Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council

Navigating the 2021 Legislative Session

Updates, tips, and tricks to surviving, and perhaps, even thriving this session!

An acknowledgment on <u>this</u> presenter's limitations

- I don't have any disabilities that limit my ability to communicate.

- I am not a person of color, nor is English my second, third, or fourth language.

- I can only share what is true for me and try to make space for others.

- I am not poor, so a disproportionate share of my time and energy is not used on trying to get my basic needs met.

- I don't live in a rural area where I struggle with lack of transportation or internet connectivity issues.

- Acknowledging my limited experiences does not minimize my contributions or my perspectives, but it does remind me that I need to make sure those other voices are represented in these and any discussions where policies are discussed.

"Things are going to look a little different this year"

- We are all sick of hearing that phrase.

- "Different" can mean additional accessibility barriers, but also different accessibility opportunities!

For those of us who **are** great with technology, this session might be easier!
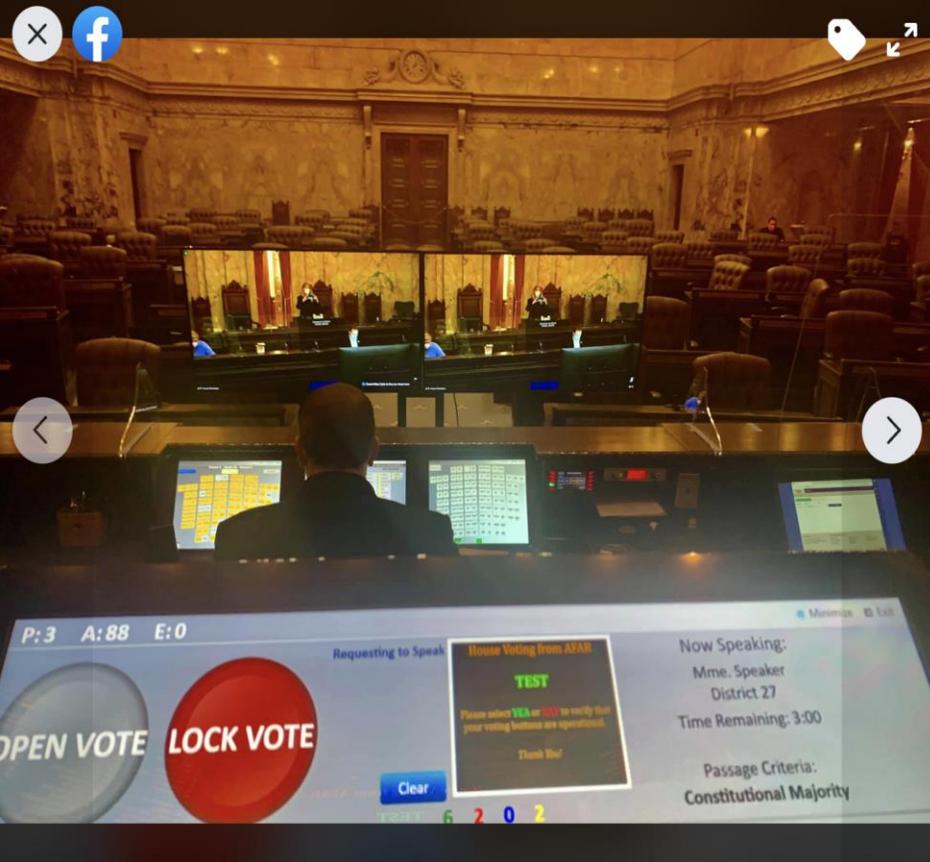
Tina Orwall
December 4 at 6:06 PM

The speaker will reside from the rostrum and watch the voting from this screen. I will have to cast my vote verbally.

Laura Anglin, Jaime Hawk and 3 others
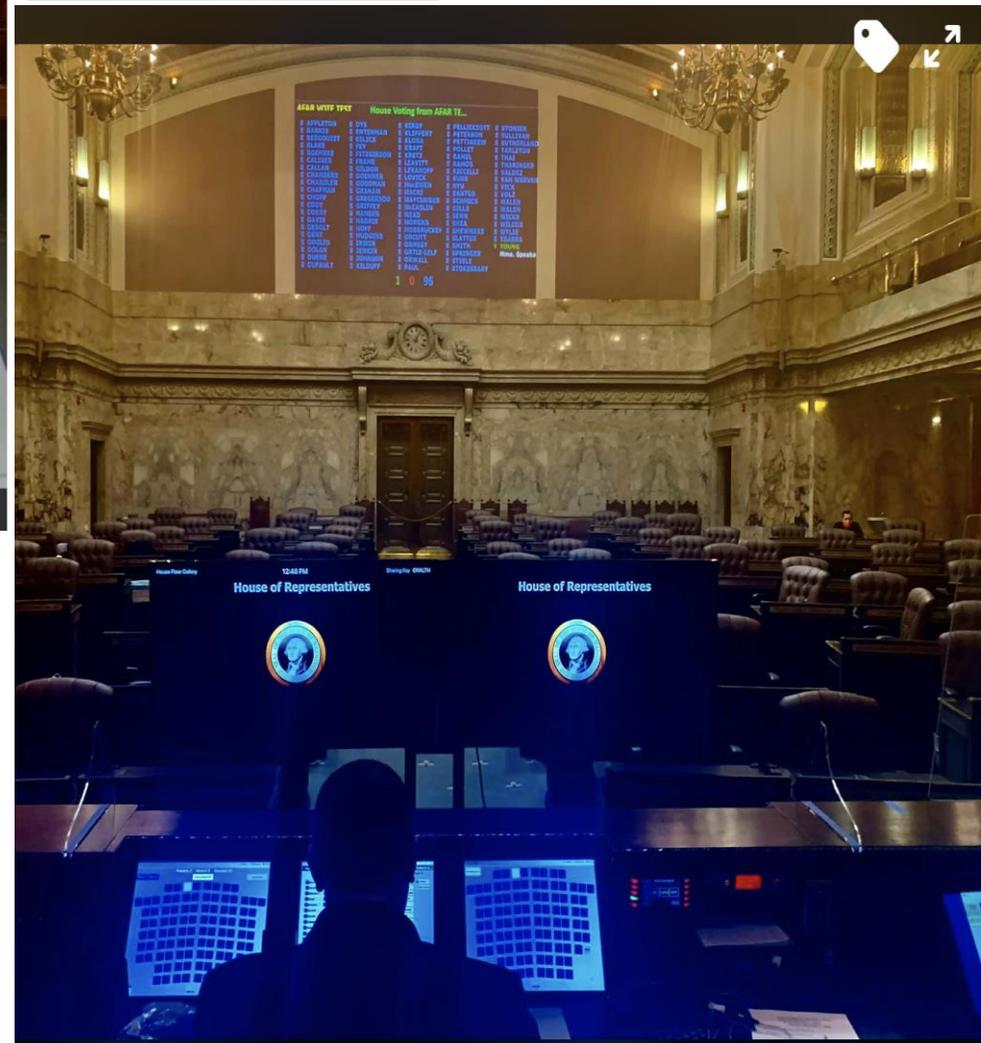
Tina Orwall
December 4 at 6:06 PM

Teams of staff are prepping the zoom call with staff and handling technical difficulties. Gary will be doing roll call with members on zoom.

Laura Anglin and 2 others

Like   Comment

Write a comment...

For those of us who struggle without in-person meetings, whether the struggle is because English is not your dominant language, or because you don't have a device or internet, *please let someone know.*

While we can't eliminate everyone's barriers, many of us have been working for months to patch together solutions. If the DDC or The Arc can't help, we might know who can eliminate whatever barrier you're experiencing to participation.

MAJOR DIFFFERENCES IN COMMUNICATION APPROACH

WHEN CONTACTING AN OFFICE	PRE-COVID 19	POST COVID 19
VIA EMAIL	THIS FORM OF COMMUNICATION BENEFITS PEOPLE WHO HAVE TECHNOLOGY, AND THOSE WHO CAN WRITE WELL IN ENGLISH.	NO REAL CHANGES. COMMUNICATING WITH THE LEGISLATURE WILL STILL DEPENDS HEAVILY ON EMAIL.

MOST OFFICES HAVE STRICT REQUIREMENTS TO REQUEST A MEETING IN WRITING TO COMPORT WITH PUBLIC RECORD LAWS (THOUGH YOU SHOULD STILL ASK FOR AN ACCOMMODATION IF YOU NEED IT) |
| IN PERSON | HAD TO NAVIGATE THE PHSYCIAL CAPITOL CAMPUS AND BARELY ADA ACCESSIBLE OFFICES | REPLACED WITH A ZOOM CALL. YOU WILL LIKELY BE ASKED TO DO THE WORK TO SCHEDULE THE CALL. |
| ON THE PHONE | MOST LIKELY TO GET THE LA | NO REAL CHANGES |

COMMUNICATING WITH LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANTS

- ▶ OFFER TO SET UP THE ZOOM CALL!

- ▶ THEN OFFER TO SEND A **CALENDAR INVITATION TO THE BOTH THE LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANTS AND TO THE LEGISLATORS.**

- ▶ IF YOU NEED HELP, REACH OUT TO THE DDC

1. Confirm legislator's willingness to meet via phone or email.

2. Send an email to their legislative assistant AND the legislator confirming time, date, topic, attendees.

3. Send a calendar invitation to all attendees, the legislator, and to the legislative assistant.

4. Include the Zoom link inside the calendar invitation and a brief note reminding them of their audience and the topic.

TRY TO HAVE EVERYTHING PREPARED AND READY TO GO WHEN YOU SEND THE CALENDAR INVITATION

- ▶ **CONSIDER ATTACHING AN AGENDA SO THAT IT DOESN'T GET LOST IN EMAIL**

There is no glossing over it; this approach requires MORE administrative work on our part to be successful. However, hopefully this administrative work behind the computer replaces THE physical work of tracking down legislators in-person.

Some legislators will be limited to 7 bills that they can prime sponsor. This does not mean that they cannot support your bill as a co-sponsor.

Some legislators are prioritizing bills that will:

- Advance racial equity
- Address response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Advance economic recovery
- Address the global climate crisis

With the additional following filters:

- Save money or increase the efficacy of appropriations within the upcoming biennium

- Help Washington access federal funding

- Help other levels of government do their job to respond to the pandemic or advance economic recovery

Check out the excellent guidance from Disability Rights Washington to our legislators!

Draft Guidance for Committee Chairs
How to Host an Accessible Remote Meeting
For Legislative Staff

This document is created to support Washington State Legislators who are Committee Chairs in conducting accessible hearings, work sessions, and remote testimony. This guidance was drafted by Disability Rights Washington and based on a Rooted in Rights Blog post called "How to Make Your Virtual Meetings and Events Accessible to the Disability Community" by Alaina Leary. For more resources and tips watch "Make Your Video Calls Accessible" by Rooted in Rights or contact Darya Farivar at Disability Rights Washington.

WORK PRODUCT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Darya Farivar, Disability Rights Washington
David Lord, Disabiltly Rights Washington

QUESTIONS? DON'T BE SHY!

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