

### ***Monthly revenue collections up again***

The Economic & Revenue Forecast Council released its [monthly economic and revenue update](#) on 8/11. Overall, major general fund-state collections for the July 11 – August 10 collection period have come in \$49.6 million (3.2%) higher than the June forecast, making cumulative collections \$73.7 million (2.4%) higher than forecasted.

As anticipated, housing construction continues to increase, although not as high as forecasted. Seattle area home prices continue to rise very rapidly, with year-over-year growth at a 13.3% increase. However, car and truck sales fell in June to the lowest in more than three years.

### ***Employment update***

The Employment Security Department (ESD) also released its [monthly employment report](#) for July. Overall, Washington's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July is 4.5%, compared to 5.5% in July 2016. Meanwhile, the Seattle/Bellevue/Everett unemployment rate was 3.5%. In total, Washington gained 1,600 jobs in July, primarily from government (5,300), and education and health services employment (2,000). Conversely, there were contractions in employment in six industries including leisure and hospitality services (-2,600) and construction (-1,000).

### ***Final Primary Election Results***

The 2017 primary election occurred on 8/1. The final total voter turnout was 26.92% across the state, with more than 3.7 million registered voters returning their ballots. The general election will be held on November 7.

Here is a summary of the final contested state legislative races:

- **7<sup>th</sup> LD—Republican**
  - Sen. Shelly Short (R), who was appointed to fill this seat earlier this year, easily led this race against a Democratic challenger with a vote of 67.24% to 32.76%.
  - Rep. Jacquelin Maycumber (R) who was appointed to fill Sen. Short's seat in the House also handily led her race against a Democratic challenger with a vote of 66.05% to 33.95%.
- **31<sup>st</sup> LD—Republican leaning**
  - Sen. Fortunato (R) led his challenger, Michelle Rylands (D), with a vote of 58.44% to 41.45%.
  - Rep. Morgan Irwin (R) also led his challenger, Nate Lowry (D) with a vote of 57.01% to 42.99%.
- **45<sup>th</sup> LD—Swing District; Open seat**
  - Easily the most hotly contested race of the election. If the Republican challenger loses, the Senate will switch control to be led by the Democrats by one vote. Here are the final results:
    - Parker Harris (No party preferences) – 7.02% (2,685 votes)

- Jinyoung Lee Englund (R) – 41.46% (15,856 votes)
- Manka Dhingra (D) – 51.52% (19,707 votes).
- **48<sup>th</sup> LD—Democratic leaning**
  - Sen. Patty Kuderer easily won her election against two challengers: Kuderer held a vote of 61.6% to challengers Richard Knierim (Independent Democrat) 15.43% and Michelle Darnell (Libertarian Party) 22.97%.
  - Rep. Vandana Slatter (D) also easily won her election with a vote of 77.4% against her challenger, Ciaran Dougherty (Libertarian) with a vote of 22.6%.

Here is how the local races ended:

- **Proposition 1:** King County voters rejected a proposal to increase the sales tax for an arts and science program. The measure failed by more than 1.8%.
- **Seattle Mayor:** with 21 candidates on the ballot, Jenny Durkan led the race with more than 27.97% of the vote while Cary Moon followed with more than 17.66%. These top two candidates guarantee that Seattle will now have a female mayor, after nearly a decade.

#### ***More lawsuits against Seattle income tax***

After the Seattle City Council unanimously passed a 2.2% income tax on individuals making more than \$250,000 annually (\$500,000 for households), three lawsuits were promptly filed against the measure, including suits represented by former Attorney General Rob McKenna, former Supreme Court Chief Gerry Alexander, and former Supreme Court Justice Phil Talmadge. The tax is largely seen as a test case for a statewide income tax. The first challenge is scheduled for a hearing in King County Superior Court.