

The 27th district is represented by Senator Jeannie Darneille, Representative Laurie Jenkins, and Representative Jake Fey, and is located in South Puget Sound. Data below are for Pierce County and the Tacoma School District.



### DONNA'S STORY

In February of 2018, Donna underwent back surgery that left her temporarily paralyzed on her right side. Her

apartment was on the second floor of her building, with no elevator, so she was forced to move to a different building with a first floor apartment that she could access with her new disability. Since Donna is on a fixed income, it was incredibly lucky that she found an apartment that met her accessibility needs at the Tiki Apartments in Tacoma.

Through sheer willpower and determination, Donna began to regain her physical ability, but before she could fully recover, she came home to find a notice on her door. The building had been sold and the new owner was giving her just 20 days to move. And Donna would soon come to learn that according to state law, this time frame is perfectly legal, and she and the other residents didn't have many options.

Donna was not able to find an apartment in 20 days, so she crashed on friends' couches, she moved to another state, she returned to Washington, fled an abusive situation, and began couch surfing again - all in the span of 60 days as she tried to find an affordable place to live.

Thanks to pressure from advocates like Donna, and action from the Tacoma City Council, the new owners of the Tiki Apartments finally allowed seven of the displaced residents to return to their affordable homes. Donna is now living in her original, ground floor apartment, with a rent she can afford, and a new outlook on life. She says "Now that I have a stable home, I can go back to school to gain the skills to work in outreach services, and I will continue to be an advocate for all tenants and people experiencing homelessness. I wouldn't be here now if it weren't for people in the community who reached out to me and others, and I want to give back what was given to me."

