



Washington Future Generations Act — Policy Brief

Purpose

Create a durable public-interest system that centers future generations in decisions today. The Act builds a statewide network of **library-anchored learning organizations** that convert community visions into civic evidence and policy options. It establishes an **Office of Future Generations** with a **Commissioner**, a **Junior Parliament** that meets in libraries, and a transparent evidence pipeline so legislators and agencies can act with a long horizon.

Executive summary

- **Why now.** Washington faces a skills mismatch, uneven access to opportunity, and trust gaps. Long-term issues like climate risk and demographic change require decisions that outlast election cycles.
- **What changes.** The Act stands up an Office of Future Generations and Commissioner. It recognizes library hubs as civic infrastructure for evidence generation. It creates a Junior Parliament that drafts **Resolutions for the Future** for committee consideration.
- **How it works.** Learners form team companies in library spaces and run real projects. Using **Changemakers Team Academy** practice and **MIT U-Lab** dialogue, they translate

community visions into briefs, public showcases, and open data that inform legislators and agencies.

- **What success looks like.** Better policy signals and faster learning loops. Credible community evidence. Stronger local economies. Youth voice and intergenerational stewardship codified in law.

Problem statement

- Short policy cycles push leaders to under-invest in long-horizon outcomes.
- Education and workforce pipelines are slow to adapt. Credentials do not consistently signal real capability.
- Communities generate ideas but lack pathways to translate them into **actionable, timely, and trusted** policy options.

Proposed solution

1. **Office of Future Generations.** Independent office that advises the Legislature and Governor on long-term implications of proposed and existing policies. Publishes foresight, inequality, and wellbeing dashboards.
2. **Commissioner for Future Generations.** Nonpartisan officer who issues **Future Impact Statements**, triggers cross-agency learning reviews, and ensures open-data standards for civic evidence.
3. **Junior Parliament.** Youth and adult learners meet in libraries by district each quarter to draft **Resolutions for the Future**. Resolutions are transmitted to relevant committees with staff notes; public responses are tracked.
4. **Library hubs network.** Recognize public libraries as anchor sites for learning organizations. Each hub hosts teams, coaches, data stewards, and public showcases that turn local visions into evidence and briefs.
5. **Learning organizations.** Teams run sprints for civic and employer clients. They produce artifacts, testimonials, and data aligned to a **21-skill** framework including data and AI literacy, teamwork, leadership, and ethics.

Role of MIT U-Lab and Changemakers Team Academy

Dialogue and presencing methods from **MIT U-Lab**, paired with **Changemakers Team Academy** team learning, create a disciplined path from listening to prototyping to institutional learning. Teams surface community aspirations, test small experiments, and codify what works into briefs that feed the policy cycle.

Evidence and metrics

Inputs

- Number of hubs, coaches, teams

- Hours of dialogue and field work
- Participation by underserved groups

Outputs

- Briefs, showcases, and resolutions submitted
- Client testimonials and artifacts
- Data snapshots posted to an open portal

Outcomes

- Policy changes and appropriations influenced
- Employment, earnings, and venture formation
- Community wellbeing indicators improved

Implementation plan

- **Phase 1 (months 0–12).** Pass enabling statute or pilot proviso. Appoint interim Commissioner and steering council. Launch three library hubs in diverse settings. Publish an open data portal and the first Future Impact Statements. Convene the Junior Parliament for two statewide sessions and transmit resolutions.
- **Phase 2 (months 12–36).** Expand to 10–15 hubs. Formalize Coach Academy and data stewardship training. Embed impact review with at least four committees. Publish the first **State of Future Generations** report.
- **Phase 3 (months 36–72).** Statewide coverage through regional clusters. Integrate Future Impact Statements into fiscal notes for major bills. Establish reciprocity with Peru and Africa partners for exchanges of method and talent.

Governance and safeguards

- **Independence.** Appointment by a bipartisan body with fixed terms and removal for cause only.
- **Transparency.** Open Junior Parliament meetings. Open data by default with strong privacy protections.
- **Ethics and privacy.** Data minimization, de-identification, community consent, and algorithmic transparency for any models used.
- **Equity.** Funding that prioritizes rural, tribal, and underserved communities. Accessibility standards for all hubs and materials.

Funding approach

- State appropriation for the Office and baseline hub operations
- Braided funds across workforce, education, health, and climate programs
- Philanthropic match for stipends, Coach Academy, and evaluation
- In-kind contributions from libraries, municipalities, and employers

Legislative options

- **Full statute.** Create the Office and Commissioner with duties, reporting, and rulemaking authority.
- **Pilot proviso.** Three-year pilot with independent evaluation and sunset review that converts to permanent authority upon success.
- **Joint resolution.** Establish policy intent and direct agencies to cooperate with the Office and the Junior Parliament.

What libraries deliver

- Trusted civic space and intergenerational access
- Lower fixed costs and faster replication compared to new builds
- Authentic community briefs, steady showcases, and easy public oversight

Call to action

- **Legislators.** Sponsor the Act and request Future Impact reviews for priority bills this session.
- **Libraries and municipalities.** Host a hub and a Junior Parliament session. Sign an MOU to pilot now.
- **Employers and philanthropy.** Fund stipends, coaches, and open data infrastructure. Commission challenge briefs.
- **Communities and learners.** Join a team company, run a sprint, and bring forward a Resolution for the Future.

Appendix A — Junior Parliament resolution template

1. Title and district
2. Problem and desired future state
3. Evidence summary and community voices
4. Proposed actions and responsible parties
5. Expected outcomes and metrics
6. Equity and privacy considerations

Appendix B — Core metrics

- Participation rates by geography and demographic
- Resolutions transmitted and acted upon
- Time from idea to policy decision
- Education and workforce signals including micro-credentials and employment
- Community wellbeing scorecard