

Legislative Update March 2020

There are 15 Legislators leaving/retiring so far this year. We are anticipating an increase in the Democrat party which will make next session even more partisan than it was this year. This makes it so the Republicans won't be able to get many bills through which is unfortunate because they often have good pieces of legislation, but those bills die because they are sponsored by an Republican. We posted all the legislators that are leaving on our website.

Candidates have started fundraising as this is a big election year. This is a very good time to start meeting with legislators in your district. It's very helpful to simply ask them out for coffee once the quarantine has been lifted, to have a quick chat about what you do and what is important to you. They like meeting with their constituents! You can find your district here: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/> I will keep you informed of any fundraisers as well, but most have been cancelled at this time. They are also a great time to meet legislators - they give speeches of their priorities and you normally get a chance to ask questions.

The primary is August 4th and the general election is on November 3rd. If you'd like to donate to any candidate, the maximum you can give is \$1000 for the primary and \$1000 for the general. You can find their mailing address on their website or here <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/browse/more-ways-to-follow-the-money/candidates/statewide?category=Candidates> It's also good to bring a contribution to any fundraiser you attend, even if it's a small amount.

Stay tuned for more election information! Don't forget to wash your hands and stay safe!

On March 25, the Governor issued a proclamation that makes telemedicine payment parity effective immediately through April 24. In addition, the Governor prohibited:

- Reimbursing in-network providers for telemedicine claims for medically necessary covered services at a rate lower than the contracted rate that would be paid if the services had been delivered through traditional (in-person) methods;
- Denying a telemedicine claim from an in-network provider for a medically necessary covered service due to an existing provider contract term with that provider that denies reimbursement for services provided through telemedicine; and
- Establishing requirements for the payment of telemedicine services that are inconsistent with the emergency orders, rules or technical advisories to carriers issued by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

[8 tips for taking care of mind and body while at home during the coronavirus pandemic](#)

You have a stocked pantry, you're staying at least 6 feet away from those outside your household and you're a pro at washing your hands. You're practicing good community care by staying home — so what do you do next to not just stay healthy during the coronavirus pandemic and self-isolation, but also make personal progress? Continue reading at [The Seattle Times](#). (Larry Crowe)

[Don't forget to take the census](#)

Due to the coronavirus, the deadline for responding to the census is Aug. 14, 2020. As the eyes of the country are focused on this once-in-a-century pandemic, it appears much has been put on the backburner, including the once-in-a-decade official United States Census But with Washington still under a stay-at-home order, there's no better time to pull out a pen, pick up the phone, or sit down at your computer to make sure the federal government figures you in when it divides billions of federal assistance dollars among the states. Continue reading at [The Federal Way Mirror](#). (US Census Bureau)

[The governor warns of stepped-up 'stay home' enforcement](#)

Gov. Jay Inslee on Monday unveiled a stepped-up effort to enforce his statewide "stay home" order amid signs of a slowing rate of infection in King County and a continued rise in Snohomish County and elsewhere. Meanwhile, property owners in Snohomish County won't have to pay their property tax bills until June 1. Originally due by April 30, the extension mirrors ones granted in King and Pierce counties. Continue reading at [The Everett Herald](#).

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