

The 37th district is represented by Senator Rebecca Saldaña, Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos, and Representative Eric Pettigrew, and is located in Central and South Seattle. Data below are for King County and the Seattle School District.



## MICHAEL'S STORY

Michael was a happy, healthy, employed Seattleite when, one day, her financial planner was arrested for embezzlement and her entire life savings was gone in a flash. She lost everything - her money, her investments, her home, and, shortly after, her fiancé. And then she lost all hope. Michael had a nervous breakdown which led to two long-term hospital stays to address her mental health, and she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

Getting back on her feet was tough. Michael was connected with the Compass Housing Alliance's Cascade Women's Program which provided healthy life programs and stability. Things were looking up for a while, but ultimately the program was not a good fit, and soon Michael found herself suffering another mental breakdown followed by homelessness. However, her case manager at Cascade Women's Program wouldn't give up on her. Michael was informed of an opening at a building in Pioneer Square where all units are single occupancy, she would pay 30% of her income in rent, and there are rules to follow. Michael knew she would benefit from the structure and stability of an affordable building like this, but what she most looked forward to was the opportunity to live in a community.

Michael has lived in her affordable home for 10 years now. It is because of this stability that she has returned to school and is working to complete a Communications degree at UW. She has opened her own production company where she produces video and radio podcasts as an advocate and activist. She volunteers at her neighborhood radio station, and she thrives because she's found her passion. She has holiday gatherings with her neighbors and feels supported in her community. Thanks to an affordable home, Michael says, "I'm back, I'm stronger, and I'm working on being a voice for what's right and what's just."

