

2017 Budget:

Public Safety



WASHINGTON STATE SENATE MAJORITY COALITION CAUCUS

Investing wisely in public safety

The Senate plan puts its public-safety emphasis where needs are greatest – providing longer sentences for serious crimes, and prioritizing community-supervision needs. The budget funds sweeping reforms at the Department of Corrections, prompted by last year’s scandal involving the early release of 3,000 inmates, and includes law-enforcement training on the use of deadly force.

‘Smart on crime’ proposal

- Single bill encompasses 2017 session’s proposals for enhanced sentences, for:
 - Repeat DUIs – makes the 4th DUI a felony, requiring prison time.
 - Habitual property offenders.
 - Crimes against vulnerable adults.
 - Sexual offenses against children.
 - Domestic- violence felonies.
- Issues “identcards” to recently released inmates.
- Prioritizes community-supervision resources, focusing on crimes that are most serious.
- Net savings to taxpayers.

Reforming the Department of Corrections

- MCC budget funds DOC-reform proposal (Senate Bill 5294), implementing recommendations of the Senate Law and Justice Committee following last year’s investigation of the early release of 3,000 violent and dangerous inmates.
- Reforms include making public safety the agency’s top priority, creation of an independent “ombuds” office to deal with employee and inmate complaints, adoption of new procedures in the event of computer miscalculations, and a performance audit of DOC’s records and information-technology departments.

Use of deadly force

- Provides \$1.2 million for the Criminal Justice Training Commission, to train law enforcement in:
 - Washington State Patrol de-escalation tactics.
 - Effectively interacting with people with behavioral-health issues.
 - Understanding implicit and explicit bias.
 - Use of less-than-lethal force.
- Senate plan funds all eight additional basic-training classes requested by the commission, while the governor’s budget funded only half.