



# Denny Heck

## Lieutenant Governor



## Statement by Lt. Governor Denny Heck on the Upcoming Adjournment of the 2024 Regular Session

Lt. Governor Denny Heck released a statement marking the upcoming adjournment of the 2024 Regular Session of the 68th Legislature:

“Today marks the end of the 68<sup>th</sup> legislative session. This session was smooth, orderly, and productive. Between the six initiatives that took up much of the session’s bandwidth, and the most prefiled bills of any short session, there was much to consider this year.

Once again, I am proud of the respectful discourse during Senate floor debates. Disagreements on policy are to be expected in this environment, but through regular and open communications leadership on both sides of the aisle ensured effective governance.

Our office worked to help pass two pieces of legislation this year: SCR 8414, creating a joint select committee on civic health; and HB 2000, renewing Washington’s international leadership. Both received large bipartisan support, and they are now headed to the Governor’s desk. I want to thank the sponsors and advocates for their efforts in passing these pieces of legislation.

Last year, I called the 2023 session the *Year of Housing* and I had high hopes 2024 would bring us the *Biennium of Housing*. Unfortunately, progress on housing was modest. Significant additional investments for the Housing Trust Fund for affordable housing, relegalizing co-living options, and reducing parking mandates are bright spots. However, we continue to fall further and further behind each year in the number of new homes needed to meet current and future demand. NIMBY attitudes and some local governments unwilling to rise to the challenge continue to have outsized influence on this debate. Together we must find a way forward on building significantly more homes of all kinds for all our neighbors.”

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