

## A true supplemental operating budget gets the House treatment

### Still in line with Republican budgeting principles, just not quite as much

Supplemental budgets are supposed to respond to unanticipated changes in caseloads, like school enrollment or social services; deal with emergencies, like the COVID-19 pandemic; and address opportunities that wouldn't be available if we waited for the next biennium.

- By the numbers: \$71.9 billion spending level (Senate was \$71.6B)
  - \$2.14 billion spending increase, 56% at maintenance level (Senate was \$1.8B, 2/3 at maintenance level)
  - Spends \$300M more at policy level than Senate budget
  - Now \$4.13 B reserve at end of biennia, \$2.6B reserve at end of 4-year outlook; reserves at end of 4-year outlook are now almost “split the difference” between Senate- and House-passed plans

### Still mindful of public safety...making WA safer (SRC priority)

- Support for 3 proposals in Recovery Washington package
  - \$2.7 million annual boost proposed for anti-drug task forces (as called for in SB 6134/Gildon... Senate budget had \$4M)
  - House amended [SB 5906](#) (L. Wilson's “One Pill Kills” public-service campaign aimed at discouraging opioid use by young people) with section of [HB 1956](#) (Gov request, Rep. Leavitt, similar topic)
  - [SB 6099](#) (Braun), which would guarantee 20% of opioid-settlement funds are focused on tribal programs to combat opioids, including prevention and recovery services, educational campaigns and support for first responders

### Senate budget was better for our children

- Support for special education advocates; private school funding (reimbursement of COVID costs); \$1,500 per charter-school pupil (equitable, similar to LEA)
- Conference adds \$59M for MSOC/special ed but **drops funding to address chronic absenteeism (Braun)... disappointing!**

### Once again, conference with House means more \$ toward some dubious items

- \$962,000 for capital-gains tax enforcement (knowing I-2109 will be on ballot)
- \$345,000 for free naloxone (overdose reversal) to high-school students
- \$250,000 to study creation of “Department of Housing”
- \$247,000 for AG task force... combat extremism and mass violence
- \$180,000 for Islamophobia education (Puget Sound ESD)



### Maintenance funding still includes:

- Health Care Authority: ½ of \$1.2 billion, primarily due to slower than expected disenrollment of 250,000 people from Medicaid
- Lawsuits: \$100 M for Trueblood & \$100 M for DCYF case (death of two young boys at hands of dad Josh Powell, suspected in death of Susan Powell)
- K-12: \$250 M (primarily Transportation & Special Education)

### Policy adds:

- Largest of policy adds in conference: \$55M for TRS/PERS 1 COLA
- Also adds \$50M to the \$250M in Senate proposal for behavioral-health access
  - primarily for bedspace at a new treatment facility in Tukwila, more capacity at Washington’s two state-run psychiatric hospitals, and the University of Washington behavioral-health teaching facility coming online in mid-2025
  - Conference adds diversion program enhancements (meant to keep people out of criminal justice or state institutions)
- Retains Senate appropriations to make WA safer:
  - additional corrections-officer training
  - auto-theft prevention task forces
  - crime-victim and witness-assistance account (used by prosecutors)
  - added support for bolstering [access to public defense](#) (SB 5780, Torres)
  - combatting [impaired driving](#) (SB 5032, Padden... now found in HB 1493)
- Plus money for a legislative-led audit of the executive branch’s juvenile rehabilitation efforts, within the Department of Children, Youth and Families
  - mismanagement concerns at Green Hill School in Lewis County and Echo Glen Children’s Center in King County.
- Plus \$22M to improve maternal outcomes...equity for those who want to have children

### Cap-and-trade presence worth noting

- \$180M for reimbursing people who are paying MORE because of cap-and-trade... an admission that CCA raises energy costs... divided into:
  - \$150M for \$200 one-time energy vouchers for qualifying low-income consumers, paid in September (as Senate proposed... no more “bribe” split as House suggested)
  - \$30M for tier-based reimbursements to buyers of farm diesel (which still doesn’t come close to offsetting real cost of surcharges to agriculture)