

WMBA Legislative Preview

2021

WA State 2021 Election Overview

- ▶ Big election cycle- ½ of Senate; entire House; all statewide races
- ▶ 23 Open seats (17 House, 6 Senate)
- ▶ Post-election margins remained the same
 - ▶ Senate: 28 D - 21 (20R and 1 D who caucuses with Rs)
 - ▶ House: 57 D - 41
- ▶ While margins stayed the same, moderates lost seats

Diversity grew within Legislative makeup

- ▶ Currently 46 women - add 5: total 51
- ▶ Currently 16 members of color - add 3: total 19
- ▶ Currently 5 members of Black Caucus - add 4: total 9

2021: Legislative session

- ▶ 105-day session
- ▶ Biennial Budgets - Operating, Capital and Transportation Budgets
- ▶ Reorganization: House and Senate reorganized committees and leadership
 - ▶ Not too much change but many freshman members

Since session ended... dramatic changes

- ▶ Since the 2020 Legislative session, COVID-19 had major impacts in WA
- ▶ State slowly reopened, but remains uncertain—recent spikes across the state
- ▶ The economy has recovered slightly since early projections, but the forecast still estimated revenues GF-S revenues declined \$1.8B in 2021 and \$1.8B in 20123-25
 - ▶ New federal stimulus dollars
 - ▶ Rainy day fund option (\$2B currently)
- ▶ Next quarterly revenue forecast on March 17

2021 Legislative Expectations

- ▶ 105-day long session begins 1/11/21
- ▶ Budget reductions versus new revenue?
- ▶ Additional Federal resources—how will this be spent?
- ▶ Virtual session—first time
- ▶ Bill limits in the House
- ▶ Major focus areas:
 - ▶ Equity
 - ▶ Police reform
 - ▶ Budget
 - ▶ COVID assistance

Many issues impacting our sector being proposed

- ▶ DFI home licensing bill—SUPPORT
- ▶ Foreclosure fairness act—updates
- ▶ Taxes:
 - ▶ Capital gains
 - ▶ 1st Mortgage Interest Deduction
 - ▶ Estate tax
 - ▶ Statewide payroll tax
- ▶ Doc recording fee increase—provide rental assistance?
- ▶ AG's price gouging bill
- ▶ Data privacy
- ▶ Rent control
- ▶ Others??