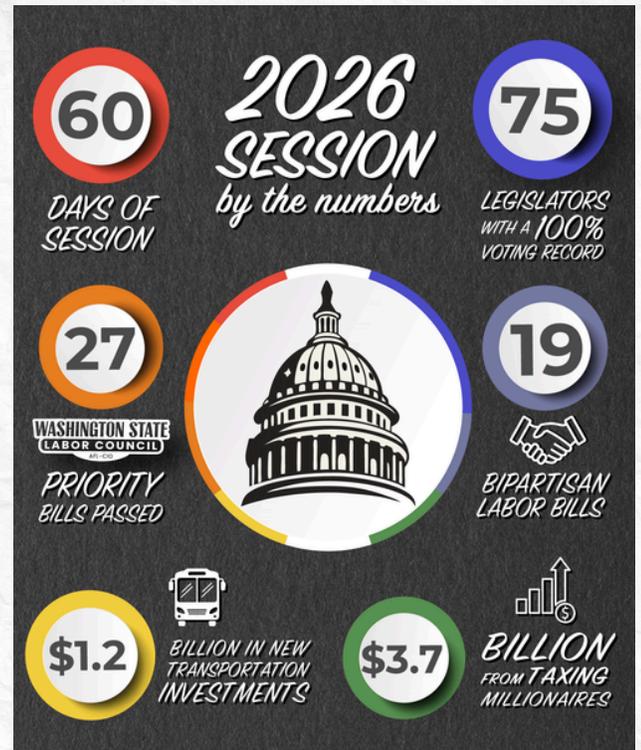


SESSION SNAPSHOT

For sixty days, union members made sure working people were front and center as legislators considered hundreds of policies. As a result, significant progress was made to secure reliable revenue, fund essential public programs, and pass worker-centered policy. With a significant budget shortfall anticipated, the 2026 legislative session began with looming threats of cuts to the General Fund - which resources education, child care, and more - as well as Operating and Transportation budgets. Organized labor ensured working families were front of mind as legislative allies and labor champions made difficult decisions.

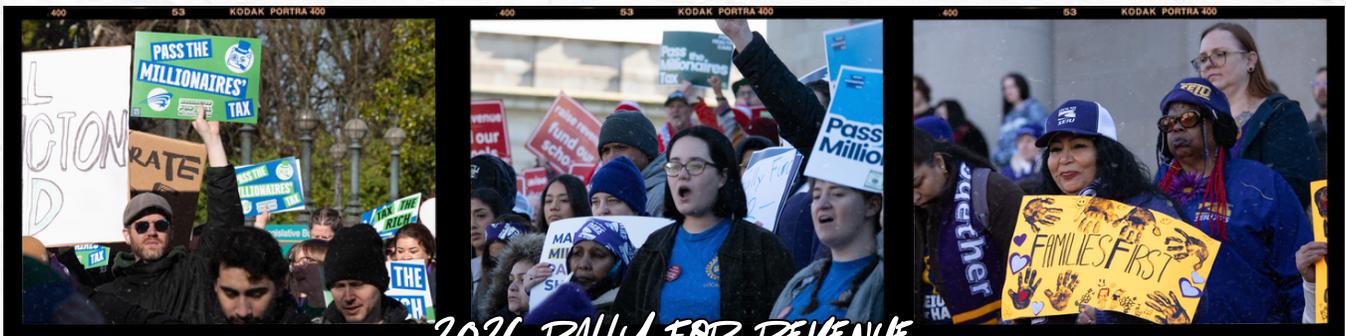
With thanks to the thousands of union members who made this work possible, here are some of the highlights from the 2026 legislative session.

April Sims President
Cherika Carter Secretary Treasurer



BUDGET

With a \$3.5 billion gap between projected revenues and forecasted needs there were few silver linings in the 2026 supplemental budget. While budget writers reduced public program funding, a one-time Capital Budget shift avoided the worst cuts for higher ed. However, early education took serious hits; \$143 million was cut from childcare programs, and Transition-to-Kindergarten was shorted \$27 million. Overall, basic education was mostly maintained, though rural districts will hurt with fewer state subsidies available. Significant funds were dedicated to saving Washingtonians from the worst of Congressional cuts. \$370 million in new spending was allotted to ensure state systems are in compliance with new Medicaid and SNAP requirements. Funds to offset federal cuts in health care, food assistance, and housing were included. Crucially, a collective bargaining agreement covering some public employees was funded after the legislature did not do so in 2025.



2026 RALLY FOR REVENUE

REVENUE

Revenue to cover supplemental budget adjustments came from a \$1 billion transfer from the Budget Stabilization Account and dedicated accounts like Public Works Assistance, from taxes on certain insurers, and from partially repealing important job-creating, data center tax exemptions. Despite fire fighter and retiree opposition, \$1 billion was raised by transferring resources from the LEOFFI pension plan to a new account for future use, with the option to shift funds to the General Fund. **In positive news, lawmakers took action on long-term revenue stability, passing a first-of-its-kind Millionaire Tax**, requiring the wealthiest 0.25% to pay a 9.9% tax on earnings above \$1 million. While court and ballot challenges are anticipated, the tax would generate an estimated \$3.7 billion annually once in use. Notably, this policy tackles tax fairness by reducing certain sales taxes, small business taxes, and expanding access to the Working Families Tax Credit. Slightly more than half of those dollars will flow into the General Fund, supporting health care, education, and child care programs, while also expanding bonding capacity for job-creating Capital and Transportation budgets.



SESSION WINS

- ✓ Domestic Workers Bill of Rights (HB 2355)
- ✓ Mental health apprenticeship (HB 2492)
- ✓ Academic student bargaining (HB 1570)
- ✓ Immigrant Worker Protection Act (HB 2105)
- ✓ Safeguarding union rights (HB 2471)
- ✓ Banning non-competes (HB 1155)
- ✓ Supplemental bargaining (HB 1069)
- ✓ Title protections for nurses (HB 2155)
- ✓ Automation safeguards at WA ports (SB 5995)



Top: Construction workers rally for HB 2492



Bottom: Domestic workers celebrate HB 2355. Photo: Casa Latina

- ✓ Childcare Workforce Standards Board (HB 1128)
- ✓ Cybersecurity collective bargaining (HB 2249)



2026 WSLC LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

NEXT YEAR

- Farm worker collective bargaining (SB 6045)
- Ban surveillance pricing (HB 2481)
- Public employee AI bargaining (HB 1622)
- Employee electronic monitoring (HB 2144)
- Aerospace tax incentive transparency (HB 2730)
- Continued work to streamline and accelerate permitting & siting of clean energy projects
- Job creation investments



Participants in the 2026 Farmworker Tribunal.
Photo: Sattva Photo/Community to Community