

John Braun Overview Backup

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John Braun Is A Self-Serving Career Politician Whose Career In Olympia Demonstrates That He Offers More Business As Usual Politics And High Costs

Backup below.

John Braun Message #1 Backup

After 14 years, John Braun raised your taxes and cut his company's. In Olympia, John Braun was the architect of the largest property tax increase in Washington state history — \$1.6 billion — while in the very same budget deal he voted to cut his own company's taxes by 40 percent. Braun has sponsored legislation to lower the property tax bill on land he personally owns, and his company has taken more than \$2.5 million in taxpayer subsidies.

After 14 Years, John Braun Raised Your Taxes And Cut His Company's

Braun Has Served 14 Years In The Washington State Senate

John Braun Was First Elected To The Washington State Senate In 2012. “Senator John Braun was first elected to the Washington State Senate in 2012 to represent Southwest Washington’s 20th Legislative District, which includes parts of Cowlitz, Clark, Lewis, and Thurston counties.” [Washington Senate Republicans, John Braun, accessed [7/17/26](#)]

2025: Braun Served In His Fourth Term In The Washington State Senate. “John Braun, the top Republican in the Washington state Senate, launched his campaign Tuesday to unseat Democratic U.S. Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez next year. [...] Braun, now in his fourth term as a state senator, brings legislative experience, electoral know-how and a brand of Republicanism he hopes will appeal to independent and GOP voters who shunned Kent.” [Washington State Standard, [8/12/25](#)]

In Olympia, John Braun Was The Architect Of The Largest Property Tax Increase In Washington State History — \$1.6 Billion

Braun Helped Craft The 2017 Washington State Budget, Which Included “The Largest State Property Tax Increase In Washington History” And Raised \$1.6 Billion In New Revenue From Property Tax Increases

2017: Braun Was Chairman Of The Senate Ways And Means Committee And Senate Republicans’ Chief Budget Writer. “The Senate Majority Coalition Caucus released its two-year operating budget proposal on Tuesday, placing an emphasis on education and services for the state’s most vulnerable. The proposal formally launches the debate that will take place during the remaining four weeks of Washington’s 2017 regular legislative session. The Senate makes the first legislative proposal this year, followed by a formal proposal by the House. Sen. John Braun, R-Centralia, Senate Ways and Means

chairman and the Senate GOP's chief budget writer, said the proposal is a K-12 education budget.” [Centralia Chronicle, [3/23/17](#)]

- **2017: As Chair Of The Senate Ways And Means Committee, Braun Served As Prime Sponsor Of The Budget That Provided Full Funding For Washington's K-12 Public Schools.** “Braun, R-Centralia, served as chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee in 2017 and was the prime sponsor of the budget that provided full funding for Washington's K-12 public schools.” [John Braun, Press Release, [6/7/18](#)]

Centralia Chronicle Editorial: The 2017 Republican Budget Plan Was “Crafted In Large Part By Sen. John Braun.” “The Republicans’ plans for resolving what is known as the McCleary decision are innovative and precise in both identifying the current shortcomings of the system and shoring them up responsibly. Crafted in large part by Sen. John Braun, R-Centralia, the proposal calls for the state to ‘collect new, local property-tax levies for schools, which would be set at a uniform rate statewide and not be subject to voter approval. The state also would add \$1.4 billion per two-year budget cycle to supplement education funding.’” [Centralia Chronicle, [1/31/17](#)]

Herald Net: Washington's 2017 Budget Included “The Largest State Property Tax Increase In Washington History.” “The largest state property tax increase in Washington history is the centerpiece of a plan released Thursday to boost funding for public schools as demanded by the state Supreme Court. Under the agreement, the state will pour an additional \$1.8 billion into public schools in the next two years and another \$5.5 billion between 2019 and 2021. Those dollars will go to address the education funding mandate of the court's McCleary decision.” [Herald Net, [6/29/17](#)]

2017: Washington's Budget Property Tax Increase Raised \$1.6 Billion In New Revenue. “To pay for the increased spending, the budget counts on \$1.6 billion from hiking the state property tax to \$2.70 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, an 81-cent increase from the current level.” [Herald Net, [10/27/17](#)]

June 30, 2017: Braun Voted In Favor Of The Washington State Budget

June 30, 2017: Braun Voted In Favor Of The Washington State Budget. On June 30, 2017, Braun voted for “Making operating appropriations for the 2015-2017 and 2017-2019 fiscal biennia.” [Washington State Legislature, [S.B. 5883](#), [6/30/17](#)]

While In The Very Same Budget Deal He Voted To Cut His Own Company's Taxes By 40 Percent

June 30, 2017: Braun Voted In Favor A Washington State Revenue Bill That Cut The Business-And-Occupation (B&O) Tax Rate By 40%, Including For Braun's Own Company, And Called It A “Huge Opportunity”

June 30, 2017: Braun Voted For S.B. 5977, A Bill “Concerning Revenue.” On June 30, 2017, Braun voted for S.B. 5977, a bill “concerning revenue.” The bill passed by a vote of 33-16. [Washington State Legislature, [S.B. 5977](#), [6/30/17](#)]

- **2017: Braun Said S.B. 5977 Was A “Huge Opportunity” To Create More Manufacturing Jobs.** ““When you look at manufacturing jobs, it's a huge opportunity in areas we come from. These are long-term, family-wage jobs with benefits and stability,” said state Sen. John Braun, R-Centralia, chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee and lead budget negotiator for the Republicans.

[...] Braun is president of Braun Northwest, a company that builds emergency vehicles and would benefit from the tax cut. [...] The manufacturing tax cut was the largest of 13 tax breaks voted through by lawmakers Friday, and worth nearly \$100 million over the next four years. The tax breaks were combined into Senate Bill 5977, which passed the state House and Senate late Friday.” [Seattle Times, [7/2/17](#)]

2017: S.B. 5977 Cut Business-And-Occupation (B&O) Tax Rates For Manufacturers By 40% Over Four Years. “With little notice, a major tax cut for manufacturing businesses in Washington state was inserted into the state budget deal in the waning hours of all-night negotiations last week. Under the measure approved by the Legislature on Friday, business-and-occupation (B&O) tax rates for manufacturers will be reduced 40 percent over four years, starting in 2019. [...] Though the manufacturing tax cut is a major shift — reducing business tax bills by an estimated \$64 million over four years — there was no public indication it was on the table as closed-door budget talks entered their final stages. [...] The manufacturing tax cut was the largest of 13 tax breaks voted through by lawmakers Friday, and worth nearly \$100 million over the next four years. The tax breaks were combined into Senate Bill 5977, which passed the state House and Senate late Friday.” [Seattle Times, [7/2/17](#)]

2017: S.B. 5977 Was Projected To Cut Taxes On Business By “An Estimated \$64 Million Over Four Years.” “With little notice, a major tax cut for manufacturing businesses in Washington state was inserted into the state budget deal in the waning hours of all-night negotiations last week. Under the measure approved by the Legislature on Friday, business-and-occupation (B&O) tax rates for manufacturers will be reduced 40 percent over four years, starting in 2019. [...] Though the manufacturing tax cut is a major shift — reducing business tax bills by an estimated \$64 million over four years — there was no public indication it was on the table as closed-door budget talks entered their final stages. [...] The manufacturing tax cut was the largest of 13 tax breaks voted through by lawmakers Friday, and worth nearly \$100 million over the next four years. The tax breaks were combined into Senate Bill 5977, which passed the state House and Senate late Friday.” [Seattle Times, [7/2/17](#)]

2017: Braun’s Company, Braun Northwest, Stood To Benefit From The B&O Tax Cuts Passed Under S.B. 5977. “‘When you look at manufacturing jobs, it’s a huge opportunity in areas we come from. These are long-term, family-wage jobs with benefits and stability,’ said state Sen. John Braun, R-Centralia, chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee and lead budget negotiator for the Republicans. [...] Braun is president of Braun Northwest, a company that builds emergency vehicles and would benefit from the tax cut. [...] The manufacturing tax cut was the largest of 13 tax breaks voted through by lawmakers Friday, and worth nearly \$100 million over the next four years. The tax breaks were combined into Senate Bill 5977, which passed the state House and Senate late Friday.” [Seattle Times, [7/2/17](#)]

S.B. 5977 “Was Part Of The 2017–19 Operating Budget Compromise”

S.B. 5977 “Was Part Of The 2017–19 Operating Budget Compromise” To Balance The State’s Operating Budget. “In order to balance the operating budget, the Legislature passed two bills that will increase revenues by an estimated \$2.070 billion in 2017–19 and \$3.358 billion in 2019–21. The Legislature also passed SSB 5977, which includes 13 tax changes that are estimated to reduce revenues by \$15.7 million in 2017–19 and \$81.8 million in 2019–21. (There is no fiscal note for the bill; these estimates were prepared for the June 30 Senate Ways & Means Committee meeting.) Currently the business and occupation (B&O) tax rate for manufacturers and processors for hire is 0.484 percent. SSB 5977 drops that to 0.4356 percent in calendar year 2019, to 0.3872 percent in CY 2020, to 0.3388 percent in CY 2021, and to 0.2904 thereafter. This is estimated to reduce revenues by \$2.9 million in 2017–19 and by \$61.0 million in 2019–21 (full implementation of the reduction is beyond this window). (This

0.2904 tax rate has applied to manufacturing commercial airplanes and parts since 2003; in 2013, the Legislature extended the rate for that purpose until 2040.)... SSB 5977 was part of the 2017–19 operating budget compromise. It passed the Senate 33–16 and the House 83–10. But, according to the Seattle Times, some legislators are now asking Gov. Inslee not to sign the bill.” [Washington Research Council, [7/6/17](#)]

Braun Has Sponsored Legislation To Lower The Property Tax Bill On Land He Personally Owns

Braun Sponsored Legislation To Decrease The Minimum Acreage For Designated Forest Land From 20 Acres To Five Acres And Exempt Designated Forest Land From Property Tax Increases

January 2014: Braun Sponsored S.B. 6180, A Bill “Consolidating Designated Forest Lands And Open Space Timber Lands For Ease Of Administration.” In January 2014, Braun sponsored S.B. 6180, a bill “consolidating designated forest lands and open space timber lands for ease of administration.” [Washington State Legislature, [S.B. 6180](#), Sponsored [1/16/14](#)]

- **February 2014: Braun Voted For S.B. 6180, A Bill “Consolidating Designated Forest Lands And Open Space Timber Lands For Ease Of Administration.”** In February 2014, Braun voted for S.B. 6180, a bill “consolidating designated forest lands and open space timber lands for ease of administration.” The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 35-13 and was signed into law. [Washington State Legislature, [S.B. 6180](#), [2/17/14](#)]
- **S.B. 6180 Decreased The Minimum Acreage For Designated Forest Land From 20 Acres To Five Acres.** “Today the governor signed Senate Bill 6180 into law which changes how counties administer forest land and open space timber programs. This legislation authorizes counties to merge programs for more efficient and cost effective administration. [...] The bill also reduces the minimum size for land to be designated forest land from 20 acres to five.” [John Braun, Press Release, [4/3/14](#)]

January 2015: Braun Sponsored S.B. 5628, A Bill “Providing For Storm Water, Flood Control, And Water Supply Infrastructure In The State.” In January 2015, Braun sponsored: “AN ACT Relating to providing for storm water, flood control, and water supply infrastructure in the state.” [Washington State Legislature, [S.B. 5628](#), Sponsored [1/26/15](#)]

- **S.B. 5628 Exempted Designated Forest Land From Property Tax Increases To Fund Local Government Projects.** “His bill, SB 5628, calls for a property tax assessment ranging from \$35 to \$500 a year, depending on parcel use and size. The revenue would be distributed to local governments that demonstrate they have the most important projects. The funds could be tapped to pay for such projects as the new reservoirs called for by the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan or controlling stormwater runoff polluting Puget Sound. [...] Other sponsors of the bill include Sens. Judy Warnick, R-Moses Lake; John Braun, R-Centralia; Steve Hobbs, D-Lake Stevens; and Maralyn Chase, D-Shoreline. The proposed property tax would range from \$35 to as much as \$500 a year, depending on the size of the parcel. Residential lots under an acre would pay \$35. The rate would be \$60 for lots from 1 to 5 acres, and \$90 for lots over 5 acres. Nonresidential parcels would be between \$125 to \$500, depending on the size. Designated forest land and nonirrigated farm land would be exempt.” [Yakima Herald, [2/4/15](#)]

According To The Lewis And Thurston County Assessors Records, 17 Of Braun's 28 Properties Were Designated As Forest Land

2024: According To The Lewis And Thurston County Assessors Records, 17 Of Braun's 28 Properties Were Designated As Forest Land. [Washington State Public Disclosure Commission, John Braun 2024 Personal Financial Affairs Disclosure, filed [4/14/25](#); Lewis County Assessor, accessed [7/19/26](#); Thurston County Assessor, accessed [7/19/26](#)]

See Appendix For Full Breakdown

And His Company Has Taken More Than \$2.5 Million In Taxpayer Subsidies

2004-2024: Braun Northwest Received \$2,599,178.60 In Tax Credits From Washington State

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See Appendix For Full Breakdown

John Braun Message #2 Backup

Braun's policies in Olympia made it harder for families in Southwest Washington trying to make ends meet while doing everything he could to enrich himself. Braun took nearly \$75,000 from drug companies while voting for higher prescription drug prices. Braun supports devastating cuts to healthcare for tens of thousands in Southwest Washington. Braun backs Trump's Iran war of choice that is driving up the cost of gas and groceries. Braun is in lockstep with Trump's policies that are making it harder for Southwest Washington voters. It's no wonder Trump gave Braun his "complete and total endorsement."

Braun's Policies In Olympia Made It Harder For Families In Southwest Washington Trying To Make Ends Meet While Doing Everything He Could To Enrich Himself

Backup below.

Braun Took Nearly \$75,000 From Drug Companies While Voting For Higher Prescription Drug Prices

2012-2025: The Pharmaceutical Interests Contributed \$73,550 To Braun's State Senate Campaigns

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NOTE: See Appendix For Contribution Breakdown

Braun Voted To Protect Big Pharma's Ability To Hike Prescription Drug Costs

2022: Braun Voted Against SB 5532, Which Created A Prescription Drug Affordability Board

2022: Braun Voted Against SB 5532, Which Created A Prescription Drug Affordability Board. In March 2022, Braun voted against SB 5532, a bill “establishing a prescription drug affordability board.” The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 28-20 and was signed into law. [Washington State Legislature, SB 5532, [3/7/22](#)]

- **The Prescription Drug Affordability Board Identified The Need For Upper Limits On Drug Prices And Imposed Penalties On Increased Revenue For Some Prescriptions.** “Senate Bill 5532 would establish the Prescription Affordability Board, said Sen. Karen Keiser, D-Des Moines. She advanced similar legislation to the governor’s desk in 2020, but it was vetoed when the pandemic ramped up and the legislature scrambled to respond. The board would identify prescription drug prices above a certain threshold and determine whether upper payment limits are needed. The bill requires the Department of Revenue to impose penalties on increased revenue for some prescriptions.” [Columbia Basin Herald, [1/20/22](#)]
- **AARP: SB 5532 “Would Create A Prescription Drug Affordability Board To Evaluate Prices And Set Limits On What Individuals, State Agencies, And Insurers Must Pay.”** “AARP applauds Senator Karen Keiser (D–Des Moines) for introducing a bill to help protect Washington consumers from exorbitant price increases for prescription drugs. Senate Bill 5532 would create a Prescription Drug Affordability Board to evaluate prices and set limits on what individuals, state agencies, and insurers must pay. This legislation could lead to lower insurance premiums, reduce taxpayer spending on healthcare, and would help ensure people can afford the medication they need.” [AARP, accessed [7/19/26](#)]
- **AARP: SB 5532 “Could Lead To Lower Insurance Premiums, Reduce Taxpayer Spending On Healthcare, And Would Help Ensure People Can Afford The Medication They Need.”** “AARP applauds Senator Karen Keiser (D–Des Moines) for introducing a bill to help protect Washington consumers from exorbitant price increases for prescription drugs. Senate Bill 5532 would create a Prescription Drug Affordability Board to evaluate prices and set limits on what individuals, state agencies, and insurers must pay. This legislation could lead to lower insurance premiums, reduce taxpayer spending on healthcare, and would help ensure people can afford the medication they need.” [AARP, accessed [7/19/26](#)]
- **National Academy For State Health Policy: Prescription Drug Affordability Boards Were “Necessary To Lower The Total Cost Of The Drugs For Payers.”** “On March 24, 2022, Washington state joined five other leading states in establishing a Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) when Governor Inslee signed SB 5532, sponsored by Senator Karen Keiser, into law. Washington’s PDAB, like those already established in Maryland and Colorado, has the authority to limit what payers in the state will pay for certain high-cost drugs following an affordability review...More than a dozen states have enacted legislation to cap out-of-pocket costs for insulin and on March 30, 2022, the House passed a federal out-of-pocket cap for insulin at \$35 a month (HR 6833). While out-of-pocket caps bring necessary and immediate relief to consumers, additional measures like a state PDAB or federal drug price negotiations, are also necessary to lower the total cost of the drugs for payers.” [National Academy for State Health Policy, [4/7/22](#)]

PhRMA Opposed Prescription Drug Affordability Boards And Claimed The Boards “[Wedged] Government-Appointed Bureaucrats Between Doctors And Their Patients.” “Groups motivated by special interests (see NASHP) and backed by insurance companies (see AARP) are pushing states to adopt flawed price-setting schemes, often in the form of prescription drug affordability boards (PDABs). Establishing these boards wedges government-appointed bureaucrats between doctors and their patients while shortsightedly focusing on only one component of health care — all too curiously avoiding any review of or actions on abusive health insurance practices. This is not good news for patients.” [PhRMA, [10/10/23](#)]

- **PhRMA Said Prescription Drug Affordability Boards Were “Government Price Setting Schemes That Let Politicians Set Medicine Prices With Little Accountability To, Or Input From, Patients And Their Doctors.”** “Risk patients’ access to medicines. Prescription drug boards are government price setting schemes that let politicians set medicine prices with little accountability to, or input from, patients and their doctors. Under this scheme, an unelected board of bureaucrats evaluates the price of medicines and determines whether certain medicines and treatments are worth paying for, with the state coming between patients and the treatments their doctors prescribe.” [PhRMA, [10/10/23](#)]

2021: Braun Voted Against SB 5203, Which Allowed Washington State To Enter Into Partnership Agreements With Other Entities To Produce, Distribute, Or Purchase Generic Prescription Drugs And Distribute And Purchase Insulin

2021: Braun Voted Against SB 5203, Which Allowed Washington State To Enter Into Partnership Agreements With Other Entities To Produce, Distribute, Or Purchase Generic Prescription Drugs And Distribute And Purchase Insulin. In April 2021, Braun voted against SB 5203, a bill “An Act relating to the production, distribution, and purchase of generic prescription drugs and distribution or purchase of insulin; amending RCW 70.14.060; and adding a new section to chapter 70.14 RCW.” [Washington State Legislature, SB 5202, [3/4/21](#), [4/21/21](#)]

- **SB 5203 Allowed Washington State To Distribute And Manufacture Generic Prescription Drugs By Forming Partnerships With Other States, Local Governments, Nonprofit Organizations, For-Profit Insurers And Medical-Care Providers.** “Legislation that passed the state Senate on Thursday would enable Washington to not just buy generics, but also distribute and even manufacture the cheaper drugs. To do this, the state could form partnerships with a range of organizations: other states, local governments, nonprofit organizations, for-profit insurers and medical-care providers... This legislative session’s prescription drug bill, Senate Bill 5203, is the latest entry in the playbook as Olympia tries to bend the curve on drug costs.” [Cascade PBS, [3/4/21](#)]
- **Cascade PBS: SB 5203 Allowed “Washington State To Partner With Other States, Organizations And Companies To Procure Nonpatented Drugs, Often Generics.”** “Having passed the Senate on a vote of 28-21, SB 5203 would enable Washington to enter the generic drug market more vigorously. The bill is driven partly by California’s push to begin manufacturing insulin and other drugs that are inexpensive to produce but have crept — or leapt — up in price. If enacted, the bill would allow Washington state to partner with other states, organizations and companies to procure nonpatented drugs, often generics. The group could contract with manufacturers, buy in bulk at reduced cost or make the drugs themselves.” [Cascade PBS, [3/4/21](#)]
- **Cascade PBS: SB 5203 Was An Attempt By State Legislators “To Bend The Curve On Drug Costs.”** “Legislation that passed the state Senate on Thursday would enable Washington to not just buy generics, but also distribute and even manufacture the cheaper drugs. To do this, the state could

form partnerships with a range of organizations: other states, local governments, nonprofit organizations, for-profit insurers and medical-care providers... This legislative session's prescription drug bill, Senate Bill 5203, is the latest entry in the playbook as Olympia tries to bend the curve on drug costs." [Cascade PBS, [3/4/21](#)]

2020: Braun Voted Against SB 6113, Which Created A Centralized Insulin-Purchasing Program In Washington State

2020: Braun Voted Against SB 6113, Which Created A Centralized Insulin-Purchasing Program In Washington State. In February 2020, Braun voted against SB 6113, a bill which "[created] a central insulin purchasing program." [Washington State Legislature, SB 6113, [2/18/20](#)]

- **A Centralized Insulin-Purchasing Program Would Allow Washington State To Purchase Insulin At Bulk Discount Rates.** "Senate Bill 6113: Modeled after the state's decades-old Childhood Vaccine Program, a centralized purchasing program that takes advantage of 'bulk discount rates,' this bill would create a centralized insulin-purchasing program. Advocates hope the program could leverage the buying power of the state to drive down costs, but have urged lawmakers to include type I diabetics to the list of stakeholders involved in devising the purchasing strategy." [Seattle Times, [2/19/20](#)]
- **Advocates Of SB 6113 Noted The Program Could Leverage The Buying Power Of The State To Drive Down Prescription Drug Costs.** "Senate Bill 6113: Modeled after the state's decades-old Childhood Vaccine Program, a centralized purchasing program that takes advantage of 'bulk discount rates,' this bill would create a centralized insulin-purchasing program. Advocates hope the program could leverage the buying power of the state to drive down costs, but have urged lawmakers to include type I diabetics to the list of stakeholders involved in devising the purchasing strategy." [Seattle Times, [2/19/20](#)]

Braun Supports Devastating Cuts To Healthcare For Tens Of Thousands In Southwest Washington

2025: Braun Said The One Big Beautiful Bill Was "A Good Thing For Washington," And Was The Face Of Washington State Republicans' Communications Campaign In Support Of The Bill

2025: Braun Supported The One Big Beautiful Bill, Saying "It's A Good Thing For Washington" And "We're Going To Be Pretty Pleased," And Dismissed Criticism Of The Bill As "Fearmongering"

VIDEO: 2025: Braun Said Of The One Big Beautiful Bill, "I Believe It's A Good Thing For Washington." HOST: "Overall, this Big Beautiful Bill, does it help or hurt Washington? Democrats, many of them been saying over and over and over again, it definitely hurts Washington. What's your take or is it neutral for Washington?" BRAUN: "Oh, I believe it's a good thing for Washington. Now, there will be some change required. No doubt about it. You know, I think we talked about a number of things. The accountability and the work requirements for food stamps and for Medicaid, those will ultimately be a good thing. It will force us to hold people accountable to spend those resources wisely and to help the people who need it the most. As I said earlier, many of us have fought for proper funding at the state level for Medicaid. We need to continue to do that, but the only we're going to be able to do that is if we have clear accountability, if we enforce the rules. So, I think long-term that's going to be a good thing. Now,

we need to be with eyes wide open. We need to do it in a way that we don't unintentionally harm our rural hospitals and there's ways we can take action to prevent that, but it's a good thing." [Washington State Republican Caucus via YouTube, Elephant in the Dome Podcast, 15:24-16:29, [7/15/25](#)] (VIDEO)

2025: Braun Said Of The One Big Beautiful Bill, "I Think We're Going To Be Pretty Pleased."

"President Donald Trump is receiving unusually boisterous support for his 'big, beautiful bill' from an unexpected source: Republican state senators in Washington. The Senate Republican Caucus launched a web page rebuking Democratic Gov. Bob Ferguson and Democratic lawmakers for 'stoking fear' with 'false or misleading accusations' about the new law's overhaul of Medicaid, food assistance, hospital funding, and energy policy. [...] Under a headline, 'The Truth,' Senate Republicans deliver an itemized retort to Democrats' major critiques. 'If we can get over the fearmongering coming from the Democratic majority and the Democratic governor and just look at what it really does for working people across the state of Washington, I think we're going to be pretty pleased,' Senate Minority Leader John Braun, R-Centralia, said in a podcast released with the site. This full-throated defense comes as Braun is expected to soon announce a 2026 run against Democratic U.S. Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez in southwest Washington's 3rd Congressional District. Braun acknowledged in an interview that the federal law 'creates some challenges' and costs for the state. But, he said, Ferguson and Democratic legislators are overestimating the potential effects, many of which won't kick in until late next year." [Washington State Standard, [7/22/25](#)]

2025: Braun Dismissed Criticism Of The One Big Beautiful Bill As "Fearmongering." "President Donald Trump is receiving unusually boisterous support for his 'big, beautiful bill' from an unexpected source: Republican state senators in Washington. The Senate Republican Caucus launched a web page rebuking Democratic Gov. Bob Ferguson and Democratic lawmakers for 'stoking fear' with 'false or misleading accusations' about the new law's overhaul of Medicaid, food assistance, hospital funding, and energy policy. [...] Under a headline, 'The Truth,' Senate Republicans deliver an itemized retort to Democrats' major critiques. 'If we can get over the fearmongering coming from the Democratic majority and the Democratic governor and just look at what it really does for working people across the state of Washington, I think we're going to be pretty pleased,' Senate Minority Leader John Braun, R-Centralia, said in a podcast released with the site. This full-throated defense comes as Braun is expected to soon announce a 2026 run against Democratic U.S. Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez in southwest Washington's 3rd Congressional District. Braun acknowledged in an interview that the federal law 'creates some challenges' and costs for the state. But, he said, Ferguson and Democratic legislators are overestimating the potential effects, many of which won't kick in until late next year." [Washington State Standard, [7/22/25](#)]

- **VIDEO: 2025: Braun Said Of Reactions To The One Big Beautiful Bill, "The Fear Mongering Is Way Overstated."** HOST: "I'm Tracy Ellis with Senate Republican Leader John Braun, and we actually have an update from our last podcast where we talked about the big, beautiful bill, and its impact on Washington, specifically when it comes to Medicaid, and we're sure to learn a little bit more about what that impact may be or may not be." BRAUN: "Yeah, I think more they think that we're learning that we don't know. And so there was an interim meeting of the Senate Health Care Committee yesterday. I'm on that committee, but I've talked to folks who were in the meeting Healthcare Authority presented at that meeting and essentially said, we don't know how people are going to react. Just what I've been saying is that the fear mongering is way overstated. Look, but by far the biggest impact is to able bodied adults, and the new requirement is that they must either work or volunteer or study, 20 hours a week, 80 hours a month and and we don't know how they're going to respond. I think it's highly likely that many of them meet the requirement the you know that it's not a high bar is something if you're truly enabled by your adult No, no disabilities, no, no young dependents, that that's not something that's unachievable." [Washington Senate Republican Caucus via YouTube, Elephant in the Dome Podcast, 0:12-1:20, [7/28/25](#)] (VIDEO)

2025: Braun Said People Expected To Lose Medicaid Coverage As A Result Of The One Big Beautiful Bill Should Not Have Been On It To Begin With

2025: Braun Said People Who Lost Medicaid Coverage As A Result Of The One Big Beautiful Bill's Work Requirements Should Not Have Been On Medicaid To Begin With

2025: Braun Said People Who Lost Medicaid Coverage As A Result Of The One Big Beautiful Bill's Work Requirements Should Not Have Been On It To Begin With. “Governor Bob Ferguson and Washington Democrats have commenced their fearmongering campaign against President Trump’s ‘One Big Beautiful Bill’ and Washington Senate Minority Leader John Braun (R-Centralia) wants to set the record straight. [...] Braun notes that the only people losing their Medicaid coverage are people who shouldn’t have been on it to begin with. ‘It’s very reasonable stuff. It’s stuff like work requirements, specifically on able-bodied folks... and the requirement is only 20 hours per week. And it could be work, it could be education, it could be volunteering, so it’s not a high bar,’ said Braun.” [Seattle Red, [7/18/25](#)]

- **VIDEO: 2025: Braun Said Of Work Requirements For Medicaid, “You Got To Enforce Some Standards If You're Going To Control Costs.”** “There's a lot of opportunity in Medicaid. And you should understand, as you said, We spend billions and billions of dollars on Medicaid. A high percentage of our citizens receive their health care through Medicaid. It's an important program, but it's a program that is also gotten out of control. I mean, it's grown. The cost of Medicaid has grown. I think that when the number I heard is by 60% since 2021 and only four years, you can't expect to sustain a program like that with those kind of cost increases. You have to really dig in and understand what's driving the cost increases and figure that out if you're going to sustain it and make and make sure it's focused on the folks who really need it. And Medicaid was developed in the 60s to service elderly, pregnant women, folks with disabilities, and over the years, it's been used, particularly through affordable health care. You know, Obamacare to spread, to provide free insurance to a broader group of folks. Whether you like that or don't like that, you got, you got to enforce some standards if you're going to control costs. And a simple one that Washington has been out there for a long time, but Washington has had a waiver for but I think under the new federal law, no longer will have a waiver, which is a work requirement for able bodied folks. That's not a high bar. It's a bar that is reasonable.” [Washington Senate Republican Caucus via YouTube, Elephant in the Dome Podcast, 19:53-21:12, [10/30/25](#)] (VIDEO)
- **2025: Braun Said Of The One Big Beautiful Bill's 20-Hour-Per-Week Work Requirement For Medicaid Coverage, “Most Of This Is Just Accountability.”** “Braun told The Center Square that the changes to Medicaid are reasonable and will ultimately protect the system for those who truly need it. ‘Most of this is just accountability,’ he said. ‘They estimate around 200,000 people who are able-bodied, no disabilities, no dependents, will somehow not make the decision to work 20 hours a week, and will just lose health care because they don't make that decision. I don’t think so. I think a lot of them will decide to go to work. This is a program designed to help the extremely poor, the disabled children, and by misusing it and wasting money allocated to Medicaid, we're putting the whole program at risk for the folks who really need it.’” [Center Square, [7/15/25](#)]

2025: Braun Said It Was “Fundamentally Not True” That Vulnerable People Would Lose Access To Medicaid Under The One Big Beautiful Bill

VIDEO: 2025: Braun Said It Was “Fundamentally Not True” That Vulnerable People Would Lose Access To Medicaid Under The One Big Beautiful Bill. HOST: “The governor it will cause our most vulnerable Washingtonians to lose their health care coverage. Will it?” BRAUN: “That is fundamentally

not true. The reforms put in here, they don't affect folks' children. They don't affect the elderly. They don't affect folks who are disabled. They don't affect single moms or single fathers. So, he's just found out misstating the requirements, and what they're doing is they're trying to preserve Medicaid. Look, we've, many of us, myself included, have fought to make sure Medicaid is properly funded at the state level. We recognize that it was created to help seniors, to help the disabled, to help single parents, to help children, but to do that, you have to run it well, meaning you can't allow folks who don't really need the program to burn up the resources that are needed by other folks in our state. So, I think that the governor's misguided on this. He's taking real, reasonable, broadly popular reforms, and tried to paint it in a negative in a negative way for political purposes.” [Washington State Republican Caucus via YouTube, Elephant in the Dome Podcast, 2:22-3:27, [7/15/25](#)] (VIDEO)

2025: Braun Said Medicaid Had “Gotten Out Of Control” And Was Unsustainable

VIDEO: 2025: Braun Said Medicaid Had “Gotten Out Of Control” And Was Unsustainable.

BRAUN: “There's a lot of opportunity in Medicaid. And you should understand, as you said, We spend billions and billions of dollars on Medicaid. A high percentage of our citizens receive their health care through Medicaid. It's an important program, but it's a program that is also gotten out of control. I mean, it's grown. The cost of Medicaid has grown. I think that when the number I heard is by 60% since 2021 and only four years, you can't expect to sustain a program like that with those kind of cost increases. You have to really dig in and understand what's driving the cost increases and figure that out if you're going to sustain it and make and make sure it's focused on the folks who really need it. And Medicaid was developed in the 60s to service elderly, pregnant women, folks with disabilities, and over the years, it's been used, particularly through affordable health care. You know, Obamacare to spread, to provide free insurance to a broader group of folks. Whether you like that or don't like that, you got, you got to enforce some standards if you're going to control costs. And a simple one that Washington has been out there for a long time, but Washington has had a waiver for but I think under the new federal law, no longer will have a waiver, which is a work requirement for able bodied folks. That's not a high bar. It's a bar that is reasonable.” [Washington Senate Republican Caucus via YouTube, Elephant in the Dome Podcast, 19:53-21:12, [10/30/25](#)] (VIDEO)

2026: Braun's One Big Beautiful Bill Defense Website Said Certain Provisions In The Bill Were “Projected To Reduce Medicaid Costs In Washington State”

2026: The Washington State Senate Republican Caucus Website Said Certain Provisions In The One Big Beautiful Bill Were “Projected To Reduce Medicaid Costs In Washington State.”

“Medicaid. Ferguson: ‘This morally bankrupt decision will cause our most vulnerable citizens to lose health-care coverage.’ THE TRUTH: It’s Washington Democrats’ policies that are doing real harm to Medicaid. Washington State Democrats allocated \$150 million for healthcare coverage for undocumented immigrants. Medicaid providers serving legal Washington residents continue to face chronic underpayment under current Democrat policy decisions. Because immediate benefit cuts won’t affect children, seniors, or individuals with disabilities, Washington State legislators will not need to act on those populations. With changes not taking effect until late 2026, Washington benefits and access will remain unchanged in the short term, requiring no immediate legislative response. Certain BBB provisions are projected to reduce Medicaid costs in Washington State, making it easier for lawmakers to support the state’s most vulnerable populations.” [Washington State Senate Republican Caucus, accessed [2/3/26](#)]



Medicaid

Ferguson: "This morally bankrupt decision will cause our most vulnerable citizens to lose health-care coverage"

THE TRUTH: It's Washington Democrats' policies that are doing real harm to Medicaid.

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[Washington State Senate Republican Caucus, accessed [2/3/26](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Was Estimated To Kick More Than 30,000 People In WA-03 Off Their Health Insurance

The One Big Beautiful Bill Made The Largest Cuts To Medicaid In The Program's History

The Hill: Republicans Passed "The Largest Cuts To Medicaid Since The Program Began In The 1960s." "Senate Republicans on Tuesday passed the largest cuts to Medicaid since the program began in the 1960s, a move that would erode the social safety net and cause a spike in the number of uninsured Americans over the next decade. The tax and spending bill is projected to cost more than \$3 trillion during that time, but it would be partially paid for with about \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid. Almost 12 million lower-income Americans would lose their health insurance by 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO)." [The Hill, [7/1/25](#)]

- **The Hill: The Republicans' Reconciliation Bill Made About \$1 Trillion In Cuts To Medicaid.** "Senate Republicans on Tuesday passed the largest cuts to Medicaid since the program began in the 1960s, a move that would erode the social safety net and cause a spike in the number of uninsured Americans over the next decade. The tax and spending bill is projected to cost more than \$3 trillion during that time, but it would be partially paid for with about \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid. Almost 12 million lower-income Americans would lose their health insurance by 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO)." [The Hill, [7/1/25](#)]

September 2025: The Joint Economic Committee Minority Estimated 30,421 People In Washington's 3rd Congressional District Would Lose Health Insurance By 2034 Due To Congressional Republicans' Cuts To Medicaid And The ACA. [Joint Economic Committee Minority, [September 2025](#)]

WA-03: Health Insurance Losses From Cuts To Medicaid And The Affordable Care Act Under The One Big Beautiful Bill

Est. Number of People Losing Affordable Care Act Coverage	Est. Number of People Losing Medicaid Coverage	Est. Total Number of People Losing Insurance
6,100	24,321	30,421

[Joint Economic Committee Minority, [September 2025](#)]

Braun Backs Trump's Iran War Of Choice That Is Driving Up The Cost Of Gas And Groceries

Braun Supported Trump's Military Operations In Iran

OBP: Braun Largely Agreed “With The President’s Policies, Including On Issues Like Military Operations To Prevent Iran From Having Nuclear Weapons.” “Braun was endorsed by Trump in April. He said he largely agrees with the president’s policies, including on issues like military operations to prevent Iran from having nuclear weapons and making cuts to the federal health care program known as Medicaid.” [OBP, [7/21/26](#)]

- **Trump Said He Launched Military Operations Against Iran In Part To Prevent It From Developing Nuclear Weapons.** “Before the U.S. launched its military offensive against Iran on Saturday, President Trump had expressed frustration with the progress of talks about Iran's nuclear program and deployed an ‘armada’ to the Middle East. But said he had not said much about the reasons why the U.S. would conduct a bombing campaign against the regime. Mr. Trump on Monday articulated the reasons the U.S. launched its attack on Iran, bombing over 1,000 targets in the opening days of what he has said he expects to be a weeks-long war. In his first live public remarks on the operation, he offered four reasons for the campaign: Destroying Iran's missile capabilities; Annihilating Iran's navy; Preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons; Ensuring the regime can't continue to arm, fund or direct "terrorist armies" outside its borders.” [CBS News, [3/6/26](#)]

2026: On The Iran War, Braun Said, “You've Got To Do It In A Way That Leaves The World [And] Our U.S. Interests In Better Shape Than Before. I Think That It's A Hard Problem, But I Think We're On A Path To Solving It.” “The ongoing U.S.-Iran conflict, currently in a ceasefire as both nations continue to navigate the Strait of Hormuz, emerged as a recurring topic in the evening’s Q&A, with multiple attendees raising concerns about the situation and its political impact...Another attendee, identified as Steve, a veteran, raised broader concerns about U.S. involvement in overseas conflicts, questioning the cost of military engagements and whether they provide meaningful benefits, particularly in light of the national debt and long-term strategy. While Braun did not directly criticize Trump’s handling of the situation, he emphasized a goal of achieving clear objectives and exiting the conflict in a way that protects U.S. interests as soon as possible. In an earlier interview, Braun described the situation as complex and dependent on information not available to the public. ‘I think once we're in it, I think the idea that we get in, we accomplish our objectives, and we get out is important,’ Braun said. ‘You've got to do it in a way that leaves the world (and) our U.S. interests in better shape than before. I think that it's a hard problem, but I think we're on a path to solving it.’” [The Chronicle, [4/27/26](#)]

The Chronicle: “Braun Did Not Directly Criticize Trump’s Handling Of” The U.S.-Iran Conflict. “The ongoing U.S.-Iran conflict, currently in a ceasefire as both nations continue to navigate the Strait of Hormuz, emerged as a recurring topic in the evening’s Q&A, with multiple attendees raising concerns about the situation and its political impact...Another attendee, identified as Steve, a veteran, raised broader concerns about U.S. involvement in overseas conflicts, questioning the cost of military engagements and whether they provide meaningful benefits, particularly in light of the national debt and long-term strategy. While Braun did not directly criticize Trump’s handling of the situation, he emphasized a goal of achieving clear objectives and exiting the conflict in a way that protects U.S.

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The Iran War Cost American Households \$150 Billion, Or \$1,100 Per Household In Added Expenses

7/10/26: Moody’s Chief Economist Mark Zandi: The Iran War Cost U.S. Households About \$150 Billion, Or \$1,100 Per Household In Added Expenses. “A MARTÍNEZ, HOST: The latest escalation between the U.S. and Iran prolongs a war that has made life expensive for American households. Amid uncertainty over the ceasefire, costs are still piling up in a way that could have major implications for the midterm elections that are just four months away. Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody’s Analytics, has put a number on that financial pain. Mark, so you’re trying to figure out what the average household in the U.S. is paying for the war? What did you find? [...] ZANDI: Then there’s the cost of interest rates. You know, they’re up a lot. We can talk about that as well. And, of course, the military. And if you add it all up, it comes to just about \$150 billion - almost, not quite. And there’s a lot of uncertainty around that, obviously. But there’s 133 million American households, so you do the accounting, you do the arithmetic, it’s \$1,100 per household.” [NPR, [7/10/26](#)]

Gas Prices In Washington State Were Nearly One Dollar Higher Than They Were A Year Ago

August 3, 2026: The Average Price For A Gallon Of Gas In Washington State Was \$5.5673. [AAA, Washington State, accessed [9/21/26](#)]

August 3, 2025: The Average Price For A Gallon Of Gas In Washington State Was \$4.6188. [AAA, Washington State, accessed [9/21/26](#)]

The Iran War Led To Higher Gas Prices As Global Oil Prices Increased. “The affordability crisis is revving up again. The war with Iran and President Donald Trump’s global tariff agenda are pushing prices higher across the country and raising fears of renewed inflation. Gas prices are surging again, hitting an average of \$4.10 per gallon on Friday and poised to climb higher. These rising costs at the pump are a direct result of the jump in global oil prices.” [NBC News, [7/24/26](#)]

Rising Diesel Prices Increased Prices For Everyday Goods Including Groceries

Politico: The “Inflationary Impact Of High Diesel” Affects “The Cost Of Everything From Eggs To Sneakers,” And Results In Price Rises That Are “Passed Along To Consumers.” “Beyond the impacts to the cost of everything from eggs to sneakers, the inflationary impact of high diesel fuel lasts much longer in the economy than gasoline prices, said John Auers, analyst at consulting firm RBN Energy. Trucking, rail and freight companies sign long-term supply contracts for their diesel, meaning that a higher price will be baked into their costs – and passed along to consumers — for months at a time.” [Politico, [5/6/26](#)]

May 2026: Politico: “Diesel Fuel Costs Are Also Poised To Set An All-Time High In The U.S., Which In Turn Is Expected To Drive Up Prices For Everything From Groceries To Postage.” “Most Americans are focused on the cost of gasoline at the station up the street — but diesel fuel costs are also poised to set an all-time high in the U.S., which in turn is expected to drive up prices for everything from

groceries to postage. A spike in diesel fuel affects a wide array of commodities that need to move across the country – including for home building, manufacturing and much more. And it couldn't come at a worse time for President Donald Trump and Republicans, just months ahead of the contentious midterm election season in which Democrats are expected to take back the House and possibly the Senate amid intensifying voter anger over the rising cost of living and the unpopular war in Iran.” [Politico, [5/6/26](#)]

Braun Is In Lockstep With Trump’s Policies That Are Making It Harder For Southwest Washington Voters

Braun Had Voiced Support For Trump’s Tariffs

2025: Braun Said The Trump Administration Had Used Tariffs Effectively. “Another question from the audience asked Braun about tariffs enacted by the Trump administration and how they affect local employers. Braun said tariffs can serve a purpose but often come with consequences for smaller companies, calling them ‘a mixed bag.’ He said while the administration has used some tariffs effectively, they should be used incrementally to allow the economy to adjust. ‘They have, I think, diagnosed the problem correctly, which is that over the decades, the U.S. has put ourselves in a bad position relative to our trading partners ... we are not getting the type of deal we should be getting,’ Braun said. ‘It’s a fine line between when that tariff expense ends up being borne by whoever that good is coming from, say China, or it’s being passed on to the consumer, and when it’s being passed on to the consumer, that contributes to an affordability issue just like taxes.’” [The Reflector, [12/15/25](#)]

Braun On Trump’s Tariff Policy: “They Have, I Think, Diagnosed The Problem Correctly, Which Is That Over The Decades, The U.S. Has Put Ourselves In A Bad Position Relative To Our Trading Partners.” “Another question from the audience asked Braun about tariffs enacted by the Trump administration and how they affect local employers. Braun said tariffs can serve a purpose but often come with consequences for smaller companies, calling them ‘a mixed bag.’ He said while the administration has used some tariffs effectively, they should be used incrementally to allow the economy to adjust. ‘They have, I think, diagnosed the problem correctly, which is that over the decades, the U.S. has put ourselves in a bad position relative to our trading partners ... we are not getting the type of deal we should be getting,’ Braun said. ‘It’s a fine line between when that tariff expense ends up being borne by whoever that good is coming from, say China, or it’s being passed on to the consumer, and when it’s being passed on to the consumer, that contributes to an affordability issue just like taxes.’” [The Reflector, [12/15/25](#)]

2026: Trump’s Tariffs Were Projected To Cost U.S. Households On Average More Than \$2,500, Raising Costs On Groceries, Housing, And Utilities

2026: Trump’s Tariffs Were Projected To Cost U.S. Households On Average More Than \$2,500 A Year

2026: Trump’s Tariffs Were Projected To Cost U.S. Households On Average More Than \$2,500. “The Committee found that if tariff revenue stays at the level recorded in January 2026 for the rest of the year, American families would in total pay more than \$330 billion in tariff costs in 2026, an average of more than \$2,500 per household in tariff costs this year. This is substantially higher than the more than \$1,700 in average tariff costs that the JEC – Minority previously estimated that families paid during the first year of Trump’s second term.” [Joint Economic Committee– Minority, [March 2026](#)]

Trump’s Tariffs Raised Prices On Groceries

Trump's Tariffs Contributed To Prices Rising For Groceries. “President Donald Trump pledged to bring down grocery costs. But his administration’s policies are contributing to an acceleration in prices, food economists and companies say. Grocery prices last month rose at their fastest pace in three years, stoked by Trump’s tariffs, a crackdown on immigration, and extreme weather hurting food production. Prices jumped 0.6% in August from the month prior, according to the latest reading from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and they are up 2.7% from a year ago. Food prices are deeply personal to consumers, and weekly grocery bills shape their overall perceptions of the economy. More than half of Americans count grocery costs as a major stress in their lives. Low-income and middle-income Americans, hit the hardest by rising grocery costs, are changing where they shop and what they buy. Companies are also taking extreme measures to appeal to shoppers strained by higher prices, such as bringing back paper coupons.” [CNN, [9/20/25](#)]

Axios Headline: “Grocery Inflation Highest Since 2022 As Trump Tariffs Pile Up.” [Axios, [9/11/25](#)]

Denver Post: Trump's Tariffs Led To “Record High” Beef Prices. “Trump slapped tariffs on most countries around the globe in April. He and his administration still say that tariffs don’t increase consumer prices, despite economic evidence to the contrary. Record-high beef prices have been a particular concern, and Trump had said he intended to take action to try and lower them. Trump’s tariffs on Brazil, a major beef exporter, had been a factor. Trump signed an executive order that also removes tariffs on tea, fruit juice, cocoa, spices, bananas, oranges, tomatoes and certain fertilizers. Some of the products covered aren’t produced in the United States, meaning that tariffs meant to spur domestic production had little effect. But reducing the tariffs will still likely mean lower prices for U.S. consumers.” [Denver Post, [11/14/25](#)]

Tariffs Raised Housing Costs

Trump's Tariffs Raised The Price Of Building Materials Like Copper By 25% And Steel By 21%. “Following President Trump’s 2025 tariff announcements and the ensuing economic uncertainty, home construction costs increased over the last year and fewer new homes began construction. These challenges continue to grow in 2026, which will further drive up the cost to rent or buy homes and make it harder to address the nation’s housing shortage. This Joint Economic Committee – Minority report includes findings from outreach that the Committee conducted to home builders, multifamily housing developers, and realtors, who detailed ways that tariffs and economic uncertainty are making it more difficult to build and sell homes. In addition, key new Committee calculations in this report show that: • Materials and other products that are used to build and furnish homes have become more expensive over the past year. Following Trump’s tariffs on steel and copper, the price of copper and copper products in February 2026 was 25 percent higher compared to the year before and the price of steel mill products – including steel bars, wire, pipes and plates – increased by 21 percent. The most popular ovens at key retailers increased in price by \$70 on average, or 9 percent. By the end of the first year of Trump’s second term, the rate at which builders secured construction permits and started construction had sunk below late 2024 levels. August 2025 had the lowest issuance rate for residential permits since May 2020, one of the worst months of the pandemic-era slowdown in construction. As industry activity declines, there are now nearly 60,000 fewer jobs in home construction compared to December 2024.” [Joint Economic Committee Minority, [April 2026](#)]

Recent Reports Estimated That Trump's Tariffs Could Increase Building Costs By \$10,900 Per Home Initially, And By More Than \$17,000 Per Home In The Coming Years. “Recent reports estimate that Trump’s tariffs could increase building costs by \$10,900 per home initially, and by more than \$17,000 per home in the coming years – which could in turn drive up rental costs and home prices. After months of these tariffs hitting the market, trends in home input prices indicate that costs for

homebuilders have, as expected, increased. As shown below, both producer and consumer prices for multiple housing inputs have increased significantly compared to a year ago, making homes more expensive to build and to furnish. Notably, inflation for key building materials, construction tools, household appliances, and furniture far outpaced overall producer and consumer inflation for the same period.” [Joint Economic Committee Minority, [April 2026](#)]

Trump’s Tariffs Increased The Cost Of Building And Maintaining The Electric Grid, Which Was Then Passed On To Consumers’ Utility Bills

Trump’s Tariffs Increased The Cost Of Building And Maintaining The Electric Grid. “Trump’s blanket tariffs are increasing the cost of building and maintaining the electric grid. Utilities rely on imported equipment, and those higher costs show up directly in higher electricity and gas bills. Utilities say tariffs are already raising energy prices for consumers. Major utilities in Michigan told state regulators that Trump’s tariff policies are increasing inflation and borrowing costs. Advisors warn that these higher costs are ultimately pushing electricity and gas rates higher for customers. Tariffs are also driving up the cost of essential power grid equipment. Utilities are facing higher prices for essential equipment like transformers, cables, and substations, increasing the cost of grid upgrades and expansions. Those higher costs are ultimately passed on to households through higher electricity rates.” [Groundwork Collaborative, [3/25/26](#)]

- **Higher Costs On Building And Maintaining The Electric Were Passed On To Consumers.** “Trump’s blanket tariffs are increasing the cost of building and maintaining the electric grid. Utilities rely on imported equipment, and those higher costs show up directly in higher electricity and gas bills. Utilities say tariffs are already raising energy prices for consumers. Major utilities in Michigan told state regulators that Trump’s tariff policies are increasing inflation and borrowing costs. Advisors warn that these higher costs are ultimately pushing electricity and gas rates higher for customers. Tariffs are also driving up the cost of essential power grid equipment. Utilities are facing higher prices for essential equipment like transformers, cables, and substations, increasing the cost of grid upgrades and expansions. Those higher costs are ultimately passed on to households through higher electricity rates.” [Groundwork Collaborative, [3/25/26](#)]

Headline: “Trump Is Raising Energy And Utility Bills.” [Groundwork Collaborative, [3/25/26](#)]

It’s No Wonder Trump Gave Braun His “Complete And Total Endorsement”

Trump Said Braun Had His “Complete And Total Endorsement”

April 2026: Trump Said Braun Had His “Complete And Total Endorsement.” “Republican John Braun on Tuesday snagged President Donald Trump’s endorsement in his bid to unseat Democratic U.S. Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez in southwest Washington, a race that could help decide which party controls the U.S. House. Trump, in a midday Truth Social post, lauded Braun’s advocacy for lower taxes and border security and blasted Gluesenkamp Perez as ‘a true Radical Left Extremist with a Track Record that REEKS.’ ‘John Braun has my Complete and Total Endorsement,’ the president wrote. ‘HE WILL NEVER LET YOU DOWN!’ Braun, who is state Senate minority leader, also hauled in endorsements from U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson and House Majority Leader Steve Scalise on Tuesday, cementing himself as the GOP torchbearer in the high-stakes contest.” [Washington State Standard, [4/14/26](#)]

Headline: “Trump Backs Braun To Unseat WA’s Gluesenkamp Perez In US House Race.” [Washington State Standard, [4/14/26](#)]

Appendix

John Braun Pharmaceutical Contributions 2012-2025		
Contributor Name	Date of Contribution	Amount
Abbott Laboratories Employee PAC	12/11/2015	\$300.00
AbbVie PAC	7/18/2018	\$500.00
AbbVie PAC	8/24/2016	\$1,000.00
AmerisourceBergen Services Corporation	10/2/2025	\$1,000.00
AmerisourceBergen Services Corporation	10/9/2024	\$500.00
AmerisourceBergen Services Corporation	10/23/2020	\$500.00
AmerisourceBergen Services Corporation	11/22/2019	\$500.00
AmerisourceBergen Services Corporation	9/18/2018	\$500.00
AmerisourceBergen Services Corporation	9/27/2017	\$500.00
AmerisourceBergen Services Corporation	8/17/2016	\$500.00
Amgen Inc.	8/26/2024	\$600.00
Amgen Inc.	9/22/2023	\$600.00
Amgen Inc.	7/6/2020	\$500.00
Amgen Usa Inc	12/2/2013	\$500.00
Astellas Pharma Us, Inc.	11/3/2021	\$500.00
Astellas Pharma Us, Inc.	12/6/2016	\$1,000.00
AstraZeneca Services	7/19/2024	\$1,000.00
AstraZeneca Services	7/19/2024	\$200.00
AstraZeneca Services	12/17/2021	\$1,000.00
AstraZeneca Services	8/8/2016	\$1,000.00
Bayer US LLC	7/27/2020	\$1,000.00
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	11/6/2024	\$500.00
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	11/30/2023	\$550.00
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	11/30/2023	\$200.00
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	9/27/2022	\$500.00
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	11/15/2021	\$500.00
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	8/3/2020	\$500.00
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	11/22/2019	\$500.00
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	11/1/2018	\$500.00
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	11/14/2017	\$500.00
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	10/17/2016	\$500.00
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	12/11/2015	\$500.00
Cardinal Health Inc.	7/24/2018	\$500.00
Cardinal Health Inc.	11/14/2017	\$500.00
Cardinal Health Inc.	8/25/2016	\$500.00
Cardinal Health Inc.	11/18/2015	\$500.00
Cardinal Health Inc. PAC	11/30/2023	\$450.00

Cardinal Health Inc. PAC	11/30/2023	\$50.00
Cardinal Health Inc. PAC	11/16/2021	\$750.00
Cardinal Health Inc. PAC	10/7/2020	\$500.00
Cardinal Health Inc. PAC	11/22/2019	\$500.00
Caremark Rx, Inc	11/24/2021	\$1,000.00
Caremark Rx, Inc	10/16/2020	\$500.00
Caremark Rx, Inc	11/26/2019	\$500.00
Caremark Rx, Inc	11/2/2015	\$950.00
Eli Lilly And Company	10/4/2024	\$400.00
Eli Lilly And Company	12/18/2023	\$800.00
Eli Lilly And Company	12/18/2023	\$200.00
Eli Lilly And Company	12/10/2021	\$1,000.00
Eli Lilly And Company	7/27/2020	\$1,000.00
Eli Lilly And Company	6/20/2016	\$500.00
Fresenius Management Services, Inc	7/27/2016	\$250.00
Fresenius Medical Care	10/14/2025	\$500.00
Fresenius Medical Care	9/9/2024	\$500.00
Fresenius Medical Care North America	10/9/2023	\$1,200.00
Gilead Sciences, Inc	11/03/2025	\$600.00
Gilead Sciences, Inc	12/7/2023	\$200.00
Gilead Sciences, Inc	12/7/2023	\$200.00
Gilead Sciences, Inc	8/17/2022	\$1,000.00
Gilead Sciences, Inc	10/4/2021	\$1,000.00
Gilead Sciences, Inc	8/19/2020	\$1,000.00
Gilead Sciences, Inc	11/14/2019	\$1,000.00
Horizon Therapeutics USA, Inc	12/9/2022	\$500.00
Life Science Washington PAC	6/27/2024	\$1,200.00
Life Science Washington PAC	6/27/2024	\$1,200.00
McKesson Corporation	10/9/2023	\$800.00
McKesson Corporation	10/9/2023	\$200.00
McKesson Corporation	9/22/2022	\$1,000.00
McKesson Corporation	12/21/2020	\$500.00
McKesson Corporation	11/22/2019	\$500.00
McKesson Corporation	11/22/2019	\$500.00
McKesson Corporation	9/18/2018	\$500.00
McKesson Corporation	8/17/2016	\$500.00
McKesson Corporation	11/18/2015	\$500.00
McKesson Corporation	3/31/2014	\$400.00
Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp	11/6/2024	\$1,200.00
Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp	8/5/2024	\$1,200.00
Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp	10/16/2020	\$1,000.00

Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp	6/20/2016	\$1,000.00
Novartis FSC	7/10/2019	\$1,000.00
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp	10/7/2015	\$500.00
Novartis Services Inc	10/18/2024	\$1,200.00
Novartis Services Inc	10/9/2023	\$1,200.00
Novo Nordisk Inc.	8/5/2024	\$1,200.00
Novo Nordisk Inc.	11/30/2023	\$1,200.00
Pfizer, Inc.	11/03/2025	\$1,200.00
Pfizer, Inc.	10/9/2024	\$1,000.00
Pfizer, Inc.	11/9/2021	\$1,000.00
Pfizer, Inc.	5/26/2020	\$1,000.00
Pfizer, Inc.	5/26/2020	\$1,000.00
Pfizer, Inc.	11/18/2015	\$950.00
Pfizer, Inc.	11/18/2015	\$950.00
PhRMA	7/26/2016	\$950.00
PhRMA	7/26/2016	\$50.00
PhRMA	12/1/2015	\$950.00
Takeda Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc	7/29/2024	\$600.00
The GlaxoSmithKline PAC	8/9/2016	\$1,000.00
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated	11/29/2025	\$500.00
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated	10/24/2024	\$1,000.00
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated	12/6/2021	\$500.00
WA Biotechnology & Biomedical Assn PAC	12/14/2012	\$600.00
WA Biotechnology/Biomedical Assoc	10/16/2020	\$500.00
Walgreens Company	5/12/2022	\$1,000.00
Walgreens Company	8/9/2020	\$1,000.00
Walgreens Company	9/6/2016	\$1,000.00
Washington State Pharmacy PAC	10/25/2022	\$300.00
Total Contributions From Pharmaceutical Interests:		\$73,550

John Braun: 2024 Washington Financial Affairs Disclosure Property Disclosures			
Parcel Number	Address	County	Use Code
21419000000	1807 Salzer Valley Rd	Lewis	Forest Land
21414000000	0 Centralia Alpha Rd	Lewis	Forest Land
21372000000	0 Ramsaur Rd	Lewis	Forest Land
21754001000	364 Proffitt Rd	Lewis	Forest Land
21404001000	0 Salzer Valley Rd	Lewis	Forest Land

21395002000	0 Seminary Hill Rd	Lewis	Forest Land
21382000000	0 Seminary Hill Rd	Lewis	Forest Land
21371000000	0 Salzer Valley Rd	Lewis	Forest Land
21394005000	0 Salzer Valley Rd	Lewis	Forest Land
21369000000	0 Salzer Valley Rd	Lewis	Forest Land
21405000000	0 Salzer Valley Rd	Lewis	Forest Land
21406000000	0 Salzer Valley Rd	Lewis	Forest Land
21406002000	0 Salzer Valley Rd	Lewis	Forest Land
21680000000	0 Centralia Alpha Rd	Lewis	Forest Land
21718000000	0 Reinke Rd	Lewis	Forest Land
21710000000	0 Proffitt Rd	Lewis	Forest Land
21758000000	0 Proffitt Rd	Lewis	Forest Land

[Washington State Public Disclosure Commission, John Braun 2024 Personal Financial Affairs Disclosure, filed [4/15/25](#)]; Lewis County Assessor, accessed [7/19/26](#); Thurston County Assessor, accessed [7/19/26](#)]

Washington State Subsidies Received By Braun Northwest					
Company Name	Subsidy Source	Program Name	Year	Type	Value
Braun Northwest Inc	WA Dept. of Revenue	High Unemployment County Sales & Use Tax Deferral	2024	Tax Credit/Rebate	\$118,179.10
Braun Northwest Inc	WA Dept. of Revenue	High Unemployment County Sales & Use Tax Deferral	2023	Tax Credit/Rebate	\$118,179.10
Braun Northwest Inc	WA Dept. of Revenue	High Unemployment County Sales & Use Tax Deferral	2022	Tax Credit/Rebate	\$118,179.10
Braun Northwest Inc	WA Dept. of Revenue	High Unemployment County Sales & Use Tax Deferral	2021	Tax Credit/Rebate	\$118,179.10
Braun Northwest Inc	WA Dept. of Revenue	High Unemployment County Sales & Use Tax Deferral	2020	Tax Credit/Rebate	\$118,179.10

Braun Northwest Inc	WA Dept. of Revenue	High Unemployment County Sales & Use Tax Deferral	2019	Tax Credit/Rebate	\$118,179.10
Braun Northwest Inc	WA Dept. of Revenue	Rural County Sales & Use Tax Deferral	2017	Tax Credit/Rebate	\$14,068.00
Braun Northwest Inc	WA Dept. of Revenue	Rural County Sales & Use Tax Deferral	2016	Tax Credit/Rebate	\$14,068.00
Braun Northwest Inc	WA Dept. of Revenue	Rural County Sales & Use Tax Deferral	2015	Tax Credit/Rebate	\$32,962.00
Braun Northwest Inc	WA Dept. of Revenue	Rural County Sales & Use Tax Deferral	2014	Tax Credit/Rebate	\$32,962.00
Braun Northwest Inc	WA Dept. of Revenue	Rural County Sales & Use Tax Deferral	2013	Tax Credit/Rebate	\$32,962.00
Braun Northwest Inc	WA Dept. of Revenue	Rural County Sales & Use Tax Deferral	2012	Tax Credit/Rebate	\$32,962.00
Braun Northwest Inc	WA Dept. of Revenue	Rural County Sales & Use Tax Deferral	2011	Tax Credit/Rebate	\$236,263.00
Braun Northwest Inc	WA Dept. of Revenue	Rural County Sales & Use Tax Deferral	2010	Tax Credit/Rebate	\$236,263.00
Braun Northwest Inc	WA Dept. of Revenue	Rural County Sales & Use Tax Deferral	2009	Tax Credit/Rebate	\$222,195.00
Braun Northwest Inc	WA Dept. of Revenue	Rural County Sales & Use Tax Deferral	2008	Tax Credit/Rebate	\$222,195.00
Braun Northwest Inc	WA Dept. of Revenue	Rural County Sales & Use Tax Deferral	2007	Tax Credit/Rebate	\$203,301.00
Braun Northwest Inc	WA Dept. of Revenue	Rural County Sales & Use Tax Deferral	2006	Tax Credit/Rebate	\$203,301.00
Braun Northwest Inc	WA Dept. of Revenue	Rural County Sales & Use Tax Deferral	2005	Tax Credit/Rebate	\$203,301.00
Braun Northwest Inc	WA Dept. of Revenue	Rural County Sales & Use Tax Deferral	2004	Tax Credit/Rebate	\$203,301.00
Total					\$2,599,178.60

[Good Jobs First, Subsidy Tracker, accessed [7/19/26](#); Washington Department of Revenue, Tax Incentive Public Disclosure Survey Data, accessed [7/29/26](#)]