

Rep. Tarra Simmons — Accomplishments

Her record of accomplishments for Kitsap County and Washington State

Cost of Living & Affordable Housing

Fought hard for the Millionaires Tax (debated for nearly 25 hours to get this done)

- Only 0.2% of the district's total population will be affected by the tax. Anyone making up to \$1 million is not taxed (SB 6346).
- Groceries will be tax-free starting 2029 — sales tax on diapers, over-the-counter medicine, and hygiene products goes away.
- Working Families Tax Credit expands to 460,000 more Washingtonians — a direct refund to low- and middle-income families, putting money back into working families' hands instead of corporations.
- Small business relief: the B&O tax credit means 70% of all businesses will pay zero B&O tax.

Cost relief supported and voted for in 2026

- Banned non-compete agreements (ESHB 1155). Workers can now move to a better opportunity in the same field without penalty.
- Protected preventive care (ESHB 2242). Vaccines, cancer screenings, and routine checkups won't suddenly cost more out of pocket.
- Expanded energy assistance (E2SHB 1903). Families who are struggling can get help paying their power bill.

Championed legal reforms on debt after incarceration

- Authored two laws (2022 & 2023) reforming legal financial obligations — the court-imposed fines and fees that trap people in poverty after release. Tarra changed how Washington collects those debts.
- Authored the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (HB 1983, 2024), creating dedicated funding for addiction treatment inside the justice system.

Brought real housing projects to Kitsap County

- Crossroads Village Affordable Housing, Kitsap County (2026).
- Finch Green Housing (Housing Trust Fund), Kitsap County (2026).
- Howerton Place Affordable Housing, Kitsap County (2026).
- Nuwe Reis Village at Barker Creek, Kitsap County (2024).
- KCR Mills Crossing Affordable Housing, Kitsap County (2024).
- Manette Affordable Housing Project, Bremerton (2021–23).

Secured housing and shelter funding for the community

- Saint Vincent de Paul Housing & Shelter, Kitsap County (2024) — secured \$1 million in state funding.
- Peninsula Medical Respite & Housing Center, Bremerton (2023–25).
- Peninsula Community Health Housing, Bremerton (2023–25).
- Peninsula Community Health Services Clinic, Silverdale (2026) — \$1.5 million to expand primary care access.

Supported legislation to build more housing and protect renters

- Authored the reentry and rehabilitation law (2SHB 1818, 2022). Stable housing after release is the foundation for not going back.
- Transit-oriented housing development (3SHB 1491, 2025).
- Social housing authorities (EHB 1687, 2026).
- The Covenant Homeownership Program (2023 & 2025) — a path to homeownership for families historically shut out by redlining and discriminatory lending.
- Tenant protections (EHB 1217, 2025).
- Emergency shelter support for pets (ESHB 1201, 2025).

Health & Mental Health

Bills signed into law authored by Rep. Simmons

- The Mental Health Parity Act (E2SHB 1432, 2025). Mental health is now treated like any other part of your health in Washington.
- Prior Authorization Reform (E2SHB 1357, 2023 & SHB 1706, 2025). Forced insurers to speed up treatment approvals — faster, electronic, transparent.
- The Charity Care Law (SHB 1616, 2022). 2.2 million Washingtonians who make too much for Medicaid but can't afford hospital bills now qualify for free or reduced-cost care.
- Behavioral Health Consumer Advocacy Office (E2SHB 1086, 2021). An independent watchdog protecting patients' rights.
- Healthcare Workforce (SHB 1411, 2021 & SHB 2339, 2026). Grew the workforce and strengthened nursing standards.
- Nursing Assistants SUD Support (HB 2340, 2026).
- Prenatal Substance Exposure (2SHB 1168, 2023).
- Healthcare Professionals SUD Program (SHB 1255, 2023).
- Counselors Committee (HB 1234, 2025).

Brought healthcare funding directly to Kitsap County

- \$18.48 million for a new Substance Use Disorder clinic in Poulsbo.
- \$1.5 million for Peninsula Community Health Services in Silverdale (2026).
- \$927,000 for a new PCHS dental clinic in Bremerton (2025–27).
- \$773,000 to expand Kitsap Mental Health Services in Bremerton (2024).
- \$556,000 for Peninsula Community Health on Bainbridge Island (2025–27).
- \$4.5 million for the Suquamish On-Reservation Health Service Center (2024).

Supported these bills — all signed into law

- 988 Mental Health Crisis Line (E2SHB 1477, 2021 & E2SHB 1134, 2023).
- Expanded Medicaid access (SHB 1392, 2025).
- Protected preventive care (ESHB 2242, 2026).
- Expanded paid family and medical leave (E2SHB 1213, 2025).
- Youth behavioral health funding (2SHB 2429, 2026).
- In-home care training (SHB 1142, 2025).
- Hearing instruments coverage (ESHB 1222, 2023).
- Expanded behavioral health contracts (E2SHB 1515, 2023).
- Out-of-network health care reform / surprise-bill protection (E2SHB 1688, 2022).
- Behavioral health discharge standards (2SHB 1860, 2022).
- Abortion care protections (EHB 1851, 2022).
- Birth doula coverage and recognition (ESHB 1881, 2022).

Environment & Climate

Backed Washington's major climate legislation

- Supported the Climate Commitment Act — makes large polluters pay for emissions and funds climate action.
- Supported the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (E3SHB 1091, 2021).
- Supported clean energy siting reform (E2SHB 1216, 2023).
- Supported forest management investments (2026 session).
- Co-sponsored thermal energy network legislation (ESHB 2131, 2024).
- Supported extreme weather event planning (SHB 1012, 2024).
- Supported climate change planning legislation (E2SHB 1181, 2023).
- Supported climate funding for tribal communities (ESHB 1753, 2022).
- Supported appliance efficiency standards (ESHB 1619, 2022).

Helped protect land and water in Kitsap County

- Port Gamble Shoreline Restoration (2023–25) — secured \$2.4 million for one of the most significant ecological restoration projects on Puget Sound.
- North Kitsap Divide Block Community Forest (2021–23).
- Ridgetop DNR Trust Land Purchase, Silverdale (2021–23).
- UW Rockaway Bluff Preserve, Kitsap County (2024).
- Port Gamble Forest Park, Timber Rights (2026).
- Illahee Preserve Phase 2, Bremerton (2023–25 & 2024).
- Carpenter Creek Estuary Protection, Kitsap County (2024).

Protected Puget Sound and local waterways

- Supported state marine forest / kelp legislation (HB 1631, 2025).
- Supported derelict vessel removal (HB 1700, 2022 & SHB 2199, 2026).
- Supported reducing plastic pollution (SHB 1085, 2023).
- Supported banning harmful chemicals in cosmetics (SHB 1047, 2023).
- Supported banning cosmetics tested on animals (ESHB 1097, 2024).

Transportation & Ferries

Backed a historic transportation investment — and Kitsap got results

- New hybrid-electric ferries being built for Kitsap routes.
- Ferry fares now free for riders 18 and under.
- Highway 3 improvements underway.
- Ferry staffing investment to address canceled sailings.
- Bike and pedestrian safety improvements across the region.

Direct work on the ferry system

- Supported ferry captain licensing legislation (HB 1511, 2025).
- Supported a maritime careers task force (HB 1167, 2025).
- Supported transit governing body reform (SHB 1418, 2025).
- Supported transportation project permitting reform (ESHB 1902, 2025).

Secured local waterfront and transit funding

- Liberty Bay Waterfront Boardwalk, Poulsbo (2026).

- Silverdale Float Expansion (2021–23).
- Transit-oriented housing development (3SHB 1491, 2025).
- Transportation network / rideshare standards (ESHB 2076, 2022).

Education

Brought major education investments directly to Kitsap

- Secured investment for West Sound Technical Skills Center Modernization in Bremerton.
- Over \$4.4 million for Olympic College improvements (2023–25).
- Funding for Chief Kitsap / Suquamish School District through the Tribal Compact and OSPI.

Fought for childcare — because education starts before kindergarten

- Fought for the Millionaires Tax (2026), which includes a dedicated childcare and early-learning stream through Fair Start for Kids.
- Supported the Child Care Workforce Board (2SHB 1128, 2026).
- Supported subsidized childcare legislation (HB 2111, 2024).
- Supported transition-to-kindergarten investments (2SHB 1550, 2023).
- Supported childcare and community investments (HB 1199, 2023).

Fought for K–12 schools

- Free school meals for every student in Washington, starting 2029 (via the Millionaires Tax provision).
- Supported reading and writing literacy legislation (ESHB 1295, 2026).
- Supported special education funding increases (ESHB 1436, 2023).
- Supported student mental health days (HB 1834, 2022).
- Supported zero-emission school buses (E2SHB 1368, 2024).
- Supported language access in schools (E2SHB 1153, 2022).
- Supported free school meals (E2SHB 1238, 2023).
- Supported paraeducator professional requirements (SHB 1015, 2023).
- Supported the public education system investment (ESHB 1296, 2025).

Backed pathways beyond high school

- Supported dual credit program expansion (2SHB 1273, 2025).
- Supported postsecondary education protections (EHB 1279, 2025).
- Supported the state student loan program (E2SHB 1736, 2022).
- Supported apprenticeship bills (ESHB 1050; SHB 1458; 2SHB 1013; 2SHB 1525, 2023).
- Supported high school completion and CTC tuition access (HB 1556, 2025).
- Supported student loan / public service loan forgiveness (HB 1950, 2024).

Civil Rights, Immigrants & LGBTQ+

Fought to protect immigrant communities

- Introduced the ICE Out Act (HB 2641, 2026). “ICE is completely out of control, the time to take a stand is now.” Would have barred WA law enforcement from hiring sworn ICE officers serving on or after Jan. 20, 2025. Didn't pass — she's not done fighting.
- Supported sick leave protections for immigrant workers (ESHB 1875, 2025).
- Supported refugee and immigrant assistance (SHB 2368, 2024).

- Supported court interpreter access (E2SHB 1174, 2025).
- Supported language access expansion (SHB 2475, 2026).
- Supported private detention facility oversight (E2SHB 1232, 2025 & 2SHB 1470, 2023).

Fought for public safety with accountability for all communities

- Introduced the Law Enforcement Body Worn Camera Act (HB 2644, 2026). Didn't pass — her commitment still stands.
- Supported preventing law enforcement impersonation (ESHB 2165, 2026).
- Supported police use-of-force reform (ESHB 1267, E2SHB 1310, 2021).
- Supported peace officer standards reform (SHB 1735, 2022).

Stood with reproductive rights and the LGBTQ+ community

- Championed reproductive rights and bodily autonomy, including abortion-care protections (EHB 1851, 2022).
- Supported postpartum contraception coverage (HB 1651, 2022).

Broader civil rights record

- Authored the voting rights restoration law (ESHB 1078, 2021) — people get their right to vote back immediately upon release.
- Supported the Washington Voting Rights Act (ESHB 1048, 2023).
- Supported the CROWN Act (EHB 1874, 2025).
- Supported dual and tribal language education (3SHB 1228, 2024).
- Supported institutional education program improvements (SHB 1701, 2023).
- Supported construction training inside DOC (2SHB 2084, 2024).
- Supported state custody ID cards (E2SHB 2099, 2024).
- Supported clemency and pardons reform (E2SHB 1131, 2025).
- Supported juvenile justice reform and alternatives to court (2SHB 1391, 2025).