



Washington State
DEPARTMENT OF
ENTERPRISE SERVICES



JULY 2024

Legislative Building Security Enhancements Report

JULY 2023 — JUNE 2024

Capitol Security & Visitor Services
Division

Report to the Legislature

Agency Overview

The Department of Enterprise Services (DES) provides centralized services to state government agencies; to other public entities such as cities, counties and tribes; and to Washington residents.

DES' mission is to strengthen the business of government for a sustainable and just future.

We do this by creating overall operating efficiencies so our state's government entities can focus on their core missions. Our buying power, economies of scale and years of experience help government get the best value for the products and services we need to support our missions.

Key Services

- Capitol Campus management
- Construction & public works
- Contracts & procurement
- Employee Assistance Program
- Energy efficiency
- Engineering & architectural services
- Facilities management
- Fleet management & EVs
- Parking management
- Print & mail services
- Property management
- Real estate services
- Risk management
- Small agency support
- Surplus property
- Training & workforce development



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Executive Summary

The Department of Enterprise Services (DES) received \$950,000 in the 2023-2025 operating budget for security enhancements to the Governor's Office lobby space in the Legislative Building and to complete design work for security enhancements to the remaining lobbies in the building.

DES is on schedule to meet those requirements by the close of fiscal year 2024:

- DES completed design work for the remaining Legislative Building lobbies.
- DES completed construction for the Governor's Office lobby the end of June 2024.

DES coordinated with stakeholders on design work including the Washington State Patrol Special Operations Division that oversees campus law enforcement operations.

This report summarizes the process DES used to design those security enhancements, however, to protect public safety, specific security measures identified during design are not disclosed in this report. DES is happy to meet with the proper committees and staff to discuss the results of the design work in more detail.

Introduction

The \$950,000 in the 2023-2025 operating budget for security enhancement lobby design and construction in the Governor's Office lobby was necessary to increase the level of protection for elected officials and employees who meet with constituents and the visiting public.

Statutory Directive

The general fund for fiscal year 2024 funded \$950,000 for security enhancements to the Governor's Office lobby space and for security enhancement design for the remaining public spaces and lobbies in the Legislative Building.

DES must supply the designs to the Senate Committee on State Government and Elections and the House of Representatives Committee on State Government and Tribal Relations by June 30, 2024 (ESSB 5950 Sec. 151(8)).

Background

The Washington State Capitol Campus is the largest state capitol complex in the country covering the 143-acre Capitol Campus and 260-acre Capitol Lake for a total of 403 acres. The campus serves as the seat of Washington state government for the legislative, executive and judicial branches, is a public forum for free speech, and is both a busy public destination and working government campus.

Maintaining the campus as a safe and welcoming place for everyone has been an increasing challenge over time as security concerns and threats have increased.

Over the last eight years, the country has seen an increase in threats to elected officials and government employees. A publication from the [Brennan Center for Justice](#) in January 2024 shared 43% of state legislators across the country experienced threats and 18% of officeholders experienced threats from 2017-2023. Of those, 29% reported that the seriousness of the incidents has increased.

Another publication, from the [Combating Terrorism Center at West Point](#), shows a gradual increase in those charged for committing threats to officials. The publication states an average 38 charges per year between 2013-2016, then a sharp increase to 62 per year from 2017-2022.

The Capitol Campus is not immune. DES has taken many steps to reduce the risk to elected officials and employees, including:

- Training.

- Sharing incident after-action reviews and best practices.
- Adding security measures into the scope of campus construction projects.
- Prohibiting open carrying of weapons inside campus buildings and on the West Campus grounds.

The security enhancement to the Governor's Office lobby space has created the separation between employees and the public that is necessary to ensure state employees feel safe and secure in their workplace.

Completing the improvements included in the funded design work would extend this same level of security to the remaining lobbies in the Legislative Building.

Scope

Provide security design for lobby spaces in the Legislative Building and complete the construction of security enhancements for the Governor's Office lobby.

Methodology

In coordination with stakeholders, DES created a project team to support security design work.

Project components included:

- Listening to concerns from stakeholders around:
 - Separating employee and public spaces.
 - Ensuring enhanced security is in place to prevent unauthorized access into secured office space.
 - Examining threat type and credibility.
- Reviewing earlier incidents and having discussions with the Washington State Patrol on security concerns.
- Reviewing historic materials and how best to conduct security enhancements while keeping the historic look and feel.
- Understanding the type of construction materials needed for security enhancements and lead times for those materials.
- Providing the architecture and engineering firm with the desired and appropriate levels of protection.
- Gathering feedback on design efforts, resulting in an approved design.

After completing the required design work, DES started construction for the Governor's Office lobby. DES completed this work in June of 2024.

Conclusion

DES will meet the requirements set by the 2023-2025 operating budget funding:

- DES completed design work for the Legislative Building lobbies.
- DES finished the Governor's Office lobby security enhancements in June 2024.

DES is committed to improving public safety on the state's Capitol Campus, so that it can remain a safe and welcoming campus for the state elected officials, government employees, the public and visitors from around the world.

DES is happy to meet with the proper committees and staff to discuss the results of the design work in more detail.

DES