



Senate Committee Services Staff Issue Area Document

(Committee Links for Committee Staff Issues and Staff)

[Agriculture, Water, Trade & Economic Development](#)

[Commerce, Labor & Sports](#)

[Early Learning & K-12 Education](#)

[Energy, Environment & Telecommunications](#)

[Financial Institution & Insurance](#)

[Health Care](#)

[Higher Education](#)

[Human Services, Mental Health & Housing](#)

[Law & Justice](#)

[Local Government](#)

[Natural Resources & Parks](#)

[State Government](#)

[Transportation](#)

[Ways & Means](#)

Agriculture, Water, Trade & Economic Development (786-7411)

[Karen Epps, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7424](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Agriculture
- Agricultural Pests, Diseases and Chemical Treatment
- Agricultural Products – Production, Sale and Marketing
- Commodity Commissions
- Dairy Nutrient Management
- Economic Development
- Food Labeling, Processing and Safety
- Water Resources

[Greg Vogel, Staff Counsel - 786-7413](#)

- Economic Development
- Incentives
- Regional and Sector Based Development
- Regulatory Assistance
- Technical Assistance to Businesses
- Trade
- International Trade and Export Assistance
- Agriculture
- Tourism

[Alison Riffer, Committee Assistant - 786-7411](#)

(Committee Contact)

Commerce, Labor & Sports (786-7426)

[Susan Jones, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7404](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Consumer Protection
- Industrial Insurance
- Unemployment Insurance
- Worker Retraining
- Lottery
- Sports

[Richard Rodger, Sr. Staff Counsel - 786-7461](#)

- Liquor
- Marijuana
- Gambling
- Horse Racing
- Worker Privacy and Personnel Practices
- Employment Standards

[Jarrett Sacks, Staff Counsel - 786-7448](#)

- Apprenticeship
- Prevailing Wage
- Professional Licensing
- Construction Trades Licensing and Regulation
- Labor Trafficking
- Collective Bargaining

[Dana King, Committee Assistant – 786-7784](#)

(Committee Contact)

Early Learning & K-12 Education (786-7420)

Susan Mielke, Sr. Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7422

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Basic Education
- High School Graduation Requirements, including Statewide Assessments
- Special Education
- Charter Schools
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education

Ailey Kato, Staff Counsel - 786-7434

- Early Learning
- Student Health
- Student and Educator Safety
- Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee
- Student Discipline

Alia Kennedy, Staff Counsel - 786-7405

- Collective bargaining for school employees
- Paraeducators
- Teacher preparation and certification
- Teacher and principal evaluations
- Professional Educators Standards Board

Samina Mays, Committee Assistant - 786-7463

(Committee Contact)

Energy, Environment & Telecommunications (786-7406)

Jan Odano, Staff Coordinator/Research Analyst - 786-7486

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Air Quality
- Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction
- Nuclear and Radioactive Waste
- Product Stewardship
- Solid Waste Management
- Telecommunications
- Water Quality

Kim Cushing, Sr. Staff Counsel - 786-7421

- Energy Generation and Transmission
- Renewable and Low Carbon Fuel Standards
- Carbon Policy

Dana King, Committee Assistant – 786-7784

(Committee Contact)

Financial Institutions & Insurance (786-7409)

Jeff Olsen, Staff Coordinator/Research Analyst - 786-7428

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Payday Lending
- Foreclosures
- Mortgage Brokers
- Mobile Home Parks
- Landlord-Tenant

- Loan Originators
- Uniform Commercial Code
- Banking-shared
- Banking-primary contact
- Credit Ratings and Scoring
- Credit Unions
- Insurance Claims and Fraud
- Public Depositaries
- Securities Regulation
- Construction Defects
- Home Owners' and Condo Associations
- Life insurance and Life Settlements
- Homeowners' Insurance, Rates and Forms
- Re-insurance
- Financial Solvency of Insurers
- Market Conduct of Insurers

[Aldo Melchiori, Sr. Staff Counsel - 786-7439](#)

[Also staff of the [Law & Justice](#) Committee]

[Carly Johnson, Committee Assistant - 786-7441](#)

(Committee Contact)

Health Care (786-7456)

[Kathy Buchli, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7488](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Long-Term Care
- Developmental Disabilities
- Drugs and Drug Policy
- Public Health

[Evan Klein, Staff Counsel - 786-7483](#)

[Also staff of the [Higher Education](#) Committee]

- Health Care Professions
- Facility Regulation
- Public Health

[Mich'l Needham, Sr. Research Analyst - 786-7442](#)

- ACA—Federal Health Care Reform
 - Medicaid Expansion
 - Exchange
- Health Care Financing/Insurance—Public and Private

[Sandy Jaime, Committee Assistant - 786-7417](#)

(Committee Contact)

Higher Education (786-7415)

[Clint McCarthy, Staff Coordinator/Analyst - 786-7319](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Public and Independent Baccalaureate Colleges and Universities
- Public Community and Technical Colleges
- Financial Aid
- Tuition
- Governance

[Evan Klein, Staff Counsel - 786-7483](#)

[Also staff of the [Health Care](#) Committee]

- Campus Safety
- For-Profit Colleges
- Workforce Training
- Private Career Schools
- Faculty
- Veterans Issues

[Dana King, Committee Assistant – 786-7784](#)

(Committee Contact)

[Human Services, Mental Health & Housing \(786-7414\)](#)

[Alison Mendiola, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7444](#)

- Housing (affordable housing & homelessness)
- Child Welfare/Child Protection
 - Family Assessment Response (FAR)
 - Extended foster care services
 - Legal representation in dependencies
 - Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
 - Workfirst
 - SNAP (Food Stamps)
- Disability Lifeline Program (formerly General Assistance)

[Kevin Black, Sr. Staff Counsel - 786-7747](#)

- Mental Health/Substance Abuse
 - Competency to Stand Trial/Criminal Insanity
 - Involuntary Treatment Act Civil Commitments
 - Regional Support Networks
 - Crisis Diversion
- Offender Reentry Community Safety Program (fka Dangerous Mentally Ill Offender Program)
- Domestic Violence Issues
- Crime victims
- Sex Offenders: Civil commitment
- Truancy

[Melissa Burke-Cain, Sr. Staff Counsel - 786-7755](#)

- Juvenile Justice

[Samina Mays, Committee Assistant - 786-7463](#)

(Committee Contact)

[Law & Justice \(786-7455\)](#)

[Tim Ford, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7423](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Tort Law
- General Criminal and Civil
- Guardianship and Probate Issues
- Business Law
- Collection Issues
- Eminent Domain
- Unpiloted Aerial Vehicles

- Body Worn Camera Task Force

[Shani Bauer, Sr. Staff Counsel - 786-7468](#)

- Corrections
- Sex Offenders
- DUI
- New Crimes and Sentencing Changes
- General Criminal Issues
- Use of Deadly Force Task Force

[Melissa Burke-Cain, Sr. Staff Counsel - 786-7755](#)

- Human Trafficking
- Trusts
- General Civil and Court Related Subject Matter
- Court Administration Issues
- Domestic Violence
- General Criminal
- Laws Relating to Animal Cruelty
- Family Law
- Public Health-Related Court and Criminal Matters

[Aldo Melchiori, Sr. Staff Counsel - 786-7439](#)

[Also staff of the [Financial Institutions & Insurance](#) Committee]

- DUI
- Motor Vehicle Related Issues
- Firearms
- School-Related Criminal Issues
- New Crimes and Sentencing Changes
- General Criminal Issues
- Collection and Garnishment
- Uniform Laws

[Melissa Van Gorkom, Analyst – 786-7491](#)

[Also staff of the [State Government](#) Committee]

- DUI

[Carly Johnson, Committee Assistant - 786-7441](#)

(Committee Contact)

[Local Government \(786-7467\)](#)

[Bonnie Kim, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7316](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- City and County Governance
- Special Purpose Districts
- Property Taxes
- Public Contracting Procedures
- Public Works
- Administrative Procedures Act

[Alex Fairfortune, Staff Counsel - 786-7416](#)

- Land Use and Development
- Growth Management Act
- Government Incorporation
- Annexation
- Vesting
- Special Purpose Districts
- Fire Protection

- Emergency Management

[Nelson Falkenburg, Committee Assistant - 786-7389](#)

(Committee Contact)

Natural Resources & Parks (786-7419)

[Curt Gavigan, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7437](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Fish and Wildlife Governance
- Wildlife
- State Lands Management
- Recreation and State Parks
- Fisheries
- Forest Health and Fire
- Geology and Surface Mining
- Forestry & Timber

[Jasmin Adams, Committee Assistant - 786-7419](#)

(Committee Contact)

State Government (786-7473)

[Sam Brown, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7470](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Tribal Relations
- Veterans Affairs
- Military Affairs
- Ethics and Conflict of Interest
- Public Records and Disclosure
- Open Public Meetings
- Elections
- Campaign Finance
- Initiatives and Referendums
- Signature Gathering
- Performance Management of State Government Programs and Agencies
- Audits of State Government Programs and Agencies

[Melissa Van Gorkom, Analyst – 786-7491](#)

- Fire Protection
- Emergency Management
- Information Technology at State Agencies
- Public Contracting Procedures
- Public Works
- Administrative Procedure Act
- Civil Service
- Regulatory Reform
- Historic Preservation
- Archives

[Sandy Jaime, Committee Assistant - 786-7417](#)

(Committee Contact)

Transportation (786-7300)

Kelly Simpson, Sr. Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7403

(Lead Committee Contact)

Budget Assignments

- Utilities and Transportation Commission
- Transportation Commission

Policy Assignments

- Utilities and Transportation Commission
- State and Regional Transportation Governance
- State and Regional Transportation Planning
- Transportation Element of Growth Management Act
- Special Purpose Districts

David Ward, Fiscal Coordinator - 786-7341

Budget Assignments

- Treasurer (Bond Retirement and Interest)
- Joint Transportation Committee
- Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program
- Office of Financial Management

Policy Assignments

- Revenue Forecasts
- Financial Plans/Fund Balances
- Bonds and Other Indebtedness

Erica Bramlet, Fiscal Analyst - 786-7321

Budget Assignments

- Highway Construction Projects
- DOT–Toll Operations
- DOT–Highway Improvements
- DOT–Highway Maintenance
- DOT–Highway Preservation
- DOT–Traffic Operations
- DOT–Information Technology
- DOT–Management
- DOT–Program Management and Support
- DOT – Charges From Other Agencies

Policy Assignments

- Tolls
- Highways
- Environmental Issues

Hayley Gamble, Sr. Fiscal Analyst -786-7452

Budget Assignments

- Washington State Ferries
 - Operating
 - Capital
- DOT–Rail
 - Operating
 - Capital
- DOT–Facilities
 - Operating
 - Capital
- DOT–Aviation
- DOT–Planning, Data, and Research

- DOT–Public Transportation
- Local Programs/Resources
 - DOT–Local Programs
 - Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB)
 - Transportation Improvement Board (TIB)
 - County Road Administration Board (CRAB)

Policy Assignments

- Washington State Ferries
- Rail
- Local Transit Agencies, including Sound Transit
- Board of Pilotage Commissioners

[Kim Johnson, Sr. Staff Counsel - 786-7472](#)

Budget Assignments

- Budget Bill Coordination
- DOT–Public/Private Partnerships
- State Parks and Recreation
- Archaeology & Historic Preservation
- Department of Agriculture

Policy Assignments

- Tolls
- Traffic Safety/Rules of the Road
- Tribal Issues
- Bicycles
- Motorcycles/Motor Scooters
- Transportation Security Issues (e.g., valid identification and legal presence)
- Initiative/Referendum Issues

[Kellee Keegan, Fiscal Analyst - 786-7429](#)

Budget Assignments

- Department of Licensing – Drivers and Vehicles
- WSP – Operating, Capitol
- Traffic Safety Commission

Policy Assignments

- DOL
 - Drivers
 - Vehicles
- Revenue Forecasts
- Taxes/Fees
- Washington State Patrol

[Alison Riffer, Committee Assistant - 786-7430](#)

(Committee Contact)

[Ways & Means \(786-7715\)](#)

[Bryon Moore, Sr. Staff Coordinator - 786-7726](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- House of Representatives
- Office of Financial Management
- Office of the Governor
- Senate

[Michael Bezanson, Operating Budget Coordinator - 786-7449](#)

- Operating Budget Issues

[Richard Ramsey, Capital Budget Coordinator - 786-7412](#)

- Bond Retirement and Interest
- K-12 Capital Issues
- Local Government Assistance
- Municipal Research Council

[Dean Carlson, Revenue Coordinator- 786-7305](#)

- Revenue Policy Issues
- Board of Tax Appeals
- Caseload Forecast Council
- Department of Revenue
- Economic and Revenue Forecast Council
- Liquor Control Board

[Michele Alishahi, Fiscal Analyst - 786-7433](#)

- Central Washington University
- Community and Technical Colleges
- Eastern Washington University
- The Evergreen State College
- Student Achievement Council
- University of Washington
- Washington State University
- Western Washington University
- Workforce Training and Education Board

[Amanda Cecil, Sr. Fiscal Analyst - 786-7460](#)

- Board for Volunteer Firefighters
- Collective Bargaining
- Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials
- Department of Retirement Systems
- Employee Compensation
- Pensions
- Public Employment Relations Commission
- State Actuary
- State Investment Board

[Maria Hovde, Sr. Fiscal Analyst - 786-7474](#)

- Department of Early Learning
- DSHS–Child Support Services
- DSHS–Children and Family Services
- DSHS–Economic Services
- TANF Issues

[James Kettel, Sr. Fiscal Analyst - 786-7459](#)

- DSHS–Administration and Support Services
- DSHS–Developmental Disabilities
- DSHS–Information System Services
- DSHS–Long Term Care
- DSHS–Payments to Other Agencies
- DSHS–Vocational Rehabilitation
- Department of Services for the Blind
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Department of Health (DOH)
- Life Science Discovery Fund
- School for the Blind
- Center for Childhood Deafness and Hearing Loss

[Daniel Masterson, Fiscal Analyst 786-7454](#)

- Arts Commission
- Attorney General
- Board of Accountancy
- Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals
- Commission on African-American Affairs
- Commission on Asian-American Affairs
- Commission on Hispanic Affairs
- Consolidated Technology Services
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Employment Security
- Department of Enterprise Services
- Department of Financial Institutions
- Department of Labor and Industries
- Department of Licensing (non-transportation portion)
- Eastern Washington Historical Society
- Gambling Commission
- Horse Racing Commission
- Human Rights Commission
- Military Department
- Minority and Women's Business Enterprises
- Office of Administrative Hearings
- Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
- Office of Chief Information Officer
- Office on Indian Affairs
- Secretary of State
- State Auditor
- State Lottery Commission
- State Treasurer
- Washington State Historical Society

[Jeff Mitchell, Revenue Counsel - 786-7438](#)

- Public Schools (K-12 Education)
- Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Washington State Charter School Commission
- K-12 Local Levies

[Jed Herman, Fiscal Analyst - 786-7346](#)

- Columbia River Gorge Commission
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Ecology
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Department of Natural Resources
- Environmental and Land Use Hearing Office
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Pollution Liability Insurance Agency
- Puget Sound Partnership
- Recreation and Conservation Office
- State Conservation Commission
- Utilities and Transportation Commission

[Julie Murray, Sr. Fiscal Counsel - 786-7711](#)

- Courts
 - Commission on Judicial Conduct

- Court of Appeals
- Law Library
- Office of the Administrator for the Courts
- Office of Civil Legal Aid
- Office of Public Defense
- Supreme Court
- Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee
- Joint Legislative Systems Committee
- LEAP Committee
- Office of the Lieutenant Governor
- Public Disclosure Commission
- Special Appropriations to the Governor
- Statute Law Committee
- Sundry Claims

[Jeff Olsen, Research Analyst - 786-7428](#)

- Revenue Policy Issues

[Sandy Stith, Sr. Fiscal Analyst - 786-7710](#)

- Employee Compensation/Health Benefits
- Health Benefits Exchange
- Health Care Authority (including administration)
- Insurance Commissioner
- Low Income Health Care (Medicaid)
- PEBB Benefits

[Travis Sugarman, Sr. Fiscal Analyst - 786-7446](#)

- Criminal Justice Training Commission
- Department of Corrections
- DSHS–Alcohol and Substance Abuse
- DSHS–Juvenile Rehabilitation
- DSHS–Mental Health
- DSHS–Special Commitment Center
- Forensics Investigation Council
- Justice Assistance Grant (formerly Byrne Grant)
- State Patrol (non-transportation portion)

[Jasmin Adams, Committee Assistant - 786-7716](#)

(Committee Contact)

[Nelson Falkenburg, Committee Assistant - 786-7389](#)