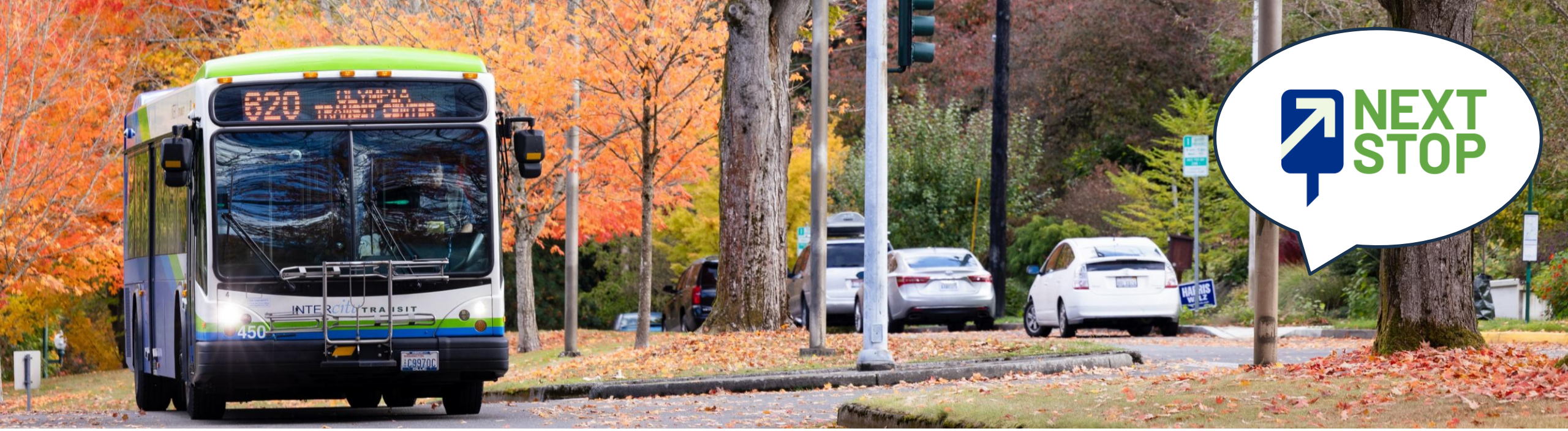


A look ahead at the 2027 legislative session

State Legislative Priorities

Nick Demerice Marketing and External Relations Officer
Fall 2026
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Washington State Legislature Overview

Structure:

- 147 total members across 49 legislative districts.
- 49-member Washington State Senate (4-year staggered terms).
- 98-member House of Representatives (2-year terms).

Sessions:

- Meets annually in Olympia starting on the second Monday in January.
- 105 days during odd-numbered years (long sessions).
- 60 days during even-numbered years (short sessions).

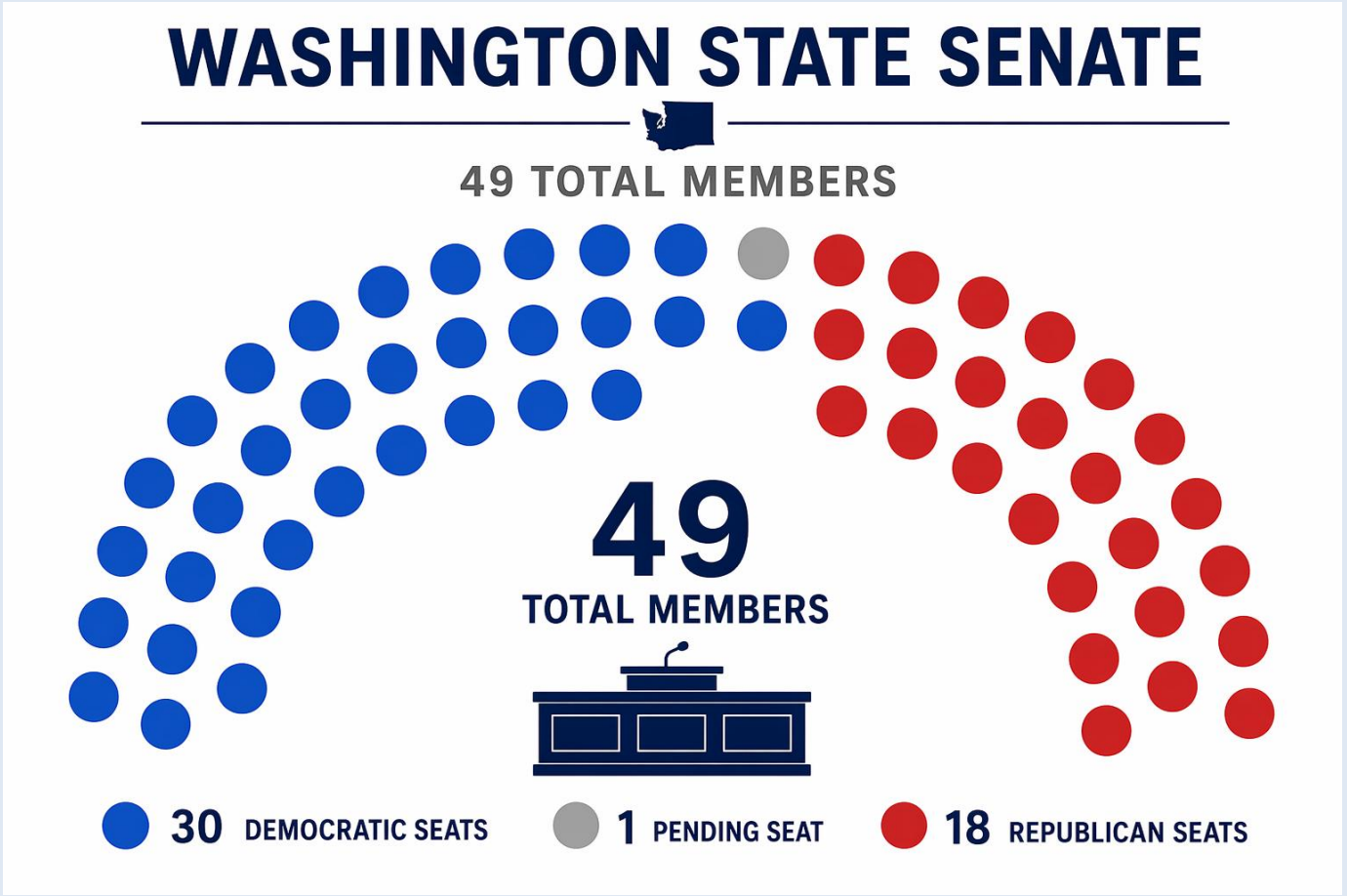
Core Functions:

- Creates and modifies state laws by adding to and amending the Revised Code of Washington (RCWs).
- Exercises oversight over state agencies.
- Passes biennial operating, capital, and transportation budgets (along with supplemental budgets in even years).

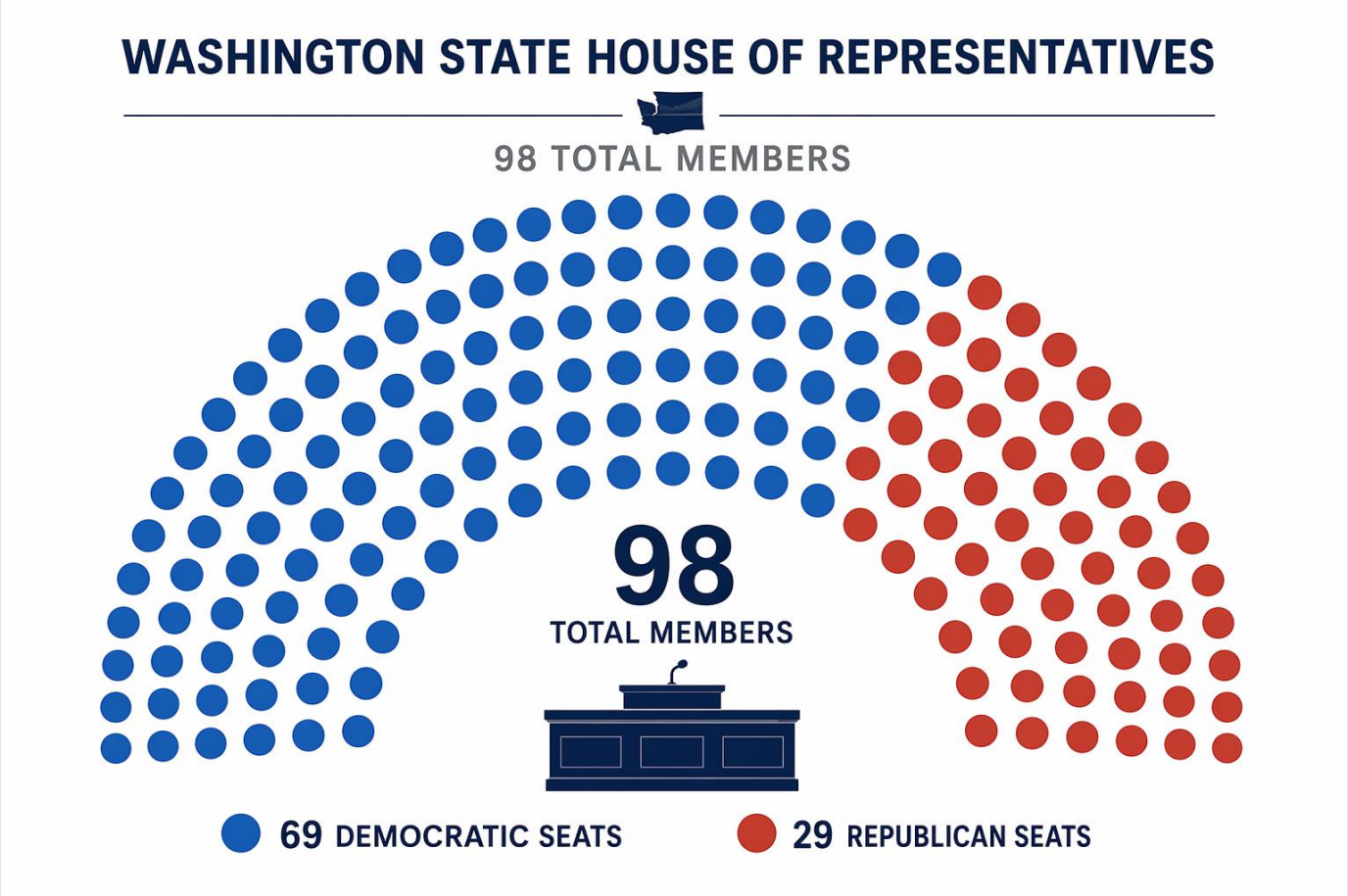


Senate

- 49 total seats:
  - 30 Democrats
  - 18 Republicans
  - 1 race still uncalled (35th LD)
- Democratic caucus met on 11/5 and retained most leadership positions.
- Republican caucus will meet on 12/5.



House of Representatives



- 98 total seats:
  - 69 Democrats
  - 29 Republicans
- 26 new legislators:
  - 20 Democrats
  - 6 Republicans
- Recent election resulted in a net 10 additional seats for Democrats creating a super majority.
- Democratic caucus met 11/16 to decide leaders, chairs etc. with House Republicans meeting on 12/11.

How does the Legislature impact Intercity Transit?



Local Taxing Authority:

- The Legislature enables local transit authorities to seek voter approval for dedicated sales and vehicle excise taxes (i.e. Prop. 1 in 2018).

State Grant Programs:

- Lawmakers fund WSDOT-administered grants for operations, special needs transit, regional mobility, and zero-emission fleets.

Financing and Permitting Tools:

- Targeted state laws provide long-term bonding authority and streamline local permitting for major transit infrastructure.

Technical Assistance:

- WSDOT provides local agencies with training, planning support, and bulk vehicle purchasing programs.

Financial Assistance

Major Operating and System Support Grants

- Transit Support Grant Program
- Paratransit and Special Needs Transportation Grants
- Consolidated Grant Program
- Tribal Transit Mobility Grant Program

Capital, Infrastructure and Clean Fleet Grants

- Green Transportation Capital Grant Program
- State Buses and Bus Facilities Grant Program
- Regional Mobility Grant Program

Coordination and Demand Management Grants

- Transit Coordination Grants
- Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) and Transportation Demand Management





Revenue Forecasts

- The Economic and Revenue Forecast Council (ERFC) releases revenue forecasts 4 times per year.
- The Governor and Legislature use these forecasts to develop budgets.
- All three budgets face significant challenges for the foreseeable future.
- The November forecast was released 11/16 – considered “flat” compared to the September forecast.
- Longer-term structural issues for Transportation budget.
  - Gas tax
  - CCA

Operating Budget Forecast November 2026

Biennium	Forecast revenue	Change from September 2026
2025–27 (current)	$76.45B	+$195M
2027–29	$82.52B	-$75M
2029–31	$94.21B	+$87M
Total	N/A	+$207M

2027 Intercity Transit State Legislative Priorities

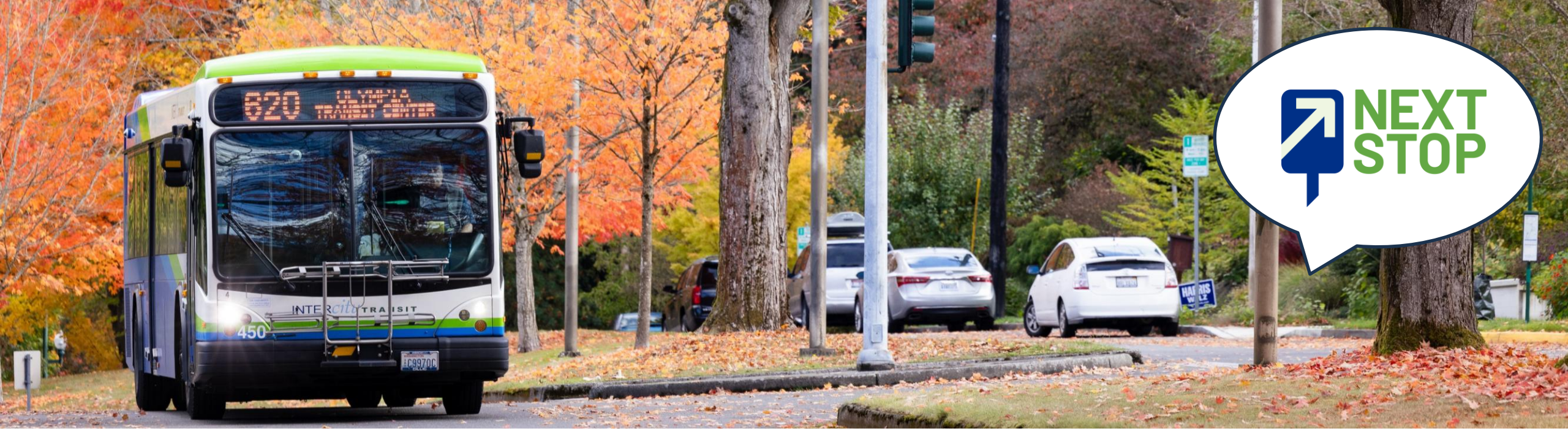
1. Maintain and build relationships
2. Protect current appropriations and contracts
3. Pursue opportunities for policy improvements



Ongoing Projects

Project	Grant Amount Remaining*
East Martin Way Gateway Station Roundabout Project	$452,371.00
Intercity Transit Rear Door Boarding and Real-Time Passenger Information Deployments	$401,635.00
Intercity Transit Zero Emission H2 Demonstration Project	$6,546,880.00
Intercity Transit Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Bus (FCEB) Demonstration Project	$2,172,961.00
2023–2025 Intercity Transit Replacement Vanpools	$833,000.00
Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project Development and Station Construction	$479,238.00
Total:	$10,886,085.00

**Approximate amounts remaining as of Oct. 2026 - projects are concluding and amounts will change before the end of the legislative session.*



Questions?

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