

2006-2026: Celebrating 20 years of championing economic justice

At the Washington State Budget and Policy Center, we envision a state where every community is thriving and everyone has a bright economic future grounded in health, freedom, and joy. We're committed to ensuring our state budget and tax code can move us toward this vision.

As we celebrate our twentieth year, we are proud of the progress we've made together. **In just the past few years, we helped protect the capital gains tax – which provides funding for schools and early learning – on the ballot, and we supported the passage of the new Millionaires Tax, which will fund a major expansion of the Working Families Tax Credit.** These policies strengthen our inequitable state tax code and improve people's well-being.

Alongside our longstanding work on revenue, the state budget, and anti-poverty programs, our team now also prioritizes economic policies tied to immigration justice and the criminal legal system. We're also building relationships with tribal leaders and organizations to learn how we can better support tribal sovereignty. We know thriving communities require policies that uplift people most harmed by discriminatory institutions and systems. We also know it is important to prioritize the needs of rural towns and communities outside of King County in our work; so we are strengthening our connections with leaders and organizations throughout the state.

Advancing economic justice takes time and collective effort. Washington state is fortunate to have a strong movement of advocates committed to creating a better future for all of us. **Thank you for being part of that movement. We couldn't do this work without you.**

"I'm proud to lead the Budget and Policy Center board of directors because of our commitment to make economic security and racial justice a reality for all of us who call this state home. It is inspiring to see what the center has been able to accomplish over the last 20 years, in coalition with community partners across Washington. We're listening, learning, and we're just getting started."



Brenda Anibarro
Inatai Foundation - and
Budget and Policy Center
board president

"Immigration justice is about all of us, fighting for our neighbors and protecting our right to take care of our families, regardless of citizenship status. The Budget and Policy Center has been steadfast in ensuring that policy wins center the needs of immigrants, and I've been grateful to rely on their work to showcase the impact of immigrants to our state's economy and our communities."



Malou Chávez
Northwest Immigrant
Rights Project



Policy highlights through the years

We helped secure the following wins in partnership with many organizations, coalitions, community leaders, and advocates. For a more detailed timeline of what we've accomplished together over the past 20 years, visit budgetandpolicy.org/20-years-of-progress.



Making meaningful improvements to our tax code

Thanks to the capital gains tax and Working Families Tax Credit, Washington shed its decades long title as the nation's most inequitable tax code in 2024.¹ Families felt the difference — from early learning investments to cash in the pockets of people with low incomes. But we're not done. Washington still ranks second worst state in the U.S., which is why we're pushing for broader tax reforms and working to protect the Millionaires Tax — a policy that will make our tax code less favored toward the ultra-wealthy.²

Turning our theory of change into action

As part of our new theory of change, we are, among other things, focused on deepening statewide relationships with a wide range of partners and ensuring staff have the support they need. Highlights include new board members from Vancouver, Yakima, and Spokane; and more collaborative, in-person work planning processes. See our theory of change at budgetandpolicy.org/our-theory-of-change.

2010

Voters defeat Tim Eyman's Initiative 1033, thus protecting **public jobs and community investments**.

2013

An **expansion of Medicaid** for adults with low incomes invests in public health.

2016

Voters raise the statewide minimum wage and provide sick and safe leave — so workers can make a better living and protect their well-being.

2021

The Working Families Tax Credit, which provides a cash boost to people with low incomes, and the **capital gains tax**, which funds early learning, pass into law.

2022

Legislation **waives court debt for some people who are unable to pay**, helping disrupt cycles of poverty caused by an inequitable monetary sanction system.

2026

The Millionaires Tax passes. It includes a **Working Families Tax Credit expansion** — which will give a cash boost to more people in Washington. **The Immigrant Workers Protection Act** ensures employers alert employees of workplace audits and inform them of their rights.

Make a gift during our 20th anniversary and it will be matched, up to \$100,000.



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1. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP), Who Pays? 7th edition, 2024. Read more at budgetandpolicy.org/schmudget/press-release-washington-state-no-longer-has-worst-tax-code-in-u-s.
2. ITEP, "Washington Millionaires' Tax, Expanded Working Families Tax Credit Make Tax Code Fairer," March 2026.

