



Senate Committee Services – Staff Issues List

Committee name links to committee issue areas and staff contacts.

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Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks

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

(Lead Committee Contact)

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

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

- State Natural Resource Lands Management
- Forestry Issues
- Fish and Wildlife Issues
- Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Salmon Recovery
- Geology and Surface Mining
- Recreation and State Parks

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

(Committee Contact)

Behavioral Health Subcommittee

of the Health & Long Term Care Committee

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

(Lead Subcommittee Contact)

- Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Treatment
- Involuntary Treatment Act/Crisis Response
- Forensic Commitments
- Community Behavioral Health System
- State Hospitals

[Noah Powelson, Committee Assistant - 786-7422](#)

(Committee Contact)

Business, Financial Services & Trade

[*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
- Economic Development and Incentives
- Regional and Sector Based Development

[Kellee Gunn, Analyst – 786-7429](#)

- Insurance Property and Casualty
- Life Insurance
- International Trade and Export Assistance
- Regulatory Assistance
- Technical Assistance to Businesses
- Small Business Assistance
- Tourism

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

(Committee Contact)

Early Learning & K-12 Education

[*Ailey Kato, Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7434 and 360-464-2520](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

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

[Alex Fairfortune, Counsel – 360-999-5119](#)

- Basic Education
- Special Education
- Institutional Education
- Charter Schools
- Education Funding, including Levy and Bond Authority
- Student Transportation
- Education Governance and Elections
- School Construction

[Benjamin Omdal, Counsel – 360-350-4640](#)

- 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

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

(Committee Contact)

Environment, Energy & Technology

[*Angela Kleis, Coordinator – 786-7469](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Technology
- Telecommunications

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

- Energy Generation and Transmission
- Climate Policy
- Electric Vehicles

[Greg Vogel, Counsel – 786-7413](#)

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

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

(Committee Contact)

Health & Long Term Care

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

(Lead Committee Contact)

- 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

[Julie Tran, Associate Research Analyst - 786-7283](#)

- Health Care Professions

- Public Health

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

(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
- Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC)
- Veterans Issues

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

- Campus Safety/Sexual Assault Prevention
- Equity and Diversity
- For-Profit Schools
- Workforce Education

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

(Committee Contact)

Housing & Local Government

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

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Housing Trust Fund
- Homeless Housing Program
- Homelessness Prevention
- Housing Authorities
- Housing Finance Commission
- Manufactured/Mobile Home Landlord-Tenant Act
- Residential Landlord-Tenant Act
- Residential Zoning
- Youth Homelessness

[Maggie Douglas, Research Analyst, 786-7279](#)

- Administrative Procedures Act
- Annexation
- City and County Governance
- Emergency Management
- Fire Protection
- Government Incorporation
- Growth Management Act
- Land Use and Development

- Property Taxes
- Public Contracting Procedures
- Public Works
- Special Purpose Districts
- Vesting

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

- Housing Affordability
- Fire Protection
- Special Purpose Districts

[Liza Weeks, Committee Assistant – 786-7716](#)

(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 Benefits)
- Aged, Blind, and Disabled
- Pregnant Women Assistance (PWA)
- Child Welfare/Child Protection
- Foster Care
- Dependency
- Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)
- At-Risk Youth/CHINS/Truancy
- Status Offenders
- Vulnerable Adults/Abuse and Neglect, APS
- Developmental Disabilities

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

- Corrections/Offender Reentry
- Sex Offenders: Civil commitment
- Domestic Violence Issues
- Crime Victims
- Criminal Justice Treatment Account

[Julie Tran, Associate Research Analyst - 786-7283](#)

- Juvenile Rehabilitation

[Noah Powelson, Committee Assistant - 786-7422](#)

(Committee Contact)

Labor, Commerce & Tribal Affairs

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

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Industrial Insurance (Workers' Compensation)
- Unemployment Insurance
- Worker Retraining
- Gambling
- Tribal Compacts
- Horse Racing
- Lottery

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

- Consumer Protection
- Apprenticeships
- Construction Trades Licensing and Standards
- Prevailing Wage
- Workplace Safety and Labor Trafficking
- Collective Bargaining
- Tribal Affairs

[Matt Shepard-Koningsor, Counsel - 786-7627](#)

- Liquor
- Cannabis
- Employment Standards and Personnel Practices
- Employment Leave, including Paid Family and Medical Leave

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

(Committee Contact)

Law & Justice

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

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Business Law
- DUI
- Family Law
- Firearms
- General Criminal and Civil
- Guardianship and Probate Issues
- Homeowner's Associations
- Tort Law
- Uniform Laws

[Ryan Giannini, Associate Counsel – 786-7285](#)

- Firearms
- General Criminal and Civil Issues
- New Crimes and Sentencing Changes

[Joe McKittrick, Counsel – 786-7287](#)

- Firearms
- General Criminal and Civil Issues
- New Crimes and Sentencing Changes

[Noah Powelson, Committee Assistant - 786-7422](#)

(Committee Contact)

State Government & 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

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

- Audits of State Government Programs and Agencies
- Emergency Management
- Public Contracting Procedures
- Public Works
- Administrative Procedure Act
- Civil Service
- Regulatory Reform
- Historic Preservation
- Archives

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

(Committee Contact)

Transportation

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

(Lead Committee Contact)

Budget Assignments:

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

Policy Assignments:

- Bicycles
- Initiative and Referendum Issues
- Motorcycles and Motor Scooters
- State and Regional Transportation Governance
- State and Regional Transportation Planning
- Tolls
- Traffic Safety and Rules of the Road
- Transportation Security Issues (e.g., valid identification and legal presence)
- Transportation Element of Growth Management Act
- Tribal Issues
- Special Purpose Districts
- Utilities and Transportation Commission (passenger/property transportation)

[Jenna Forty, Fiscal Analyst – 786-7755](#)

Budget Assignments:

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

[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

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

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

Policy Assignments:

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

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

Budget Assignments:

- Department of Licensing
 - Drivers
 - Vehicles
- Department of Agriculture
- Washington State Patrol
- DOT – Equipment Fund
- DOT – Charges from Other Agencies
- DOT – Facilities
- 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

[Susan Howson, Senior Staff Coordinator - 786-7273](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

[James Kettel, Operating Budget Coordinator - 786-7459](#)

- Operating Budget Issues

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

- Revenue Policy Issues

Michael Bezanson, Capital Budget Coordinator - 786-7449

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

Julie Murray, Senior Budget Counsel - 786-7711

- Attorney General
- Budget Counsel
- House of Representatives
- Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee
- Joint Legislative Systems
- LEAP Committee
- Senate
- Special Appropriations to the Governor
- 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
- Center for Childhood Deafness and Hearing Loss
- School for the Blind

Shani Bauer, Senior Fiscal Counsel – 786-7468

- Commissions on Judicial Conduct
- Court of Appeals
- Courts
- Law Library
- Legal Issues relating to Capital Budget
 - Debt Limit
 - Lending of Credit
 - Gift of Public Funds
- Office of the Administrator for the Courts, Office of Civil Legal Aid
- Office of Public Defense
- State Treasurer
- Supreme Court

Wendy Brown, Senior Fiscal Analyst – 786-7359

- Children, Youth & Families
- Criminal Justice Training Commission
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce – Housing
- Department of Commerce – all other
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Ecology
- Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Department of Health

- Department of Labor & Industries
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Social & Health Services
 - Admin & Supporting Services
 - Development Disabilities
 - Long-Term Care
 - Mental Health
 - Special Commitment
- Department of Transportation
- Employment Security Department
- Military Department
- Parks & Recreation Commission
- Pollution Liability Insurance Program
- Puget Sound Partnership
- State Conservation Commission
- Veteran's Affairs
- Washington State Patrol

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

- Board for Volunteer Firefighters
- Board of Tax Appeals
- Collective Bargaining
- Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials
- Department of Retirement Systems
- Department of Revenue
- Employee Compensation
- Employee Compensation/Health Benefits
- Liquor and Cannabis Board
- PEBB Benefits
- Pensions
- Public Employment Relations Commission
- SEBB Benefits
- State Actuary
- State Investment Board

[Monica Fontaine, Fiscal Analyst – 786-7341](#)

- Board of Accountancy
- Criminal Justice Training Commission
- Department of Children, Youth & Families – Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration
- Department of Social & Health Services – Special Commitment Center
- Economic & Revenue Forecast Council
- Office of Administrative Hearings
- Office of the Governor
- Office of Independent Investigations
- Office of the Lieutenant Governor
- Lease Facilities – statewide
- Public Disclosure Commission
- Secretary of State
- State Auditor
- State Lottery Commission

[Kayla Hammer, Fiscal Analyst - 786-7305](#)

- K-12 Education
- K-12 Local Levies
- Charter Schools
- K-12: OSPI, Education Reform, Institutional Education

[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
- Recreation and Conservation Office
- State Conservation Commission
- Utilities and Transportation Commission

[Josh Hinman, Fiscal Analyst – 786-7281](#)

- Department of Children, Youth & Families
 - Early Learning
 - Program Support
 - Child Welfare
 - Child Support Services
 - Economic Services
- Employment Security Department
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

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

- Caseload Forecast Council
- Department of Social & Health Services
 - Developmental Disabilities
 - Long Term Care
- Department of Services for the Blind
- Department of Veterans Affairs

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

- Revenue Policy Issues

[Corban Nemeth, Fiscal Analyst - 786-7736](#)

- Behavioral Health (DSHS & HCA)
- Department of Health
- Department of Social & Health Services
 - Admin and Support Services
 - Information System Services
 - Payments to Other Agencies
 - Vocational Rehabilitation

[Trevor Press, Associate Fiscal Analyst – 786-7446](#)

- Arts Commission
- Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals
- Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
- Commission on African-American Affairs
- Commission on Asian-American Affairs
- Commission on Hispanic Affairs

- 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
- Labor and Industries
- Minority and Women's Business Enterprises
- Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
- Office on Indian Affairs
- State Patrol (non-transportation)
- Washington State Historical Society

Sarian Scott, Outlook Coordinator - 786-7729

- Consolidated Technology Services
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Enterprise Services
- Four-Year Budget Outlook
- Information Technology, Statewide
- Interagency Billing Model
- Office of Chief Information Officer
- Office of Financial Management

Sandy Stith, Senior Fiscal Analyst - 786-7710

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

Liza Weeks, Committee Assistant – 786-7716

(Committee Contact)