

Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee

The Legislature's Performance Auditors



JLARC staff give the Legislature accurate and unbiased answers to its questions about how a program or policy is working

JLARC staff conduct performance audits, program evaluations, sunset reviews, tax preference reviews, and other analyses. JLARC and the position of Legislative Auditor are established in statute (Chapter 44.28 RCW).

Key points

- JLARC's nonpartisan staff prepare answers independently, per professional audit standards.
- The Committee, with 8 Senators and 8 Representatives evenly split between the parties, helps ensure this independence.
- The Legislature assigns the studies through policy and budget bills. The Committee also may assign studies.
- We follow the same confidentiality protocols as all staff in OPR and SCS.
- We are happy to speak with legislative staff, members, and any committee after a study is published. Contact the study team or the Legislative Auditor.



What does JLARC study?

If it's in state government, JLARC can study it.

Examples of questions recently asked of JLARC include:

- Have tax preferences for interstate transportation businesses made the industry more competitive?
- How can Washington State Ferries improve its procurement of hybrid electric ferries?
- What were the racial equity effects of restricting in-person education during the COVID-19 pandemic?
- Does the Employment Security Department effectively administer the federal H-2A visa program?
- How are funds from the Dedicated Cannabis Account appropriated and spent?

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Page 1/2

JLARC Members

Senate
Bob Hasegawa
Liz Lovelett
Mark Mullet, *Chair*
Ann Rivers

Jesse Salomon
Shelly Short
Keith Wagoner
Lynda Wilson, *Secretary*

House
Emily Alvarado
Stephanie Barnard
April Berg
Jake Fey

Keith Goehner
Stephanie McClintock
Ed Orcutt, *Vice Chair*
Gerry Pollet, *Assistant Secretary*



Additional Detail

How do I request a study?

Members and legislative staff who are interested in having a study should reach out and let us know. We're happy to work with you to help you write study language for a bill or budget proviso.

Things to consider in a study proposal

Do I want to evaluate the performance of existing policy or am I proposing a new policy?

JLARC staff serve the entire Legislature and do not take policy or advocacy positions.

Are JLARC staff free to reach conclusions independently?

Statute and audit standards require JLARC staff to be independent and provide objective analysis that is free of bias.

Is there enough time to do it?

Auditing requires documentation and quality control. Most studies take 12-18 months to complete. Our fiscal notes indicate the amount of staff time needed and any potential costs for working with expert consultants to answer the question.

Is JLARC the most appropriate agency to perform the work?

Depending on study timing, scope, or subject, the Washington State Institute for Public Policy or Joint Transportation Committee may be better positioned to conduct the review.

How does JLARC consider racial equity in its review?

RCW 44.28.076 requires JLARC to consider racial equity in all studies, or state why it is not necessary based on the study scope. If the member requesting a study has a particular focus or equity question, please work with us to include that in the mandate.

Can you tell a member, legislative staff, or a committee what you're learning during the study?

We can share that work is underway and when the study will be complete. You will also have access to our study questions. However, professional standards state that we can't share what we are learning or finding before the study is published.

How do I keep up with JLARC's work?

Subscribe to JLARC on GovDelivery. You'll see what reports will be presented at each meeting and get a summary of the meeting highlights.

Read our quarterly newsletters. You should receive it by email.

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Find us online

Published reports

leg.wa.gov/jlarc/AuditAndStudyReports/Pages/default.aspx

Study questions and contacts for current projects

leg.wa.gov/jlarc/Pages/PlannedReports.aspx

Our biennial work plan and future studies

leg.wa.gov/jlarc/Documents/WorkPlan.pdf

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