

ADVOCACY

For more advocacy resources, including a list of state legislative priorities and issue factsheets, visit the [Washington Low Income Housing Alliance](#) online or call 206-442-9455 to talk with an organizer.

Stand for Your Mission has resources on the importance of nonprofit board members' role in advocacy. Visit [standforyourmission.org](#).

CRIMINALIZATION AND CONSTRUCTIVE ALTERNATIVES

For an overview of local ordinances in Washington state that criminalize homelessness, see *Washington's War on the Visibly Poor: A Survey of Criminalizing Ordinances and Their Enforcement* by Seattle University. More publications about the criminalization of homelessness are available online through the [SAMHSA Library](#).

For examples of alternatives to criminalization and various policy approaches, see *Searching Out Solutions: Constructive Alternatives to the Criminalization of Homelessness* by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, and *No Safe Place: The Criminalization of Homelessness in U.S. Cities* by the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty.

FACTSHEETS

Department of Commerce County-by-County Profiles on Housing Affordability:

[Clark County Factsheet](#)

[King County Factsheet](#)

[Kitsap County Factsheet](#)

[Pierce County Factsheet](#)

[Snohomish County Factsheet](#)

[Spokane County Factsheet](#)

[Thurston County Factsheet](#)

[Whatcom County Factsheet](#)

[Yakima County Factsheet](#)

[All other county profiles](#)

Community Organizing Resources:

[Strategy Development Chart](#) from Midwest Academy

[Steps to Develop a Strategic Political Landscape Power Analysis](#) from SCOPE

Media & Messaging:

[Reaching Your Audience: A Media Guide](#)

[Myths and Facts of Homelessness in Washington State](#)

Moving Your Lawmakers:

[Cycle of the Criminalization of Homelessness](#)

[Checklist for Planning a Lawmaker Meeting](#)

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND HOMELESSNESS IN WASHINGTON

For local information on housing affordability see the [County-by-County profiles](#) from the Department of Commerce. Here you can find:

- Local statistics and information that can be used to help educate the community and local officials, including information about need.
- Local investments made via the Housing Trust Fund and other important programs.

For an overview of the homeless response system in Washington state, see *Housing for Homeless Individuals With Mental Illnesses and Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorders* by DSHS and the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance.

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES

You can leave a toll-free message for your state elected officials via the State's Legislative Hotline at 800-562-6000.

The [Legislative Information Center](#) provides information about the Legislature and the legislative process, including free trainings, tours of the capitol campus and resources to help navigate how a bill becomes law. You can also call their office with questions at 360-786-7573.

More resources can be found at the [Washington State Legislature](#) online.

MEDIA AND MESSAGING RESOURCES

See the [Myths and Facts of Homelessness in Washington](#) factsheet to help advocates reframe the narrative on homelessness.

Follow the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#), and don't forget to check out our [blog](#) for regular policy updates and analysis.

NONPROFITS AND LOBBYING RULES

For information on lobbying rules for nonprofit organizations, see the Alliance for Justice's [Bolder Advocacy Initiative](#), which include resources such as:

- *Being a Player: A Guide to IRS Lobbying Regulations for Advocacy Charities*
- *Public Charities Can Lobby*

RESEARCHING A STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Below is an example what you can see on each State Legislative Committee's webpage, including members, staff, operating procedures, meeting notes and materials, reports from the committee, and notice of upcoming committee meetings. (Note that many local governments also have helpful information on their websites including committee members, meeting agenda and materials, vote counts, and more.)

Senate Ways & Means Committee

[Legislature Home](#) > [Senate](#) > [Committees](#) > Ways & Means

311 J.A. Cherberg Bldg., P.O. Box 40466, Olympia, WA 98504-0466

Committee Hearings & Bill Information: (360) 786-7715

Legislative Hotline Operators: 1-800-562-6000

The Senate Ways and Means Committee considers the operating and capital budget bills and related legislation, including the authorization of state debt. The Committee also deals with tax policy and other fiscal issues such as pension policy and compensation in addition to bills with operating budget fiscal impacts.

Senate Ways and Means Committee staff are part of Senate Committee Services, the organization which provides nonpartisan staff services for all standing committees of the Washington State Senate.

(Please note: This general description should not be considered the definitive listing of issues considered by this committee.)

Copies of draft bills, proposed substitute bills, or striking amendments scheduled for public hearings:

Committee Meeting Documents/Electronic Bill Book (EBB)

Highlights

Proposed Final 2016 Supplemental Operating Budget (ESHB 2376)

[Overview](#)

[Summary and Agency Detail Reports](#)

2016 Operating Budget Briefing Book

[Overview of Governor Inslee's 2016 Supplemental Operating and Capital Budget Proposals](#)

[Governor's Proposed 2016 Supplemental Operating Budget](#)

[Governor's Proposed 2016 Supplemental Capital Budget](#)

To see who comprises a committee, go to leg.wa.gov. Click on "Committees" on the right side of the page where you will be able to link to all the committees. During the legislative session (usually January - March or April each year) any committees that have meetings that day will be listed on the legislative home page. You can see the agenda for each meeting by clicking on the accompanying agenda link.

RESEARCHING YOUR STATE LAWMAKER

You can learn about legislators by browsing the [Member Roster](#) for their webpage. Here you can read their biographies, learn what committees they serve on, their voting record, and what bills they are sponsoring. Having some background information about the person you are meeting with can help you plan and refine your meeting goals. This is true for any decision maker you are meeting with, not only state lawmakers.

	Representative June Robinson (D) 38th Legislative District	Olympia Office 332 John L. O'Brien Building PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 786 - 7864
Home Page	Email Details	Committees Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs (Vice Chair) Finance (Vice Chair) Appropriations Health Care & Wellness
District Office 2930 Wetmore Ave Suite 9C-2 Everett, WA 98201 (425) 258 - 4215		

Click on the “Details” button to reveal the legislator’s voting record by session year and bill sponsorship.

Voting Record (Will open a new tab) 2015 2014	Bill Sponsorship Print Quality Photo
---	---

Using Representative June Robinson’s listing, we can see the following:

- Legislative District: 38th.
- Committee Assignments: Community Development; Housing & Tribal Affairs (of which she is the Vice Chair); Finance; and Health Care & Wellness.
- She has an office location both in Olympia and in her home district. (A legislator’s home district can be a great place for meetings between legislative sessions, either in their office or at an affordable housing site.)
- Her voting record and bill sponsorship.
- Website, biography, and email contact.

RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS OR IN NEED OF SERVICES

2-1-1 is a free and confidential service that helps people find local resources they need, including housing and utility assistance, food assistance, health care, crisis and emergency services, and veterans services, among others. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Visit [Washington Law Help](#) to find many helpful resources on your rights, including tenants rights, rights to public benefits, consumer and debt relief, and more.

The [Tenants Union of Washington](#) provides extensive resources on tenants rights, including rental agreements, local laws, housing repairs, utilities, eviction and foreclosure, as well as low income housing resources and more. Resources are available on their website in English, Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese.

[Solid Ground's Housing Counseling Services for Tenants](#) helps families and individuals maintain permanent and reliable rental housing, providing tenants with the resources and tools they need to prevent eviction and ensure housing stability. While Solid Ground does not have attorneys on staff and cannot provide legal advice, they can help you understand your rights and responsibilities as a renter.

Veterans specific resources can be accessed at:

- [NW Justice Project's Veterans Project](#): provides free legal services to financially eligible low income and homeless veterans for civil (not criminal) legal problems that are barriers to housing, employment, and self-sufficiency
- [Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs](#)
- [Washington State Attorney General](#)

Voting rights in Washington State:

- For information on registering to vote while homeless, see the [Homeless Voters Information Guide](#) by the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness.
- For information on voting rights restoration for felons, see the ACLU's [Frequently Asked Questions About Voting Rights Restoration in Washington](#).

SCHEDULING A MEETING WITH YOUR LAWMAKER

You can request a meeting with your state or local lawmaker by phone or email. If you make an email request, send it your lawmaker's legislative aide or staff. For state lawmakers, you can locate the legislative aide's contact information in the State Legislature's [Member Roster](#).

Sample email:

To: [firstname.lastname@leg.wa.gov]

Subject: Meeting request from [your name or organization]

Hello,

I'd like to request a meeting with [Senator or Representative's name] to talk about [bill or community issue]. I have [#] other people interested in joining me. We are able to travel to your district office and the best time for us would be [time of day]. Does [Senator or Representative's name] have any time to meet with us in the coming weeks?

I can be reached at [your phone number].

Thank you for your assistance,

[Your name]