.wa.us
- **Higher Education:** wsac.wa.gov
- **Human Services:** dshs.wa.gov
- **Veterans Affairs:** dva.wa.gov



Please Visit My Website

As your state senator, I pride myself in providing excellent customer service and communications. To learn more about me and my legislative work, please visit senatorbradhawkins.org and follow me on Facebook [@SenatorBradHawkins](https://www.facebook.com/SenatorBradHawkins). These sites include information about me, my legislative priorities, news releases, and email newsletters. You can also subscribe to my email newsletter to receive current information and legislative updates.

Website senatorbradhawkins.org.

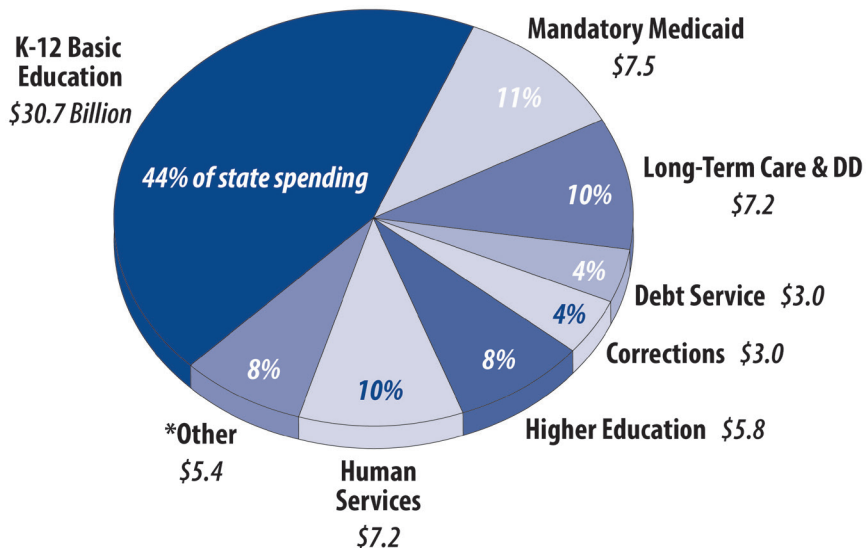
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2023-2025 State Operating Budget – \$69.8 billion

Washington state budgets on a two-year basis and develops three separate budgets. The three spending plans – the operating, transportation, and capital budgets – address different priorities. The approved operating budget (\$69.8 billion), transportation budget (\$13.5 billion) and capital budget (\$9.0 billion) authorize spending for a two-year period or “biennium” beginning July 1, 2023. When the Legislature convenes on January 8, 2024, it will begin work to develop budget updates for the remainder of the biennium (until June 30, 2025). The operating budget is the largest of the three budgets and funds the day-to-day operations of the state, including early learning, K-12 education, higher education, health and human services, criminal justice, natural resources, courts, and other areas.



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Thank you!

