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

Vikki McGuire, Committee Assistant – 786-7464
(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

Sandy Jaime, Committee Assistant - 786-7417
(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

Samina Mays, Committee Assistant - 786-7406
(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]

Nelson Falkenburg, Committee Assistant - 786-7409

(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

Carly Johnson, Committee Assistant - 786-7415

(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 - 786-7464

(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

Vikki McGuire, Committee Assistant – 786-7467
(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

Vikki McGuire, Committee Assistant – 786-7464
(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