

# Advocacy in Action

NO. 1

June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

PAGE 1

## Legislative Recap

### Re-cap of Legislative Session by our Elected Officials:

- 2302 bills introduced
- 485 bills passed
- 457 bills signed
- 1 vetoed
- 13 partially vetoed

Governor Inslee called for a special session for the House and Senate to discuss the Blake Bill. The day before the extended special session was requested by Governor Inslee, legislators announced

an agreement, and both houses quickly passed a revised version of SB 5536. The final legislation defines possession and a new offense of public drug use as gross misdemeanors, punishable by a maximum of 180 days for the first two offenses and 364 for subsequent offenses and a maximum fine of \$1,000. It also encourages (but does not require) diversion to drug treatment programs. It includes \$62.9 million for services and programs to address substance use disorder. Our state legislature is in recess now for the interim until preparations for the 2024 session begin in the Fall. Bills that did not pass in this session are still active, the second year of the biennium. Interim session will focus on comprehensive planning.

### Department of Commerce reports legislative action on Broadband Equity Access

Based on legislative action, funding will be earmarked to provide more equitable broadband access. June 30 is deadline for funding allocation from National Telecommunications and Information Administration and by August 13 a five-year plan must be created. In our state, the Department of Commerce oversees these efforts through their Washington State Broadband Office.

### Partner Organization – WLIHA (Washington Low Income Housing Alliance) shares its strategic plan.

Please see below for their Roadmap to Housing Justice. This is a draft and they welcome input. [https://www.wliha.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/WLIHA%20Strategic%20Plan%202021-2024\\_0.pdf?eType=EmailBlastContent&elid=79a79030-42a5-4458-b3bf-c68ababc6fbc](https://www.wliha.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/WLIHA%20Strategic%20Plan%202021-2024_0.pdf?eType=EmailBlastContent&elid=79a79030-42a5-4458-b3bf-c68ababc6fbc)

### Elections - filing for local offices began May 16

- Primary Election – August 1
- General Election – November 7

Stay tuned for more information about upcoming forums. We will partner again with the League of Women Voters of Snohomish County and will post the links of how you can participate on our website. Their first forum will be June 20 and run through July 10, 2023. Elections will include the following positions: 8 Snohomish County (County Executive, County District 2 & 3, Assessor, Auditor, Clerk, Sheriff and Treasurer); 20 City elections within Snohomish County; 15 different School Districts; 18 Fire Districts; 5 Regional Fire Authorities; 9 Water Districts; Sewer; Hospital; 2 Port openings – Everett & Edmonds; and 2 Recreation positions.

## Successful Events



**Cinco de Mayo Celebration** - Our Hispanic/Latino cultural group along with their group leader, Aracely Herrera welcomed and shared with our community a group luncheon and resource fair. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, Council Vice President presented a proclamation honoring this day and the cultural

group signed by Mayor Frizzell. Also present was Kyoko Matsumoto Wright, Mayor of Mountlake Terrace. We had over 170 people attend with many new connections made. Thank you for all our community partners who attended this event. Food for the event was generously donated by Brookdale.

### Homage Hosts Lynnwood City Council Coffee & Chat

At the end of April we hosted a successful turn out of community members meeting face to face with their Council representatives. There was great conversation among all who attended. Council members present included Josh Binder, Patrick Decker, George Hurst, Jim Smith, and Shirley Sutton.



Josh Binder, Shirley Sutton, Patrick Decker, Jim Smith, George Hurst and Lisa Harrison.

## Successful Events (continued)

### Homage Meets with Partnering Agencies

As the largest provider of social services for older adults and people with disabilities in Snohomish County, staff members met with twelve different senior centers at the end of April. Homage staff wanted to hear feedback from our community partners about the services we provide in the various portions of Snohomish County and wanted to learn how we could strengthen our partnership and communication. The biggest take-a-ways were that we are doing amazing work helping our senior center partners, however there are opportunities to improve and build more formal partnerships. We did hear that communication between community sites and Homage needs to be improved so there are few if any missed opportunities. More education about our programs and services would be appreciated by many of our partners.



## Topics Of Interest

### More Than Enough campaign! – NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Health) and Mental Health Awareness Month [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)

NAMI want us to know that the More Than Enough campaign is an opportunity for all of us to come together and remember the inherent value we each hold — no matter our diagnosis, appearance, socioeconomic status, background or ability. We want every person out there to know that if all you did was wake up today, that's more than enough. No matter what, you are inherently worthy of more than enough life, love and healing. Showing up, just as you are, for yourself and the people around you is more than enough.

### Engage, Mind & Body Event – Kick off Saturday, Sept 2 @ Homage from 11-2.

What is Engage Mind & Body? It's a three-week community wellness challenge focused on engaging our minds and bodies while raising funds for seniors and people with disabilities in your community. Challenge yourself, friends and family to see who can complete the most wellness minutes and help raise funds to provide healthy meals, safe transportation, home repairs and mental health services for seniors and those with disabilities. Attend Engage Mind & Body Kickoff Event - Mingle with local businesses, hear from healthcare providers, and enjoy entertaining performances. Enter to win two tickets anywhere Alaska Airlines flies, and so much more! For questions, contact Mollie Meyer at [mmeyer@homage.org](mailto:mmeyer@homage.org) or 425-740-3786

## Upcoming at Homage

- **Emergency Food Kit building and deliveries – October & November**  
This is a great corporate volunteer opportunity for groups to volunteer. Call 425-740-3787 for more information.
- **Second Tuesdays of the month at Homage – Coffee & Chats**
- **Consider using our multicultural meeting space for Town Halls or Community Meetings**
- **Available opportunities to volunteer with either our Multicultural Senior Center or do a ride along with Meals on Wheels**



## YOUR VOICE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Please support the work by forwarding our messages to colleagues, family and friends who are passionate about helping older and disabled adults in your community.

## GUEST CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME...

If your organization has advocacy information and/or updates to share, please reach out to us!