

A photograph of the Wisconsin State Capitol building, featuring a large central dome and classical columns, set against a clear blue sky. The building is illuminated by warm, golden light, likely from the setting or rising sun.

Welcome!

Sen. Leonard Christian

Town Hall Meeting

March 28, 2026

2026: Doubling Down on Dysfunction

Disturbing trends continue

- Unchecked spending, no course correction.
- Policies put interests of government ahead of the people.

Massive tax increases

- In 2025, Legislature enacted staggering \$12B tax hike.
- In 2026, enacted **income tax**.

Government failures go unaddressed

- DCYF child deaths increasing.
- Possible daycare fraud ignored.
- Nepotism, self-dealing in Covenant Housing Program.

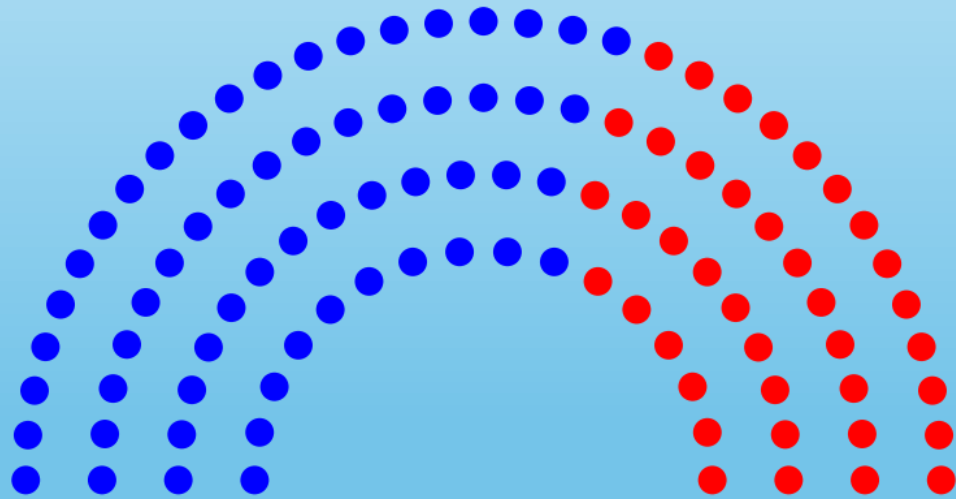
Ninth session under one-party control

Democrats have held governor's office since 1985

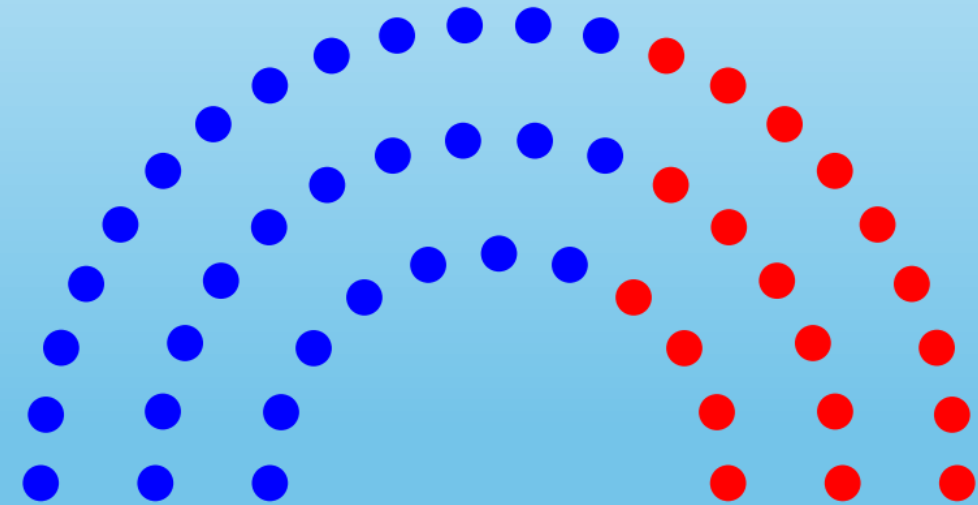
Longest streak in nation



Governor's Mansion



House majority since 2003, 59-39



Senate majority since 2018, 30-19

Under 'progressive' leadership, a sharp left turn

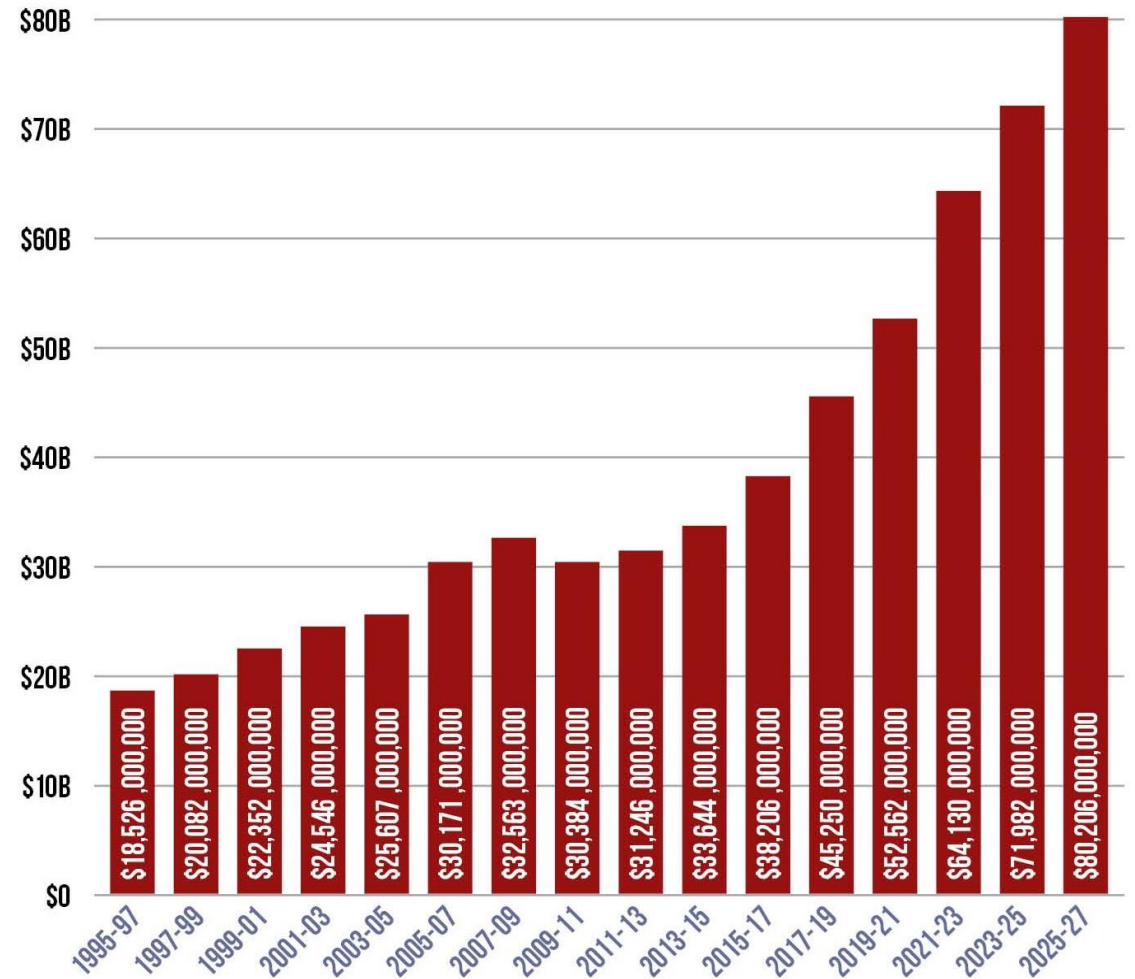
- Dramatically higher state spending
- Higher taxes to pay for it
- Weaker law enforcement
- Non-enforcement of drug & vagrancy laws
- Preoccupation with race & reparations
- Higher gas and electricity prices
- Assault on 2nd Amendment rights
- Diminished parental rights in public schools
- Greater government control of our daily lives



Budget continues mistakes of the past

- 2025-27 budget tops \$80B, includes last year's tax increases
- Continues skyrocketing spending
- Grows twice as fast as median family income
- Exceeds tax revenues by \$5B
- Uses one-time money to launch ongoing expenditures.
- Fails to correct course, assures trouble in the future

State spending doubles in a decade
30-year operating budget history



Income tax: The unthinkable becomes reality



Longest continuous debate in Washington history:
House Republicans hold off income tax for 25 hours.

Coming your way!

- 9.9 percent tax applies initially to high earners, small business owners.
- Easy to expand – just change deductible.
- Will happen when economy hits next speed bump.

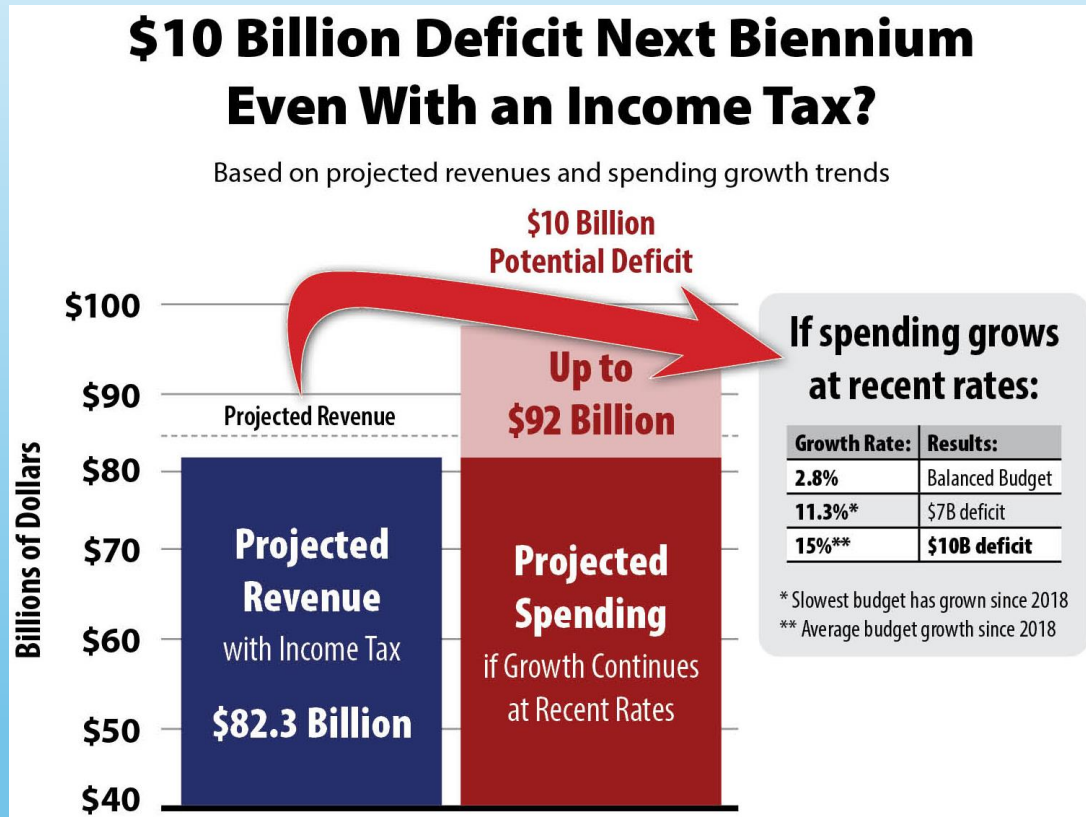
Denies people a choice

- Washington voters have said no 10 times since 1934.
- This time they aren't asking.
- Won't go to ballot.
- Emergency clause prevents referendum.

Won't solve anything

- Eliminates state's biggest competitive advantage.
- Relief from other taxes is limited.
- Increases tax burden, makes WA less affordable.

Did Washington get tired of prosperity?



- Wealthy job creators leaving state.
- Starbucks announces new “regional” HQ in Tennessee.
- 44% of business owners considering moving.
- Las Vegas real estate agents see influx of WA refugees.
- Income tax proceeds already spoken for.
- \$7-10 billion deficit expected in 2027 at current spending rates.
- How long will it take for Olympia to expand income tax to everyone?

Worst legislation of the year

Anti-sheriff bill: SB 5974 gives authority to an unelected state board to remove elected sheriffs from office. Aims to quash independent thinking on policing policies, cooperation with feds.

Attorney General fishing expeditions: SB 5925 expands AG's powers, allows broad investigations of individuals, businesses, non-profits and law enforcement without evidence of a crime. Allows Olympia to rule by fear.

Ending taxpayer protections: HB 2442 greatly expands local governments' ability to raise taxes and fees, ending requirements for voter approval, eliminating limits, and reducing accountability to voters.

Expansion of abortion: SB 5917 gives away state's stockpile of abortion pills, free of charge. SB 6182 imposes new tax on health insurers to subsidize Washington abortion clinics.

Big new taxes: In addition to income tax and abortion tax, 13 other bills raise taxes and fees, increasing costs for data centers, lenders, prescription drugs and more.



Victories where we can find them



North-South Freeway on schedule

Final connection to I-90 due in 2029-31.

Restoration of firefighting funding

Budget restores \$60M cut, keeps successful fire prevention/ forest health program on track.

Bad bills that failed include:

‘Initiative Killer’ bill: SB 5973 would have imposed new obstacles to the people’s right of initiative.

Weakening ‘Three Strikes You’re Out’: SB 5945 would have eliminated felonies committed before age 18 from life-sentence calculations.

Environmental Crimes: SB 5360 would have allowed violations of environmental laws to be prosecuted as felonies.

Medicaid expansion: SB 5946 would have expanded eligibility for subsidized medical services, something we can’t afford.

Leniency for pedophiles: SB 5312 would have shortened the time sex offenders caught in “net nanny” stings must remain on state registry.

Enabling the failures of government

Department of Children, Youth and Families

Child protective services:

- Alarming increase in child deaths and near deaths, 45 cases in first nine months of 2025.
- About half of cases involve fentanyl exposure.
- Law, agency policy set too high a bar for intervention.

Childcare:

- News media in December found suspicious daycare operations in WA, possible Minnesota-style fraud.
- Result? Silence. No hearings, no investigation.

Legislative non-solutions:

- **SB 5926** (withdrawn), would have exempted daycares from certain public records requirements, creating obstacles for outside investigations.
- **SB 5942** (did not advance), would have eliminated public oversight duties for DCYF Oversight Board.

Covenant Housing Program

- State reparations program provides no-interest loans for down payments and closing costs, based on race.
- Funded by \$100 recording-fee surcharge.
- Program discriminates against persons of disfavored races and ethnicities.
- Non-profit partners improperly directed loans, grants and debt relief to family members, associates and 'preferred vendors.'
- Legislation to prevent self-dealing and increase accountability failed to advance (**SB 6205**).
- Program now under investigation by feds for discriminatory practices.

Questions?

Stay in touch!



The session may be over, but I serve you year-round.

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