

2020 Legislative Session Preview

*Interagency Committee of State Employed Women
November 19, 2019*



**Employment
Security
Department**
WASHINGTON STATE

Important Dates

Monday, December 2nd:
First day of “prefiled” bills.

Monday, January 13th:
First day of session.

Friday, March 13th:
Last day of session.

Thursday, June 11th:
Default date for bills to go into effect.

What to Expect

- Short session (60 days).
- Supplemental budget year.
- **Legislators say they:**
 - Achieved a lot last year.
 - Will work on supplemental budget and other crucial issues.
 - Not planning to take on extra issues.

Speaker of the House

- **Previous Speaker of the House: Frank Chopp.**
 - State's longest-serving speaker (20 years).
 - Will continue to be a legislator.
- **New Speaker of the House: Laurie Jenkins.**
 - Speaker-Designate until the House of Representatives votes to confirm her in January.
 - State's first female Speaker of the House.
 - One of three openly LGBTQ leaders of legislative chamber in the nation.

Committee Assignments

Notable changes for 2020 session:

- **Rep. Kilduff:**
 - New chair of the House Civil Rights and Judiciary Committee.
 - Now on the Appropriations Committee.

- **Rep. Chopp:**
 - Now on the Appropriations Committee and the Health Care & Wellness Committee.

Political Parties in the Legislature

- **House:**
 - 58.2% Democratic
 - 41.8% Republican
- **Senate:**
 - 57.1% Democratic
 - 42.9% Republican

Initiative 976 – Car Tabs

- Voters approved I-976 (\$30 car tabs).
- Office of Financial Management says this will result in a decrease in state revenue for transportation projects of \$1.9 billion over the next six years.
- City of Seattle and King County filing joint lawsuit to block the initiative, but could be a lengthy battle.
- Legislators need to revise transportation funding during the 2020 session to fill the gap.

Culvert Funding

Culverts:

- Let streams flow under roads and railroads:



- Can block salmon migration if clogged, too small, or too steep.
- Roughly 2,000 culverts statewide; about half of them block salmon migration.

Culvert Funding

The 21 Washington tribes that have fishing rights through treaties sued the state in 2001, saying:

- If salmon can't migrate adequately, tribes can't use their treaty rights.
- State needs to repair culverts so that tribes can continue using their treaty rights.

In June 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court said that Washington needs to fix culverts.

Culvert Funding

Office of Financial Management says fixing the culverts will cost \$3.7 billion.

Culvert funding in 2019 – 2021 transportation budget:

- Legislators provided \$100 million.
- Governor ordered additional \$175 million.
- \$275 million still isn't nearly enough to fix the culverts.
- Legislators need to address this in the transportation budget during the 2020 session.

Recap

- The House of Representatives plans to confirm Speaker-Designate Jinkins as Speaker of the House in January.
- Transportation budget – Need to address:
 - I-976 (\$30 car tabs).
 - Culvert fixes.
- Legislators say they'll focus on transportation budget and other crucial issues; no extras.

Questions?

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