



# SENATOR TINA ORWALL

Vice Caucus Chair  
33rd Legislative District  
2026 Session Report

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**Committees:**

Health & Long-Term Care,  
*Vice Chair*

Housing

Human Services

Rules

Veterans' & Military Affairs

*Dear friends and neighbors,*

The 2026 legislative session was nothing short of difficult. Budget pressures, rising costs, and federal uncertainty affected what we accomplished during our 60 days in Olympia, but we still have much to celebrate. I am excited to update you on all the great progress we made this year.

We passed more than 270 bills this session, and many of them tackle the tough issues affecting our state. This newsletter includes more information about the legislation and budget investments that will help us:

- Recover from the December 2025 floods and improve our resilience.
- Protect us from federal overreach and the actions of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents.
- Ensure people can afford their basic needs and rebalance our tax code for working families and small businesses.
- Increase our housing supply and prevent homelessness and foreclosure.
- Increase access to health care and behavioral health services.
- Mitigate the effects and risks of artificial intelligence (AI).

I am thrilled that five of my bills were among those passed this year. These bills address a range of issues like restricting the use of AI in health care prior authorizations, strengthening protections against child sexual exploitation, improving our response to youth homelessness, strengthening the Foreclosure Fairness Act, and making it easier for people to seek compensation for wrongful convictions and imprisonment.

I also helped secure funding to continue providing asthma interventions for children in our district. Though my proposal to mitigate the health and environmental impacts of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport did not pass this year, we were able to identify a potential stable funding source that can address failed port noise packages. More work ahead!

Although the legislative session has ended, my service to our district is year-round. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you need assistance with a state agency or have thoughts to share. You can always reach me at [Tina.Orwall@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Tina.Orwall@leg.wa.gov) with your feedback or questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tina Orwall".

Sen. Tina Orwall, M.S.W.



# 33rd Legislative District

## Recovering from the December 2025 Flooding

As chair of the bipartisan, bicameral Flood Caucus, I am proud of the work we did this session to help our state recover from last December's historic flooding. This includes:

- \$41 million in our capital budget specifically for recovery and prevention, including grants to cover the cost of debris and waterway clearance, levee and floodplain investments on the Nooksack, Green, and Samish rivers, and needs and risk assessments to help King County and others identify their highest-value flood preparedness projects for funding in future years.
- \$2 million to design and upgrade the levee system near Signature Pointe to a 500-year flood protection level, which will directly benefit about 2,200 Kent residents. This investment represents a critical step toward long-term flood resilience in our community.
- \$45 million in our transportation budget for state and local highway recovery, so communities can repair infrastructure now while we wait for federal disaster aid.
- \$2 million to help people who live in RVs that were damaged by the floods.



To apply for federal disaster assistance, call 1-800-621-336 or scan the QR code to visit [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov).

It is recommended that people first file claims with their insurance providers before applying for aid.



## Protecting Washington from ICE & Federal Overreach

The federal government's aggressive tactics have left many of our immigrant friends and neighbors living in fear of deportation and other harm. This session, we refused to stand by and let masked ICE agents violate people's civil rights and commit horrible acts of violence. We passed several bills this session that will bring additional transparency, accountability, and protection by:

- Prohibiting law enforcement officers — including ICE agents — from wearing face-concealing masks while interacting with the public ([SB 5855](#)).
- Preserving the integrity of Washington's law enforcement by making it a crime for people who are not law enforcement officers to wear badges or other law enforcement insignia ([HB 2165](#)).
- Strengthening protections for immigrant workers against retaliation and coercion ([HB 2105](#)).
- Allowing people to use shared leave for work absences if they are victims of hate crimes or affected by ICE actions ([HB 2411](#)).
- Preventing ICE from using surveillance tools like automatic license plate readers, ensuring community safety and trust ([SB 6002](#)).

I also sponsored legislation ([SB 6286](#)) that proposed fining ICE detention facilities for not letting our Department of Health in to inspect. This money would have been put into a fund to help people and families who ICE has harmed. This will be a priority bill for me again next session as Washington continues to stand up to the federal government's inhumane immigration actions.



# SENATOR TINA ORWALL

## Helping People Afford Their Basic Needs

Addressing our state's affordability crisis was a top priority this year. I am thrilled we passed legislation ([SB 6162](#)) expanding a property tax relief program to help an additional 30,000 seniors, people with disabilities, and veterans with disabilities stay in their homes. We also created a new statewide program ([HB 1903](#)) to provide ongoing energy bill assistance to eligible low-income households.

Our most significant effort to reduce costs for Washingtonians was passing the historic Millionaires Tax ([SB 6346](#)). In the simplest terms, the Millionaires Tax is a 9.9% tax on households earning over \$1 million per year. If a household makes \$1,000,500 each year, the tax will only apply to that \$500, meaning the tax owed would only be about \$50. The tax will only impact about 20,000 households statewide, including about 133 of the wealthiest households in our district.

I am proud to have helped pass this historic bill because it will:

- Eliminate sales taxes on personal care products, all diapers, and many over-the-counter drugs.
- Exempt about 70% of all Washington businesses from the Business & Occupation tax.
- Increase access to early learning programs and provide resources to support child care and early learning providers.
- Provide school meals to all public school students.
- Expand eligibility for the [Working Families Tax Credit](#) to 460,000 additional lower-income households.

Scan the QR code to find out if you're eligible for a property tax exemption.



## Building More Housing & Preventing Homelessness

Over the last few years, we have made significant gains to address our housing crisis, including stabilizing annual rent increases and building more homes across the state. During my time in the legislature, I have also worked to expand foreclosure mediation and housing counseling to help people stay in their homes.

I am also proud to have secured the final funding for Kent's Open Doors Multicultural Village, which will serve people with intellectual and development disabilities, as well as folks with lower incomes. This will be an incredible support hub for our district.

This session, we continued to pass good legislation that will help our state build more housing, prevent homelessness, and reduce foreclosure by:

- Expanding the membership of the Homeless Youth Advisory

committee, ensuring people with lived experience as homeless youth are helping guide our state's planning and prevention efforts ([SB 5957](#), Orwall sponsored).

- Strengthening and clarifying the Foreclosure Fairness Act, so we can help keep people in their homes whenever possible ([SB 5938](#), Orwall sponsored).
- Allowing residential development in commercially zoned land and removing barriers to building homes ([SB 6026](#)).

- Letting local governments use existing revenue tools to preserve affordable housing, ensuring that existing affordable housing is well maintained and residents have services and support ([SB 6027](#)).
- Creating clear standards for the development of shelters, transitional housing, emergency housing, and permanent supportive housing. This will make it easier to site shelters and supportive housing while still allowing reasonable operating requirements ([HB 2266](#)).



**Facing foreclosure?  
Help is available!**

**Call 1-877-894-HOME (4663)**



# 2026 Session Report

## Increasing Access to Health Care & Behavioral Health Services

Washington continues to make great progress to help people when they need it, especially with our 988 suicide and crisis line, but there is more we can do to increase awareness about it. I am thankful our transportation budget provides funding to install signs displaying the 988 line on or near bridges that are at high risk for suicides. I also secured state budget funds to give 988 call centers more resources to serve LGBTQ+ people.

In addition to these investments, our state budget provides essential resources that will help us sustain access to health care, including support for community hospitals, behavioral health services, and the Apple Health (Medicaid) program. It also invests significantly in strengthening our behavioral health system, with a focus on expanding access to treatment and recovery services.

To counter the chaos and overreach coming from the federal government, we passed legislation this session that protects Washingtonians' access to quality, affordable health care by:

- Restricting the use of AI in making prior authorization determinations, ensuring only licensed providers are ultimately making patients' critical insurance decisions ([SB 5395](#), Orwall sponsored).
- Shifting decision-making authority on vaccines to the Washington State Department of Health instead of the federal government, ensuring recommendations are guided by medical and scientific expertise and guaranteeing access to preventive services without cost-sharing ([HB 2242](#)).

**988** | Suicide & Crisis  
**LIFELINE**



Call



Chat



Text

- Addressing health care workforce shortages by making it easier for qualified international medical graduates already living and working in Washington to continue practicing medicine ([SB 5185](#)).
- Creating a permanent funding source for health clinics that provide abortion services, ensuring Washingtonians can continue to access this critical care ([SB 6182](#)).
- Expanding the availability of mifepristone pills that are essential to both medication abortions and miscarriage care, so patients who need them can get them ([SB 5917](#)).



# SENATOR TINA ORWALL

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## Investing in the 33rd Legislative District

As your state senator, one of my main priorities is to deliver solutions that will improve life for everyone who lives in our beautiful district, especially our neighbors surrounding Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

The airport is a critical part of our economy, but the increased noise and aircraft pollution has harmful effects on people's health and quality of life. This session, I advocated for legislation ([SB 5652](#)) to mitigate these health and environmental impacts. We heard some powerful testimony from folks in our district, and while the bill did not pass, I secured budget funding to help continue the free clinical interventions for kids in our community who have poorly controlled asthma. Holding the airport accountable will continue to be one of my priorities in future legislative sessions.

I am also proud to have worked with my seatmates, Reps. Mia Gregerson and Edwin Obras, to secure more than \$4.3 million for several construction projects in our district. This includes:

- Building Kent's Open Doors Multicultural Village, a support hub for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. After working closely with Open Doors for four years, I am thrilled we have secured the final funding they need to break ground on a 233-unit housing development that will serve those with lower incomes and intellectual and developmental disabilities. The village will also feature an inclusive learning center, a resource center, and retail space.
- Improving the community kitchen at Living Well Kent, an organization that promotes wellness and health in south King County.

- Purchasing and repairing a community facility for Para Los Niños, an organization in Burien that is dedicated to supporting the education of children from our Latin American community.
- Building the African Diaspora Cultural Anchor Village and Welcoming and Healing Center. These projects will provide essential affordable housing, community, and support for African immigrants and refugees in King County.

These are important investments that will not only create jobs but also improve people's quality of life and access to opportunities.



## Asthma Care for King County Kids



### Eligible clients must:

- Consent to home visits
- Have poorly controlled asthma
- Be a King County resident
- Be between 6 and 12 years old

**Free program includes comprehensive home visits, educational materials, and supplies**





SENATOR  
**TINA ORWALL**

*Serving King County*

Senator  
**TINA  
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**Questions?** Send me an email at [Tina.Orwall@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Tina.Orwall@leg.wa.gov) OR contact my legislative assistant at [Mary.Soderlind@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Mary.Soderlind@leg.wa.gov).

## Regulating AI to Protect Kids & Consumers

While the federal government is trying to curb AI regulations, Washington is fighting for reasonable guardrails to protect our kids and consumers. This session, we passed some critical legislation that regulates this new technology by:

- Restricting the use of AI in making prior authorization determinations, ensuring only licensed providers are ultimately making patients' critical insurance decisions ([SB 5395](#), Orwall sponsored).
- Strengthening protections against child sexual exploitation by holding predators accountable for creating, viewing, distributing, or possessing fabricated sexually explicit images of minors, including those produced through generative AI ([SB 5105](#), Orwall sponsored).
- Requiring chatbot operators that know a user is a minor to regularly notify them that the chatbot is AI and not human, implement measures that would prevent minors from being shown explicit content, and establish protocols that would help connect kids to crisis services when they express suicidal ideation ([HB 2225](#)).

