

# SPEAKING UP FOR JUSTICE & COMPASSION 2026

**FAITH**  
**ACTION**  
**NETWORK**

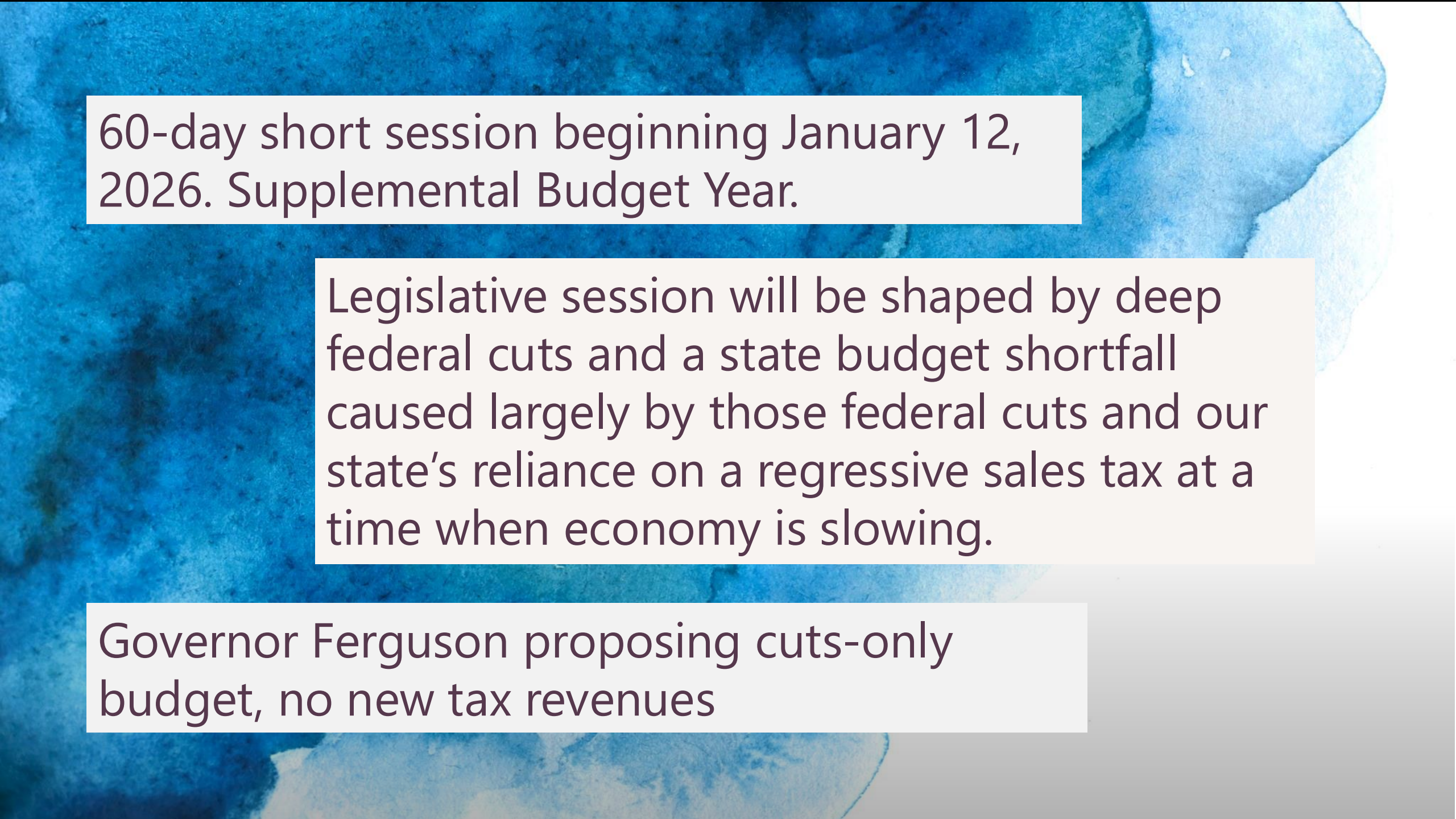
*A Partnership for the Common Good*



# Some 2025 Legislative WINS

- **Rent Stabilization:** Providing tenants with greater predictability and protection against excessive rent increases, contributing to housing stability across Washington state
- **\$605 million for the Housing Trust Fund:** the largest in WA state history
- \$93M for **food banks**, \$27M for **senior nutrition**, and \$3M for SNAP **fruit & vegetable incentives**
- \$153M to maintain **Apple Health coverage for immigrants**
- \$130M for **community-based behavioral health services**, including youth crisis support.



The background of the slide is a vibrant blue watercolor wash, with darker, more saturated blue on the left and right sides, and a lighter, more translucent blue towards the center and bottom. The texture is soft and painterly, with visible brushstrokes and color blending.

60-day short session beginning January 12,  
2026. Supplemental Budget Year.

Legislative session will be shaped by deep  
federal cuts and a state budget shortfall  
caused largely by those federal cuts and our  
state's reliance on a regressive sales tax at a  
time when economy is slowing.

Governor Ferguson proposing cuts-only  
budget, no new tax revenues



**PURSUE ECONOMIC JUSTICE and  
ENSURE BASIC NEEDS**

**CULTIVATE CLIMATE and ECOLOGICAL  
JUSTICE**

**DEFEND and ADVANCE  
IMMIGRANT/REFUGEE RIGHTS**

**FOSTER RIGHTS, BELONGING,  
DEMOCRACY and PLURALISM**

We work with partners to create momentum:

- Local spiritual communities
- Council on American Islamic Relations WA
- Church Council of Greater Seattle
- Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice
- ACLU
- Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Coalition
- Balance Our Tax Code Coalition
- Health Care for All
- Statewide Poverty Action Network
- WA Center for Budget & Policy Priorities
- WA Immigrant Solidarity Network--WAISN
- WA Low Income Housing Alliance

And more



# PURSUE ECONOMIC JUSTICE and ENSURE BASIC NEEDS



*Care for the vulnerable and marginalized is a central tenet of our shared spiritual traditions. No one should have to go without necessities like food, shelter and health care, that enable people to enjoy the gift of life.*

*Moreover, we believe that our communities are at their best when everyone contributes to the common good. Our faiths emphasize fairness and equity, and we believe that applies to our tax code too.*

# PASS A “MORAL” BUDGET

- **Preserve safety net and health programs** in the face of a predicted \$400 million shortfall in the 2025-2027 budget. Don't balance budget on backs of poorest.
- Includes **maintaining funding for food security** and urging the state to provide food assistance for refugees and asylees losing federal SNAP benefits.
- **End diversion of SSI benefits** from foster youth to State funds. (Alvarado)
- **Create a statewide energy assistance program** for low-income households. (HB1903, Mena)



# WA Basic Food Recipients

**920,000**

people receive assistance purchasing food through Basic Food each month

**15%**

of the population of Washington each year

**\$1.50**

return on economic activity for every dollar of SNAP benefit spent



**35%**  
children



**32%**  
elderly or disabled



**20%**  
working adults



# Impacts of the changes to SNAP

129,000

people risk losing  
benefits if they  
fail to meet new  
work  
requirements

~30,000

legal immigrants  
will be pushed out  
of SNAP and into  
state-funded food  
assistance

Every year,  
more than  
75,000

households will  
see a reduction  
in monthly  
benefits

\$190 million  
to  
\$390 million

Is the estimated  
additional annual  
cost to the state  
budget

**Most provisions retroactively effective as of July 4, 2025**

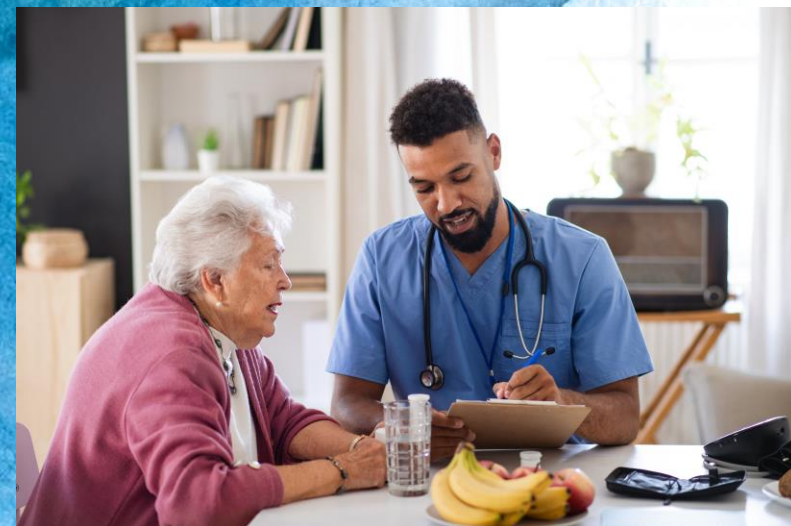
# ENABLE HOUSING FOR ALL

- **Expand opportunities for Affordable Housing:** Allows density bonus and sales tax exemption for any affordable housing development located on property owned or controlled by a religious organization where 50%+ of units serve low-income households
- **Maintain a Strong Housing Budget:** Funding for Housing Trust Fund; Additional \$3 million for evictions defense program to maintain number of lawyers
- **Housing Justice Bill:** Prohibits local jurisdictions from criminalizing life-sustaining activities in public when adequate shelter is not available, and redirects resources from punishment to service providers





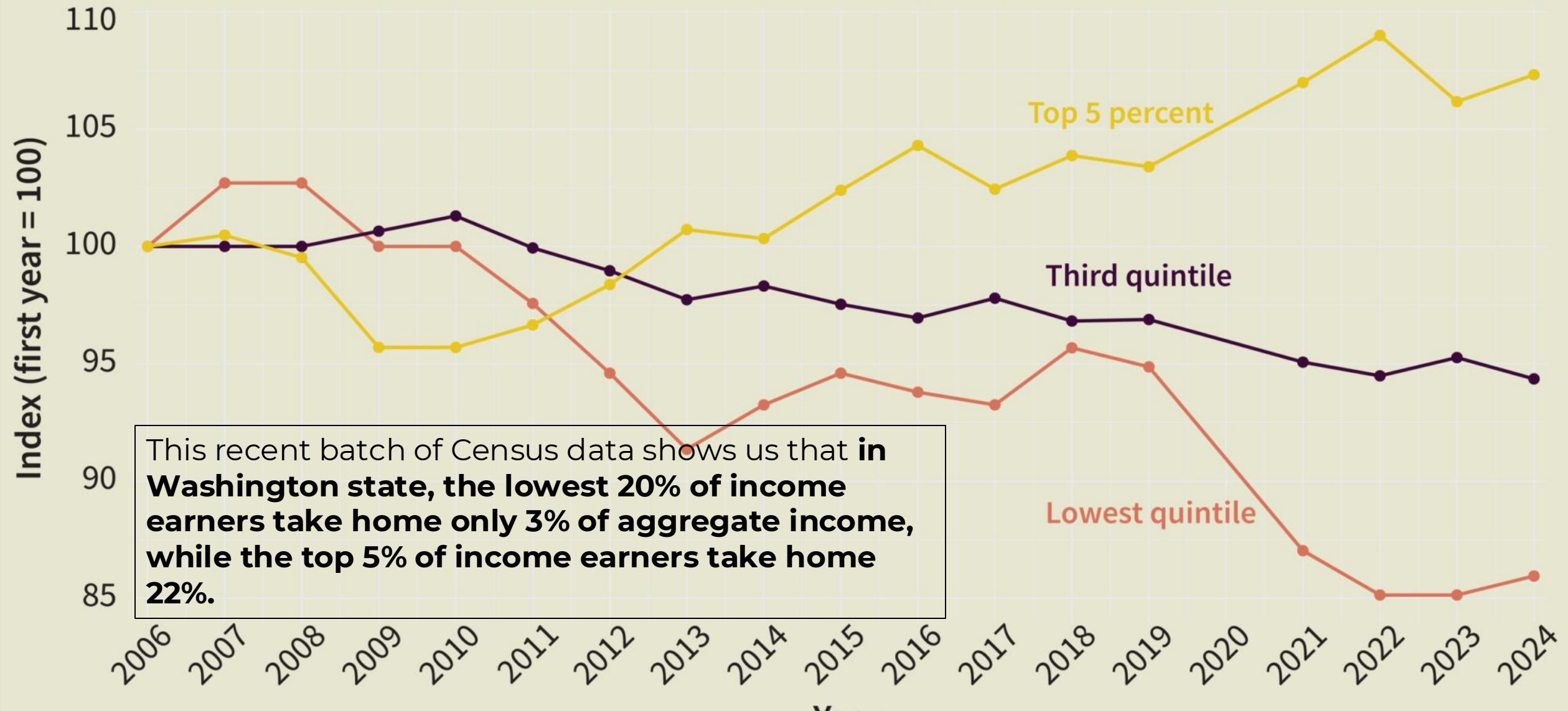
# SUPPORT PROGRESSIVE REVENUE





# Washington state is the 15th most unequal in the nation, and inequality is getting worse.

Share of income for Washington state's lowest quintile, third quintile, and top five percent of earners: 2006 through 2024

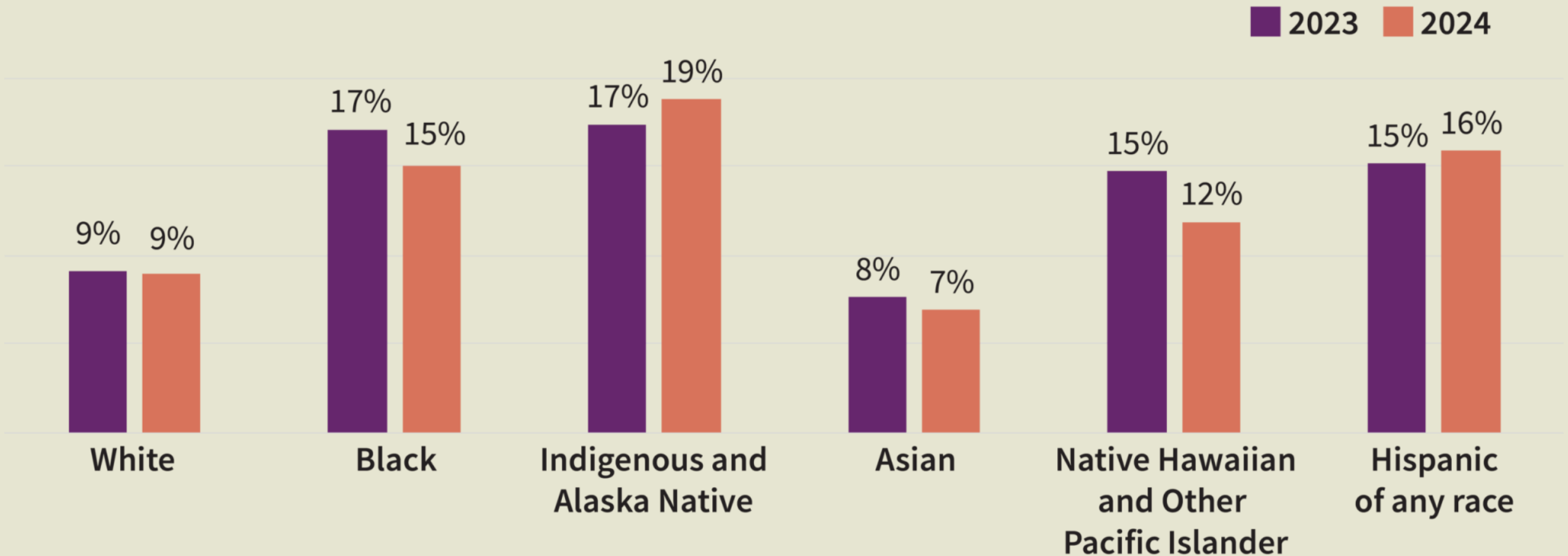




# Overall poverty rates decreased in Washington state, but poverty rates increased for Indigenous and Hispanic/Latino households.

Poverty rates by race and ethnicity: 2023 and 2024

Charts from Economic Opportunity Institute



U.S. Census Bureau. "Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months." American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1701, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2024.S1701?q=poverty+Washington+State>. Accessed on 18 Sep 2025.

# DEFEND and ADVANCE IMMIGRANT/REFUGEE RIGHTS

*Our diverse faith traditions emphasize that welcoming the stranger, offering hospitality, and loving our neighbor are sacred duties. We believe that everyone who calls Washington home should be treated with dignity and respect, and that all residents should have access to the essential services they need, regardless of their immigration status.*





- **Preserve Immigrant Health Equity:** Codify Apple Health Expansion and maintain funding for enhanced Cascade Care subsidies.
- **Bill to prohibit law enforcement officers from wearing face coverings** (No Masks for ICE) – TBD
- **Legal Aid:** Preserve budget for WA Migrant and Asylum Seekers Funding and Legal Aid for Low Income Immigrants – TBD

Also, FAN will be **inviting people of faith to opportunities for rapid response to support immigrants.** Working with other local faith organizations: CAIR, CCGS, ICPC, & JCIJ under auspices of One America.

# FOSTER RIGHTS, BELONGING, DEMOCRACY and PLURALISM

*Our faith traditions and teachings declare the inherent dignity and equal value of all human beings, and assert the importance of community for living lives of wholeness. So we are committed to creating a state where all belong and have equal power and voice to shape their communities. To borrow words from the Murri Indigenous people as articulated by Lilla Watson, "Our liberation is bound up together."*



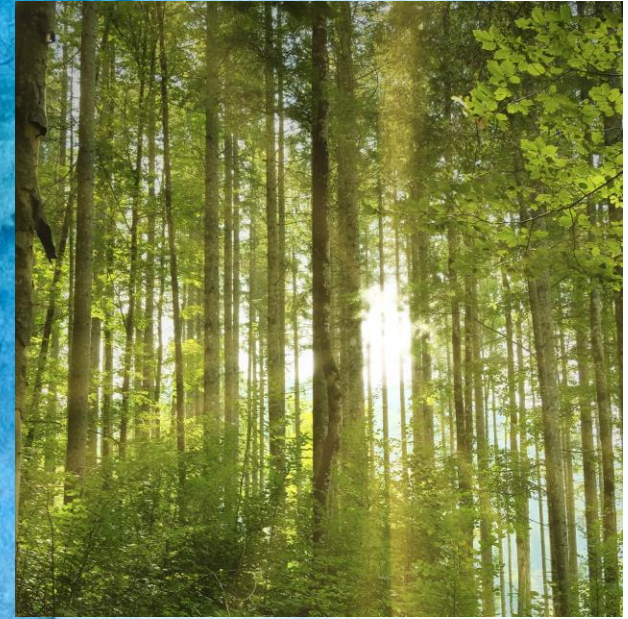


- **Attorney General Investigations and Reform Bill:** Authorize the Attorney General to investigate systemic misconduct in law enforcement and corrections agencies.
- **An Indigenous-related bill**—maybe freedom to practice religion
- **Restrict Automatic License Plate Readers** to protect civil liberties and immigrant communities (Rep. Valdez)
- **Criminal Justice Reform bills**
- **Data and public records protection** for patients and providers offering gender affirming and reproductive healthcare



# CULTIVATE CLIMATE and ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

*Our traditions of faith and conscience teach us that we are interconnected with the earth and all living beings, and call us to care for and sustain their vitality. We aspire to preserve our shared home and resilient ecosystems, and to seek health for indigenous, low-income and communities of color who are most impacted by pollution and climate change.*





- **Defend Washington's environmental investments in the** Climate Commitment Act and support the full funding of the Wildfire Response and Forest Restoration Account at \$125 million. Ensure the state goal of directing 40% of environmentally-related funds to overburdened communities for projects to reduce harm.
- **Address the climate impact of data centers** to require accountability for energy and water use and ensure that siting and expansion align with climate goals
- **CURB Pollution:** Instructs the Department of Ecology to add an environmental justice element and checklist to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), which will ensure that the environmental review process fully considers the project's potential adverse impacts to communities that are already facing high levels of pollution and health disparities.

**Join FAN's mailing list for Action Alerts with links**

**Check our website ([www.fanwa.org](http://www.fanwa.org)) for advocacy letters your community can sign**

**Send a letter and photo from your nonprofit or faith community sharing a story of why you care about an issue**

**Plan to attend INTERFAITH ADVOCACY DAY on Thursday, February 12**