



Senate Committee Services – Staff Issues List

Committee name links to committee issue areas and staff contacts.

[Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks](#)

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

[Environment, Energy & Technology](#)

[Financial Institutions, Economic Development & Trade](#)

[Health & Long Term Care](#)

[Behavioral Health Subcommittee of the Health & Long Term
Care Committee](#)

[Higher Education & Workforce Development](#)

[Housing Stability & Affordability](#)

[Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation](#)

[Labor & Commerce](#)

[Law & Justice](#)

[Local Government](#)

[State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections](#)

[Transportation](#)

[Ways & Means](#)

Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks

[Karen Epps, Senior Coordinator - 786-7424](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Agriculture
- Agricultural Pests, Diseases, and Chemical Treatment
- Commodity Commissions
- Conservation Districts
- Dairy Nutrient Management
- Food Labeling, Processing and Safety
- Livestock
- Recreation and State Parks
- Drought
- Water Resources

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

- Fish and Wildlife Governance
- Wildlife Issues
- Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Geology and Surface Mining
- State Lands Management
- Forest Health and Fire
- Forestry and Timber
- Salmon Recovery
- Recreation and State Parks

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

(Committee Contact)

Early Learning & K-12 Education

[Ailey Kato, Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7434](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

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

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

- Basic Education
- Special Education
- Levies
- Charter Schools

[Benjamin Omdal, Counsel - 786-7442](#)

- High School Graduation Requirements, including Statewide Assessments
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education
- Dual Language and Bilingual Education
- Dual Credits, College in the High School, Running Start

- Paraeducators
- Collective Bargaining for School Employees
- Educator Preparation, Certification, and Evaluation

[Liza Weeks, Committee Assistant – 786-7417](#)

(Committee Contact)

Environment, Energy & Technology

[Kim Cushing, Senior Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7421](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Energy Generation and Transmission
- Climate Policy

[Jan Odano, Analyst – 786-7486](#)

- Air/Water Quality
- Toxic Substances
- Solid Waste and Recycling
- Oil Spills and Prevention

[Angela Kleis, Research Analyst – 786-7469](#)

- Technology
- Telecommunications
- Electric Vehicles

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

- Shoreline Management Act
- Puget Sound Partnership

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

(Committee Contact)

Financial Institutions, Economic Development & Insurance

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

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Banking
- Credit Unions
- Credit Ratings and Scoring
- Payday Lending
- Foreclosures
- Mortgage Brokers
- Public Depositories
- Securities Regulation
- Homeowners' and Condo Associations
- Insurance Property and Casualty
- Life Insurance

[Kellee Gunn, Analyst – 786-7429](#)

- Economic Development and Incentives
- International Trade and Export Assistance
- Landlord-Tenant

- Regional and Sector Based Development
- Regulatory Assistance
- Technical Assistance to Businesses
- Small Business Assistance
- Tourism

[Sierra Daley, Committee Assistant – 786-7463](#)

(Committee Contact)

Health & Long Term Care

[Greg Attanasio, Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7410](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Health Care Professions
- Public Health
- Private Health Insurance
- Prescription Drugs
- Telemedicine

[Kevin Black, Counsel – 786-7747](#)

- ITA/Forensic Commitments
- Behavioral Health including Substance Use, State Hospitals and Mental Health

[LeighBeth Merrick, Research Analyst - 786-7445](#)

- Developmental Disabilities
- Opioids
- Long-Term Care
- Medicaid
- Hospital Regulation

[Sierra Daley, Committee Assistant – 786-7463](#)

(Committee Contact)

Behavioral Health Subcommittee

of the Health & Long Term Care Committee

[Kevin Black, Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7483](#)

(Lead Subcommittee Contact)

- ITA/Forensic Commitments
- Mental Health
- Substance Use Disorders
- State Hospitals

[Ries t'Sas, Committee Assistant - 786-7441](#)

(Committee Contact)

Higher Education & Workforce Development

[Alicia Kinne-Clawson, Coordinator/Analyst - 786-7407](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Colleges and Universities
- Financial Aid
- Governance
- Tuition
- Academic Affairs
- Medical Education
- Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC)
- Textbooks
- Veterans Issues

[Kellee Gunn, Research Analyst - 786-7429](#)

- Campus Safety/Sexual Assault Prevention
- Faculty Issues
- For-Profit Schools
- Student Issues
- Workforce Education

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

(Committee Contact)

Housing Stability & Affordability

[Brandon Popovac, Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7465](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Housing Affordability
- Housing Stability
- Housing Authorities
- Housing Trust Fund
- Homeless Housing Program
- Transitional Housing Operating and Rent Program
- Homelessness Prevention
- Youth Homelessness
- Manufactured/Mobile Home Parks
- Manufactured/Mobile Home Landlord-Tenant Act

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

- Housing Affordability

[Liza Weeks, Committee Assistant – 786-7417](#)

(Committee Contact)

Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation

[Alison Mendiola, Coordinator/Counsel – 786-7488](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Economic Services
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- WorkFirst
- SNAP (Food Stamps)
- Aged, Blind, and Disabled
- Pregnant Women Assistance (PWA)
- Child Welfare/Child Protection
- Family Assessment Response (FAR)
- Foster Care
- Legal Representation in Dependencies
- Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

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

- Juvenile Justice

[Kelsey-anne Fung, Counsel - -786-7479](#)

- Corrections/Offender Reentry
- Sex Offenders: Civil commitment
- At-Risk Youth/CHINS/Truancy
- Status Offenders
- Domestic Violence Issues
- Crime Victims
- Criminal Justice Treatment Account
- Vulnerable Adults/Abuse and Neglect, APS

[Ries t'Sas, Committee Assistant - 786-7441](#)

(Committee Contact)

Labor & Commerce

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

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Industrial Insurance
- Unemployment Insurance
- Worker Retraining
- Professional Licensing
- Tribal Compacts
- Gambling
- Horse Racing
- Lottery

[Richard Rodger, Senior Counsel - 786-7461](#)

- Liquor
- Marijuana
- Personnel Practices
- Employment Standards
- Family and Medical Leave

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

- Consumer Protection
- Apprenticeships
- Prevailing Wage
- Construction Trades Licensing and Regulation
- Labor Trafficking
- Collective Bargaining

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

(Committee Contact)

Law & Justice

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

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Collection Issues
- Tort Law
- DUI
- Firearms
- General Criminal and Civil
- Guardianship and Probate Issues
- Business Law
- Unpiloted Aerial Vehicles
- Uniform Laws

[Shani Bauer, Senior Counsel - 786-7468](#)

- Firearms
- Sex Offenders
- Domestic Violence Protection Orders
- Home-owners Associations
- Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act
- New Crimes and Sentencing Changes
- General Criminal Issues
- Motor Vehicle Related Issues

[Melissa Burke-Cain, Senior Counsel - 786-7755](#)

- Human Trafficking
- 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

[Ries t'Sas, Committee Assistant - 786-7441](#)

(Committee Contact)

Local Government

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

(Lead Committee Contact)

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

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

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

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

(Committee Contact)

State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections

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

(Lead Committee Contact)

- 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

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

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

- Audits of State Government Programs and Agencies
- Emergency Management
- Information Technology at State Agencies
- Public Contracting Procedures
- Public Works
- Administrative Procedure Act
- Civil Service

- Tribal Relations
- Regulatory Reform
- Historic Preservation
- Archives

[Sierra Daley, Committee Assistant – 786-7463](#)

(Committee Contact)

Transportation

[Kelly Simpson, Senior Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7403](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

Budget Assignments:

- Washington State Transportation Commission

Policy Assignments:

- Utilities and Transportation Commission (passenger/property transportation)
- State and Regional Transportation Governance
- State and Regional Transportation Planning
- Transportation Element of Growth Management Act
- Special Purpose Districts

[Hayley Gamble, Fiscal Coordinator -786-7452](#)

Budget Assignments:

- Joint Transportation Committee (JTC)
- Office of State Treasurer (OST) (Bond Retirement and Interest)
- Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program (LEAP)
- Office of Financial Management (OFM)
- Budget Bill Development and Coordination

Policy Assignments:

- Financial Plans/Fund Balances
- Bonds Issuance and Retirement

[Erica Bramlet, Fiscal Analyst - 786-7321](#)

Budget Assignments:

- DOT – Toll Operations
- DOT – Highway Improvements
- DOT – Management
- DOT – Highway Maintenance
- DOT – Highway Preservation
- DOT – Traffic Operations
- DOT – Planning, Data, and Research
- DOT – Program Management and Support
- Archeology and Historic Preservation
- State Parks and Recreation

Policy Assignments:

- Tolls
- Highways
- Environmental Issues

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

Budget Assignments:

- Board of Pilotage
- Utilities and Transportation Commission
- Washington State Ferries
- Operating
- Capital
- DOT – Information Technology
- DOT – Rail
 - Operating
 - Capital
- DOT – Local Programs
- DOT – Aviation
- DOT – Public Transportation

Policy Assignments:

- Washington State Ferries
- Rail
- Local Transit Agencies, including Sound Transit
- Utilities and Transportation Commission (marine pilotage and rail)

[Kim Johnson, Senior Counsel - 786-7472](#)

Budget Assignments:

- Budget Bill Development and Drafting
- DOT – Public/Private Partnerships
- Traffic Safety Commission

Policy Assignments:

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

[Bryon Moore, Senior Fiscal Analyst - 786-7726](#)

Budget Assignments:

- Department of Licensing
 - Drivers
 - Vehicles
- Department of Agriculture
- Washington State Patrol
 - Operating
 - Capitol
- DOT – Information Technology
- DOT – Equipment Fund
- DOT – Charges from Other Agencies
- DOT – Facilities
 - Operating
 - Capital
- Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB)
- Transportation Improvement Board (TIB)
- County Road Administration Board (CRAB)

Policy Assignments:

- Department of Licensing
 - Drivers
 - Vehicles
- State Transportation Revenue Forecast
- State and Local Transportation Taxes and Fees
- Washington State Patrol

Dana Tietjen, Committee Assistant – 786-7784

(Committee Contact)

Ways & Means

Michael Bezanson, Staff Coordinator - 786-7449

(Lead Committee Contact)

James Kettel, Operating Budget Coordinator - 786-7459

- Operating Budget Issues

Jeff Mitchell, Revenue Coordinator - 786-7438

- Revenue Policy Issues

Richard Ramsey, Capital Budget Coordinator - 786-7412

- Local Government Assistance
- Municipal Research Council
- Bond Retirement and Interest

Julie Murray, Senior Budget Counsel - 786-7711

- Attorney General
- House of Representatives
- Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee
- Joint Legislative Systems
- LEAP Committee
- Senate
- Special Appropriations to the Governor
- State Treasurer
- Statute Law Committee (Code Reviser)
- Sundry Claims

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, Senior Fiscal Analyst - 786-7460

- Board for Volunteer Firefighters
- Collective Bargaining
- Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials
- Department of Retirement Systems

- Employee Compensation
- Employee Compensation/Health Benefits
- PEBB Benefits
- Pensions
- Public Employment Relations Commission
- SEBB Benefits
- State Actuary
- State Investment Board

[*Sarah Emmans, Fiscal Analyst, 786-7478*](#)

- DCYF – Early Learning
- DCYF – Program Support
- DCYF – Child Welfare
- DSHS – Child Support Services
- DSHS – Economic Services
- TANF Issues
- Employment Security Department
- Labor and Industries
- Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals

[*Kayla Hammer, Fiscal Analyst - 786-7303*](#)

- DCYF – Juvenile Rehabilitation
- Department of Corrections
- DSHS – Special Commitment Center
- K-12: OSPI, Education Reform, Institutional Education
- Center for Childhood Deafness and Hearing Loss
- School for the Blind

[*Jed Herman, Senior 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
- Military Department
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Pollution Liability Insurance Agency
- Puget Sound Partnership
- Recreation and Conservation Office
- State Conservation Commission
- Utilities and Transportation Commission

[*Maria Hovde, Senior Fiscal Analyst - 786-7474*](#)

- Caseload Forecast Council
- DSHS – Developmental Disabilities
- DSHS – Long Term Care
- Department of Services for the Blind
- Department of Veterans Affairs

[*Alia Kennedy, Revenue Counsel - 786-7405*](#)

- Revenue Policy Issues

Jeff Naas, Senior Fiscal Analyst - 786-7708

- K-12 Education (all but OSPI and Education Reform)
- K-12 Local Levies
- K-12 Capital
- Charter Schools

Corban Nemeth, Fiscal Analyst - 786-7736

- Board of Tax Appeals
- Department of Health
- Department of Revenue
- DSHS/HCA Behavioral Health
- DSHS – Admin and Support Services
- DSHS – Information System Services
- DSHS – Payments to Other Agencies
- DSHS – Vocational Rehabilitation
- Liquor and Cannabis Board

Sarian Scott, Outlook Coordinator - 786-7729

- Four-Year Budget Outlook
- Information Technology, Statewide
- Interagency Billing Model
- Lease Facilities, Statewide
- Board of Accountancy
- Consolidated Technology Services
- Department of Enterprise Services
- Economic and Revenue Forecast Council
- Office of Chief Information Officer
- Office of Financial Management
- Office of the Governor
- Office of the Lieutenant Governor
- Public Disclosure Commission
- Secretary of State
- State Auditor
- State Lottery Commission
- Office of Administrative Hearings

Sandy Stith, Senior Fiscal Analyst - 786-7710

- Health Benefits Exchange
- Insurance Commissioner
- HCA – Low Income Health Care (Medicaid)

Vacant

- Arts Commission
- Commission on African-American Affairs
- Commission on Asian-American Affairs
- Commission on Hispanic Affairs
- 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
- Criminal Justice Training Commission

- Department of Commerce
- Department of Financial Institutions
- Department of Licensing (non-transportation)
- Eastern Washington Historical Society
- Forensics Investigation Council
- Gambling Commission
- Horse Racing Commission
- Human Rights Commission
- Minority and Women's Business Enterprises
- Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
- Office on Indian Affairs
- State Patrol (non-transportation)
- Washington State Historical Society

[Liza Weeks, Committee Assistant – 786-7417](#)

(Committee Contact)