

2027 Legislative Talking Points

Talking points for bills that WCPA is supporting in the 2027 Washington State Legislative Session



Washington Coalition
for
Police Accountability

Note: Bill numbers may change as we enter the new biennium.

Overarching message:

- WCPA supports legislation that increases law enforcement transparency and accountability and reduces police violence for Washingtonians.

Body Camera Bill (HB 2644)

Key Message: Transparency helps build trust and establish facts.

- This bill would require officers to use body-worn cameras throughout an encounter, as well as require the Criminal Justice Training Commission to monitor and report agencies' compliance.
- Body camera footage can provide critical information for families seeking answers.
- Timely access and clear policies help reduce uncertainty and strengthen public confidence.
- Families deserve transparency when serious incidents occur.
- Washington needs a state law to create more uniformity in how body cameras are used. Currently policies are set by local law enforcement agencies.

Office of Independent Prosecutor (SB 5584)

Key Message: Independent prosecutions promote confidence in outcomes.

This bill would create a position of independent prosecutor to make charging decisions in cases involving police use of deadly force.

- Impacted families and Washingtonians want prosecutions that are impartial and free from potential conflicts of interest.
- Independent review and prosecutions help ensure fairness for everyone involved.
- Public trust increases when investigations and prosecutions are conducted by neutral parties.

Police Tactics and Interrogations (HB 1138)

Key Message: Truth and justice require fair investigative practices.

- Interrogation methods should prioritize accuracy and reliability.
- Wrongful convictions and false confessions harm individuals, families, and communities.
- Strong safeguards help ensure that justice is based on facts and evidence.

Less-Lethal Alternatives (Bolo Wrap/Lasso Technology)

Key Message: Every opportunity to reduce the use of deadly force should be explored.

- Families want officers to have effective alternatives before resorting to lethal force.
- Expanding safe intervention options can save lives.
- Public safety strategies should prioritize preservation of life whenever possible.
- To explore state funding to incentivize LEA usage.

Civilian Responders for 911 Calls

Key Message: Not every emergency requires an armed response.

- Behavioral health crises, substance use issues, and social service needs often require specialized expertise.
- Trained and specialized civilian responders can connect people with services and support, and deescalate tense situations.
- Appropriate responses improve outcomes for individuals, families, and communities.

Autopsy Dignity Act

Key Message: Families deserve dignity during their most difficult moments.

- Coroner and autopsy processes should prioritize respect, privacy, and compassion.
- Families deserve clear communication, timely information, and meaningful involvement throughout the process.
- The focus should remain on supporting families and conducting thorough investigations that are independent of law enforcement presence.