



**2026 WHATCOM COUNTY  
LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD**



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**FUTURE 42** recently released our second annual comprehensive scorecard highlighting key votes taken by all 147 legislators during the 2026 legislative session. That full scorecard can be viewed [here](#).

Today, Future 42 Whatcom County is releasing an abbreviated legislative scorecard specifically highlighting the key votes taken by legislators representing Whatcom County during the 2026 legislative session.

40th District: Senator Liz Lovelett (D), Rep. Debra Lekanoff (D), and Rep. Alex Ramel (D)

42nd District: Senator Sharon Shewmake (D), Rep. Alicia Rule (D), and Rep. Joe Timmons (D)

This information is critical to ensure that Whatcom County residents are informed on bills which were passed, how these new laws will impact them, their family and businesses, and how their elected state legislators voted on those bills.

The 2026 Washington State legislative session included debate and action on a number of key bills which will affect the daily lives of Whatcom County residents. This year was a "short session" of 60 days. While there were approximately 600 bills proposed during the legislative session, this Future 42 legislative scorecard focuses on the 15 bills/amendments which are most consequential and

that received a floor vote in at least one chamber.

Bills that raise the tax burden, make our state less safe, or increase the regulatory framework are scored negatively, while bills that provide tax relief, increase public safety, or remove unnecessary regulations are scored positively.

*Governor Bob Ferguson signed each piece of legislation featured in this scorecard into law except for the ones that did not reach his desk, which were SB 5360, HB 1574, and two separate amendments to SB 6346, the income tax bill.*

Below, you will find a description of each individual bill/amendment. In addition, you will find a full matrix detailing how your State Senators and Representatives from Whatcom County voted on these bills/amendments and whether or not their votes aligned with Future 42's position, which is based on our mission statement.

We hope this legislative scorecard will help to better inform Whatcom County residents and shed light on which local legislators have voted in favor/opposition of taxes, public safety, and regulations. Please share this scorecard and help your neighbors learn more about what your elected officials are standing for in Olympia.

### **SB 6346 - Establishes a state income tax (oppose)**

This bill, sponsored by Senator Jamie Pedersen (D), establishes an unconstitutional income tax (called a millionaire's tax) which adds to the existing tax burden on individuals and some small businesses and will drive entrepreneurs and businesses away from the state. Future 42 opposed this bill. *The House voted 51-46 and the Senate voted 27-21 to pass this bill, which was signed into law by Governor Ferguson. This law is facing legal challenges.*

### **Amendment 2538 (to SB 6346) - Requires the income tax bill to be decided by voters (support)**

This amendment to SB 6346, sponsored by Representative Ed Orcutt (R), removes the necessity clause from the income tax bill and requires that the bill be placed on the ballot for a direct vote by the people. Future 42 supported this amendment. *The amendment failed on a 43-50 vote in the House and was not considered in the Senate.*

### **Amendment 2548 (to SB 6346) - Requires a constitutional amendment to cap the income tax rate at 9.9% and lock in the \$1 million minimum threshold (support)**

This amendment, sponsored by Representative Jim Walsh (R), renders the income tax null and void unless voters approve a constitutional amendment which caps the maximum rate at 9.9% and locks in the \$1 million minimum threshold to prevent the expansion of this tax in the future. Future 42 supported this amendment. *The amendment failed on a 40-53 vote in the House and was not considered in the Senate.*

### **SB 5974 - Allows an unelected state board to decertify and remove elected sheriffs (oppose)**

This bill, sponsored by Senator John Lovick (D), imposes new eligibility standards to run for sheriff and allows for the unelected Criminal Justice Training Commission to remove duly elected sheriffs. This takes decisions out of the hands of local voters and places them in the hands of unelected state bureaucrats. Future 42 opposed this bill. *The House voted 54-42 and the Senate voted 30-19 to pass this bill, which was signed into law by Governor Ferguson.*

*NOTE: provisions of this bill were blocked by a preliminary injunction which was granted in Thurston County Superior Court on April 29th.*

### **SB 6347 - Reduces the estate/death tax from 35% back to the prior 20% (support)**

This bill, sponsored by Senator Claudia Kauffman (D), reverses a previously implemented estate tax increase to 35% (the highest in the country) by the legislature in 2025 back to the prior 20% maximum. Future 42 supported this bill. *The House voted 85-8 and the Senate voted 39-10 to pass this bill, which was signed into law by Governor Ferguson.*

### **SB 6002 - Reduces exposure to frivolous lawsuits regarding Flock camera data (support)**

This bill, sponsored by Senator Yasmin Trudeau (D), provides a "fix" to allow local law enforcement agencies to continue utilizing Flock cameras for public safety purposes without being liable to frivolous lawsuits related to the Public Records Act. Future 42 supported this bill. The House voted 84-10 and the Senate voted 39-10 to pass this bill, which was signed into law by Governor Ferguson.

### **HB 2266 - Forces cities/counties to allow "housing first" STEP housing facilities, overriding local control (oppose)**

This bill, sponsored by Representative Strom Peterson (D), removes local control over land-use decisions by forcing cities and counties to allow "housing first" permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, and indoor emergency shelters in any residential zone. Future 42 opposed this bill. *The Senate voted 29-20 and the House voted 56-39 to pass this bill, which was signed into law by Governor Ferguson.*

### **SB 5360 - Creates a three-tiered penalty system of environmental crimes (oppose)**

This bill, sponsored by Senator Yasmin Trudeau (D), creates environmental felonies for violations of water pollution, air quality, or hazardous waste laws (punishable by up to 10 years in prison) which will cause businesses and jobs to leave the state. Future 42 opposed this bill. *The Senate voted 27-22 to pass this bill, which died in the House.*

### **HB 1574 - Limits the regulation of harm reduction programs (oppose)**

This bill, sponsored by Representative Nicole Macri (D), limits the regulation of distributing drug paraphernalia to those who are addicted and effectively creates a "get out of jail free" card which prioritizes harm reduction over safety and accountability. Future 42 opposed this bill. *The House voted 55-42 to pass this bill, which died in the Senate.*

**HB 2442 - Authorizes several new local options to increase property taxes and sales taxes (oppose)**

This bill, sponsored by Representative April Berg (D), gives new taxing authority to local governments without requiring voter approval. This includes a new sales tax for "children and families" services and a new property tax for "public health" clinics, among other changes. Future 42 opposed this bill. *The Senate voted 26-22 and the House voted 51-45 to pass this bill, which was signed into law by Governor Ferguson.*

**HB 2487 - Implements a B&O tax increase on insurance carriers (oppose)**

This bill, sponsored by Representative Nicole Macri (D), eliminates a current tax exemption, effectively increasing the B&O tax rate on insurance carriers which will be passed onto consumers through higher premiums. Future 42 opposed this bill. *The House voted 51-44 and the Senate voted 27-22 to pass this bill, which was signed into law by Governor Ferguson.*

**SB 6231 - Implements a sales tax increase on data centers (oppose)**

This bill, sponsored by Senator Noel Frame (D), eliminates a tax exemption, effectively increasing the sales tax rate on data center companies which will reduce jobs and negatively impact the local economy. Future 42 opposed this bill. *The Senate voted 26-23 and the House voted 51-46 to pass this bill, which was signed into law by Governor Ferguson.*

**SB 6228 - Implements a B&O tax increase on prescription drugs (oppose)**

This bill, sponsored by Senator Noel Frame (D), increases the B&O tax rate on businesses selling prescription drugs, the cost of which will be passed onto consumers and will raise drug prices. Future 42 opposed this bill. *The House voted 52-42 and the Senate voted 26-23 to pass this bill, which was signed into law by Governor Ferguson.*

**SB 5880 - Creates the pathway for additional labs to process DUI evidence (support)**

This bill, sponsored by Senator Keith Wagoner (R), allows for private labs to conduct the testing necessary to process evidence in DUI cases. This is in response to significant backlogs which exist at the Washington State Patrol lab that can delay or eliminate the opportunity to hold offenders accountable and attain justice for victims. Future 42 supported this bill. *The House voted 96-0 and the Senate voted 49-0 to pass this bill, which was signed into law by Governor Ferguson.*

**SB 5925 - Expands the Attorney General Office's investigative authority (oppose)**

This bill, sponsored by Senator Drew Hansen (D), significantly expands the authority of the Attorney General to issue civil investigative demands (warrantless subpoenas), thereby lowering the bar for politically-motivated efforts from the AG's Office. Future 42 opposed this bill. *The House voted 56-41 and the Senate voted 30-19 to pass this bill, which was signed into law by Governor Ferguson.*

