

MAJOR GOVERNMENT REFORMS

Cut unfunded liability in half in older pension plans

Future automatic benefit increases will end in closed pension plans, which will save taxpayers \$344 million over the next two years and \$7.6 billion over the next 25 years.

Status: Completed July 2011 (lawsuit filed)

Eliminated retire-rehire option

Restrictions now disallow retired public employees who return to work for an institution of higher education to participate in a separate retirement plan offered by the institution. Individuals are no longer allowed to draw full-time retirement benefits as well as a salary.

Status: To be implemented January 2012

Reduced state employee salaries

In the first cut of its kind since at least the 1960s, when the state created the current personnel system, the salaries of public servants are being cut — not frozen — by 3 percent for two years.

Status: Implemented July 2011

Enacted largest workers' compensation reforms in a century

The bipartisan package of reforms will protect workers and help them get back to work, support businesses and save \$1.1 billion over the next four years.

Status: To be implemented January 2012

Saved businesses \$300 million with unemployment insurance reform

A bipartisan package helped businesses, especially small businesses, avoid a 36 percent increase in unemployment insurance rates. This will save businesses \$300 million in the first year.

Status: Implemented for 2011 and subsequent rates; permanently restructured formulas

Offered amnesty period on tax penalties

The first-ever amnesty period on back taxes brought in \$343 million and gave a fresh start to more than 8,000 Washington businesses — 78 percent of them small businesses.

Status: Completed April 30, 2011

Increased state employee share of health insurance costs

Workers agreed to pay a 25 percent larger share of health insurance costs, from 12 percent to 15 percent — more than ever before.

Status: To be implemented January 2012

Closed McNeil Island Corrections Center, Maple Lane School, Pine Lodge Corrections Center, Ahtanum View

The state closed the Corrections Center on McNeil Island; Maple Lane School, a youth treatment facility near Centralia; Pine Lodge, a facility for female offenders near Spokane; and Pine Lodge, a facility in Yakima for elderly offenders.

Status: Completed 2011

Closed and consolidated residential habilitation centers

For the first time in 18 years, the state closed a residential habilitation center, halted admissions at another and ended admissions of people 16 and younger. The state will invest savings into comprehensive community care so Washingtonians with disabilities can live in the community.

Status: In progress

Reformed the welfare-to-work program, TANF

New time limits and reduced grant amounts will be imposed to target the program.

Status: Implementation in progress

Ended the Disability Lifeline program

The Disability Lifeline program will be replaced by programs that provide medical care and housing support, instead of cash assistance, for the temporarily disabled who are unable to work.

Status: Implemented October 2011

Created the Office of Fraud and Accountability

The new office in the Department of Social and Health Services will crack down on inappropriate use of benefits and improve transparency within the agency.

Status: Implemented May 2011

Paid for adult family home licensing with fees

Adult family homes will pay fees to support licensing and oversight costs. Those fees will represent 39 percent of the state's licensing and oversight costs instead of the current 6 percent.

Status: Effective July 2011

Consolidated the Health Care Authority and Medicaid administration

This move combines the state's two largest health care purchasers to promote evidence-based medicine, realign incentives to improve care and cut health care costs.

Status: Completed July 2011

Consolidated information technology, office support functions

The Department of Enterprise Services will provide office support functions once offered by five agencies. Consolidated Technology Services will consolidate and standardize information technology and services for all state agencies. These represent the biggest reform of state government's structure in nearly 20 years and will save \$18.8 million in the next biennium.

Status: Effective October 2011

Created the Discover Pass to fund, preserve recreation areas

Sales from the Discover Pass and other revenue sources will help replace General Fund support of the state parks system in four years. This should save \$789 million over the next 10 years and preserve our state's natural treasures.

Status: Completed July 2011

Addressed the state debt level

The State Finance Committee will lower the state debt limit from 8.75 percent in 2016 to 7.75 percent by 2022.

Status: In progress

Implemented recommendations of the Higher Education Funding Task Force

The Legislature and governor implemented the Higher Education Funding Task Force's recommendations on tuition flexibility. Opportunity Scholarships, an endowment seeded with \$50 million from private sources and \$5 million from the state, will help low- and middle-income Washington students get a higher education. Colleges and universities will be able to set the price of tuition and will face stronger accountability and performance measures.

Status: Implemented August 2011

Consolidated the Conservation Corps into the Puget Sound Corps

The Puget Sound Corps will restore parks, protect habitat and work on other environment projects in the Puget Sound and its watershed.

Status: Completed July 2011

Eliminated 154 boards and commissions

Nearly one-third of 460 boards and commissions were eliminated, and 22 were restructured, to save taxpayer money and operate more efficiently.

Status: Completed