



OFFICE OF

**GOVERNOR CHRIS GREGOIRE**

MAY 2011

## **WORKING TOGETHER: GOVERNOR GREGOIRE'S AND THE LEGISLATURE'S 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **EDUCATION**

**Early learning:** Maintained the state preschool program ♦ Added licensure requirements ♦ Required school districts that receive all-day kindergarten support to use the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills ♦ Increased home visiting services with public and private matching funds

**K-12:** Designated high school senior year as “launch year” when students begin earning college and technical credits that count toward postsecondary degrees and certificates ♦ Finalized mathematics and science graduation requirements ♦ Added technology literacy and fluency to basic education skills ♦ Authorized development of bullying and harassment prevention strategies

**Higher education:** Granted tuition-setting authority to public, four-year colleges and universities ♦ Helped students complete degrees by improving the transfer process and recognizing credits earned ♦ Improved accountability through adoption of common measurements that allow national comparisons ♦ Increased access by establishing Western Governors University – Washington ♦ Streamlined higher education governance ♦ Established and provided funding for a public-private partnership for higher education scholarship endowment

### **HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Health:** Laid foundation for the state health benefits exchange required by the federal Affordable Care Act ♦ Consolidated state health care purchasing into a single agency ♦ Conformed state law to the Affordable Care Act by extending coverage to dependents younger than 26, prohibiting lifetime benefit caps and preventing coverage denials to people younger than 19 because of a pre-existing condition ♦ Imposed new requirements for exempting a child from immunizations ♦ Created a public-private collaborative to identify evidence-based, best practices to improve quality and reduce variation in health care services ♦ Enhanced legal protections for vulnerable adults ♦ Established higher standards and sustainable financing for long-term care programs ♦ Encouraged the adoption of innovative health care payment and delivery models to achieve better outcomes at lower cost ♦ Supported the state's application to the federal government for a more innovative Medicaid program

**TRANSFORMING WASHINGTON'S GOVERNMENT**

[WWW.GOVERNOR.WA.GOV](http://WWW.GOVERNOR.WA.GOV)

◆ Provided greater public access to health insurance rate increase information ◆ Enhanced the state program for those with traumatic brain injury ◆ Maintained the Insurance Commissioner's authority to review rate requests for individual health insurance ◆ Increased the transparency of the state's health professions disciplinary process ◆ Created a statewide medical provider network and expanded the use of Centers of Occupational Health and Education to return more injured workers to work quickly ◆ Required employers to correct serious safety issues while appealing citations from the Department of Labor and Industries ◆ Provided protection to workers who handle chemotherapy drugs ◆ Improved protections for workers exposed to blood-borne pathogens

**Human services:** Established requirements for elder and vulnerable adult referral agencies on fees and refunds, recordkeeping, disclosure statements and intake forms ◆ Clarified legal requirements for placement of an Indian child in foster care ◆ Extended foster care to provide stable housing, medical care and mental health counseling for youth finishing high school who would otherwise age out of care ◆ Established new requirements for triage facilities to divert those with mental illness from incarceration ◆ Updated the Uniform Parentage Act to reflect Washington's state-registered domestic partnership law ◆ Provided protection from fraud for homeowners under the Consumer Loan Act ◆ Allowed military experience to satisfy requirements for licensure in various professions ◆ Recognized same-sex marriage formed in other states under Washington's state-registered, domestic partner law ◆ Improved regulation of the immigration-related service industry ◆ Improved restrictions on the use of electronic benefit transaction cards ◆ Created housing and medical services for individuals who are disabled and unable to work ◆ Closed Frances Haddon Morgan School ◆ Stopped admitting clients to the Yakima Valley School ◆ Stopped admitting clients younger than 21 to Residential Habilitation Centers beginning 2012 ◆ Developed new community capacity for crisis and respite care

**Public safety:** Responded to recommendations of the National Institute of Corrections report to deploy body alarms and pepper spray, improve camera coverage and form statewide safety advisory committees ◆ Increased the penalty for harassing a criminal justice participant ◆ Increased the penalty for mail theft used to commit identity theft crimes ◆ Amended the definition of Assault in the Second Degree to include suffocation ◆ Strengthened DUI laws by requiring a 12-hour hold on a vehicle impound and required installation of an ignition interlock device even if a defendant pleads down to a lesser crime

## TRANSPORTATION, CAPITAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Transportation:** Signed a biennial budget that will put 30,000 people to work and invest \$5.6 billion in more than 800 transportation projects across the state ◆ Formed a Transportation Advisory Group to develop a 10-year investment and revenue strategy for the state's transportation system ◆ Authorized the construction and operation of express toll lanes on I-405 between Lynnwood and Bellevue to reduce congestion on the I-405 corridor ◆ Provided the option for King County to add a congestion reduction charge of up to \$20 per vehicle to avoid a 20 percent reduction in King County Metro services

**Capital budget:** Funding supports 14,800 jobs per year ◆ Maintained funding for a number of projects, including Aviation High School (Burien), American Lake Veterans' Golf Course (Lakewood), Mt. Vernon Flood Protection (Mt. Vernon), Skagit Valley Hospital (Mt. Vernon), Tacoma Hilltop Health Center (Tacoma), Tulalip Water Pipeline (Everett), YWCA Yakima (Yakima), Vancouver Waterfront Park pre-construction (Vancouver), Washington State Penitentiary (Walla Walla), Spokane Falls Community College campus classrooms (Spokane Falls),

Washington State University Riverpoint biomedical and health sciences (Spokane), University of Washington Odegaard Undergraduate Learning Center (Seattle), housing assistance, weatherization and affordable housing (across the state), clean drinking water loans (across the state), stormwater retrofit and low-impact development grants (across the state), K-12 construction (across the state), Puget Sound restoration ♦ Redirected project, grant savings to other critical capital projects ♦ Redirected fund transfers to support critical programs in operating budget

**Economic development:** Passed one of the largest reforms of the workers' compensation system in its 100-year history to improve worker outcomes, boost the health of the system and reduce premium rate increases ♦ Reduced taxes for 80,000 small businesses and extended unemployment benefits by providing a temporary benefit increase of \$25 for about 140,000 unemployed workers ♦ Established a foreclosure mediation process for borrowers at risk of losing their homes ♦ Repurposed investments to create Innovate Washington to collaborate with industry to promote outcome-driven economic development

## GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

Consolidated several state agencies into new Department of Enterprise Services to deliver central services more effectively and economically ♦ Created Central Technology Services to consolidate and deliver IT services more efficiently ♦ Required ballots to be mailed to overseas and military voters at least 30 days before each special election and at least 45 days before each primary or general election ♦ Authorized overseas and military voters to return ballots by fax or email ♦ Required all counties to conduct elections by mail and provide a voting center in each county auditor's office for those voting in person and those with disabilities ♦ Eliminated the 2012 presidential primary ♦ Extended timelines for local governments to complete growth management plan updates and shoreline master program amendments ♦ Created process for fire districts to join regional fire services and for cities to purchase water systems to serve residents ♦ Allowed cities to use current federal census data to determine population for annexation ♦ Incentivized installation of home sprinkler systems ♦ Consolidated central service agencies ♦ Eliminated 10 boards and commissions ♦ Consolidated 3 boards and commissions ♦ Restructured 20 boards and commissions

## NATURAL RESOURCES

Reached agreement to shut down the state's last coal-fired power plant and replace it with cleaner power ♦ Banned the use of coal tar to maintain roads and parking lots in favor of less toxic products ♦ Established the "Discover Pass" to fund and allow access to state parks and other state-owned lands ♦ Established the Voluntary Stewardship Program to protect and enhance critical areas while promoting better agricultural practices ♦ Provided revenue for hunting, fishing and other programs through higher hunting and fishing license fees ♦ Provided financial incentives to cities to participate in transfer of development right programs to conserve working farms and forests ♦ Increased safety for skiers and emergency responders through stronger enforcement of skiing closed areas ♦ Boosted protection for imperiled shark populations through penalties for illegal trafficking in shark fins ♦ Increased food safety by establishing an animal disease traceability program for cattle in Washington ♦ Continued protection against invasive species through the Invasive Species Council ♦ Required the best-available equipment to respond quickly and effectively to oil spills