

**The City of Seattle is committed to being a safe, vibrant, interconnected, and affordable city for all. To achieve these goals, Seattle has identified the following priorities for the 2021 legislative session:**

The City of Seattle supports policies that center the experiences of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC). We recognize that historically, government policies have created racist institutions and been used to uphold systems of oppression. As a City, we support changes to policies that right those wrongs. The City of Seattle supports efforts to become a government that values and prioritizes Black and Brown lives. Further, Seattle is a Welcoming City and we support policies that work to ensure immigrants and refugees feel welcome and have access to programs and services that meet critical needs. We support policies that invest in Black and Brown communities, put communities first and help build a city that works for all.

**A Safe City – one that ensures all residents can live safely and securely**

The City of Seattle, like jurisdictions across the nation, is grappling with the COVID-19 crisis and its multitude of impacts. The pandemic impacts every aspect of City services and the lives of our residents and is exacerbating existing inequalities in our society. The City of Seattle supports legislation that will allow our city not only to recover but become more equitable after the pandemic. We support increased support for our frontline workers, including PPE, testing, and public health services. We support new programs to address the impacts of the pandemic on housing affordability and homelessness including rental and foreclosure assistance, utility customer assistance, and a moratorium on evictions through the crisis. We support new programs for people living homeless to increase their access to health and hygiene services, PPE and testing, and non-congregate shelter and affordable housing. We support safety net programs that will help those hardest hit by the pandemic including food assistance and access to unemployment insurance. We also support legislation that supports our small businesses, including ensuring business interruption insurance includes COVID as a qualify event. We strongly support state efforts to address the impact of COVID-19 on housing affordability and homelessness.

The City of Seattle supports efforts to increase accountability and transparency in law enforcement. We support ending qualified immunity, and legislation that broadens the definition of disqualifying misconduct to ensure that police officers who engage in serious misconduct may not work in a law enforcement capacity elsewhere. We also support legislation to reform the decertification of peace officers, including allowing the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC) to initiate decertification once the police agency issues a final sustained finding of disqualifying misconduct. We support changes to the WSCJTC's membership to have non-law enforcement community members represent at least fifty percent of the voting membership.

The City also supports legislation that enhances the authority of police chiefs to discipline officers that violate professional standards and public trust, and the ability to sustain those decisions. We support prohibiting collective bargaining between law enforcement agencies and officers on topics related to disciplinary action, appeals of discipline, subpoena authority, and any state reforms related to law enforcement. We support the State requiring the types of police reforms that would

free local jurisdictions from having to negotiate and pay for reforms with additional compensation, including body worn cameras. We support reform of civil service hearings and arbitration in law enforcement officer discipline cases. The City of Seattle also supports removing private arbitration as a route of appeal in law enforcement discipline cases.

We support state action to raise the standards for police conduct and use of force across jurisdictions. We support legislation classifying chokeholds as deadly force. We support state policies that reduce use of force and negative externalities associated with crowd management. We support the establishment of statutory duty to intervene, so that police must intercede and report misconduct by another officer. We also support the establishment of a statewide use of force database, and an independent state agency to investigate use of deadly force incidents and independent prosecutions of deadly use of force to ensure a fair and impartial assessment can be reached. We support legislation to enable law enforcement, fire departments and other public agencies to build departments more reflective of the communities they protect by extending employment opportunities to legally permanent residents and recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and Temporary Protected Status. We support de-escalation, implicit bias, and other critical training for law enforcement officers to respond appropriately and equitably, and increasing the flexibility for local jurisdictions to allow civilian personnel to respond to non-violent situations.

The City supports legislation that would eliminate or at least significantly reduce the involvement of county and city law enforcement officials in immigration law enforcement. In particular, the City supports legislation that would restrict local jurisdictions from honoring U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainers unless they are supported by a federal criminal warrant. We support the state setting a clear, statewide standard for these restrictions. The City of Seattle supports providing essential legal services and community navigation to indigent immigrant and refugee residents.

We believe every person has the right to live, work, and learn free from discrimination. We support efforts to achieve equity and advance opportunity, including actions that promote racial equity in education, community development, criminal justice, health, housing, jobs and the environment.

We support gender equity, age-friendly and family-friendly workplace policies, such as paycheck fairness and affordable childcare, so that all people regardless of age or gender thrive economically, and are safe and healthy. We support extending the state's labor protections to all workers – including workers in the emerging economies. We support local governments' ability to adopt standards to protect the health, safety, and well-being of their residents, to adopt tax measures that do not unfairly burden those in need, and to adopt tax measures that promote or expand public safety issues. We oppose preemption of local regulations, including but not limited to regulations protecting tenants and achieving housing affordability.

We support strong civil rights protections for all and efforts to protect the rights, programs, and services provided to immigrants, regardless of their immigration status, and refugees. We recognize the importance of language access and will continue to promote policies and practices to support all users of municipal and state services. We support full funding for the WA New Americans program to ensure any lawful permanent resident (LPR) who is eligible is able to

receive their naturalization. We support expanded access to economic opportunity and intentional career pathways for all skill sets including returning professionals, skilled professions and entry level living wage jobs. We support reducing regulatory barriers to money transmitters, many of whom serve immigrants and communities of color. In addition, we support policies and programs that remove barriers and create opportunities for greater civic engagement, transparency, and access; and assess the impacts of those policies on racial and gender equity. We support increased opportunities for civic engagement, including the authority for ranked-choice voting.

We support economic justice and recognize that too often economic growth is not equitably shared by all, and can leave behind low-income residents, immigrants, the LGBTQ population, and people of color. We are proud of Seattle's commitment to improving workers' lives through equitable labor standards and want to ensure that state legislation complements but does not preempt our workplace protections. We need innovative strategies to ensure that the benefits of technology and the changing nature of work do not adversely impact systemically disadvantaged communities. Seattle supports policies that help workers who are misclassified as independent contractors gain access to critical workplace rights and protections, including a statewide Domestic Workers bill of rights, and legislation that simplifies the misclassification test and resolves ambiguity in favor of employment status. We also support policies that make benefits portable, especially for gig economy workers. We are supportive of the adoption of statewide secure scheduling legislation to provide employees with predictable schedules and compensation for schedule changes to support employees' economic stability especially in the case of rural communities for which these disruptions and inequalities fall heaviest on people of color. We are supportive of legislation that authorizes aggrieved employees to file lawsuits to recover civil penalties on behalf of themselves, other employees, and government for labor law violations.

We support common sense, responsible solutions to reduce gun violence, including efforts to limit high capacity magazines, rejecting intimidation by limiting open carrying of firearms in politically charged and contentious environments. We believe in maintaining funding for critical gun violence prevention research and intervention projects and that local governments should have the ability to regulate firearms or weapons to ensure the safety of their communities in accordance with local circumstances.

We support funding programs and policy changes that help individuals previously incarcerated successfully transition back into society, including providing increased employment and housing opportunities for previously incarcerated individuals to reduce recidivism and increase public safety. The City supports efforts to reform the criminal justice system, including but not limited to decreasing mass incarceration and supervision, decreasing racial disproportionality, and making the system more equitable. We support legislation to reduce the impact of economic disparity by de-linking drivers' license suspensions from non-payment of traffic fines. Further, the City supports efforts to explore alternatives to incarceration and evidence-based programs that emphasize early intervention. The City also supports abolishing the death penalty and pursuing safe and just alternatives.

We support legislation to clarify the process for evaluating and considering civil commitment petitions for defendants charged with misdemeanors in Seattle whose cases are dismissed for incompetency to stand trial. We support additional funding to ensure that there are sufficient

facilities to care for individuals in need of mental health evaluations and services, and funding for the recruitment and retention of high-quality mental health care providers. The City also supports increased funding for treatment and evaluation of substance use disorders. We recognize a full continuum of behavioral health services is needed in our community to support people with behavioral health conditions. We urge the state to invest in community-based behavioral health agencies and permanent supportive housing in addition to inpatient treatment settings.

We support efforts to increase the Medicaid reimbursement rate for ambulance transports for vulnerable Medicaid eligible populations and by instituting a quality assurance fee eligible for a federal funding match. We also support a general Medicaid increase for ambulance services.

We support legislation that clarifies and strengthens state driving under the influence (DUI) laws, including clarifying the law regarding physical control of a motor vehicle under the influence and strengthening laws regarding drug related DUIs. We also ensuring victims of sexual assault have access to community advocates, increasing data collection and assessment of how our systems are serving victims and support continued funding for the state patrol crime lab to process sexual assault evidence kits while ensuring that these funding sources are not burdensome or punitive to survivors. The City supports statewide standards for the handling, storage and destruction of these kits to ensure they are available to help solve cold cases.

The City of Seattle supports efforts to reduce domestic violence and protect survivors, ensure access to legal protection for immigrant survivors of domestic violence, and protect its most vulnerable citizens from abuse. We support legislation that prioritizes victim safety by maintaining funding for advocacy programs and aligning best-practice procedures across all types of protection orders. We support legislation that helps survivors access housing, employment, and other opportunities.

We support vacating convictions of individuals engaged in sex work. The City supports legal and regulatory efforts to protect survivors of human trafficking and close businesses that profit from this crime. We also support strengthening criminal consequences for sexual exploitation. The City supports review of the sexual assault statute of limitations and the bolstering of laws to protect workers from sexual assault and harassment on the job.

We support legislation to remove barriers to entry for marijuana delivery services that will help reduce the impact of marijuana retailers on neighborhoods. We support harmonizing laws prohibiting underage marijuana use with laws prohibiting underage alcohol use. The City also supports review of marijuana licensing and the incorporation of a racial and social equity program that recognizes the historic inequities and harm resulting from the over policing of marijuana offenses in communities of color, including the resulting lack of ownership opportunities. We support expunging all cannabis related felonies and offences to address the disproportionate impact on the Black community.

The City supports review of regulations surrounding vapor products and legislation that will protect the public from harm or risk related to vapor products.

The City supports legislation to facilitate the establishment of community health engagement

locations. We also support additional funding to support and enhance substance use disorder treatment services.

Seattle supports continued high-quality emergency response capabilities to help residents experiencing a fire or medical emergency and support options for property owners to install essential fire safety infrastructure like fire sprinklers. We support proper reimbursement to allow the Seattle Fire Department (SFD) to participate fully in state wildfire response. The City supports SFD's work in providing a fire safe community, especially as it relates to the food truck industry, and ensuring the Fire Department is able to continue their work. We support amending the "Hold Harmless Law" to include protections for Seattle Department of Transportation and SFD representatives when clearing a motor vehicle, cargo, or debris from the roadway; "Hold Harmless" protections have been granted to officers of the Seattle Police Department and Transportation Department employees.

We support reforms to the Public Records Act that maintain transparency, protect the privacy and safety of vulnerable and protected groups, promote government efficiency and effectiveness, and expand confidentiality protections to local whistleblowers.

We support funding for the Washington Information Network (WIN) 211, which helps the public access essential information and government programs and services after disasters. We also support funding for research that assesses geological hazards and informs the public of their potential impacts on the region.

## **A Vibrant City – one that supports innovation, education, economic development and the environment**

We support maximum funding for early learning, K-12, and higher education. We support equitable, ample, and sustainable funding for the K-12 education system. We support the use flexible high school graduation options and requirements that prepare students for a variety of post-secondary options. Seattle supports simplifying the requirements for individuals to become teachers in designated critical shortage areas.

We support increasing school construction capacity and providing flexibility to school districts to use capital construction funding for long-term leases to ensure we have the proper facilities to educate future generations. In addition, we support providing school districts with adequate access to on-site child care providers; and advancing ongoing and increased support of these providers.

We support programs providing support to students, including support for mental and physical health, and access to healthy food choices during the school day and out of school time to ensure they are ready and able to learn. The City is supportive of the Farm to School program that connects farmers to local schools. We also know that education and learning do not stop when the school day and school year end. We support after-school programs and summer learning accessible for all, as well as a statewide strategy for students experiencing housing instability and homelessness.

The City is supportive of legislative solutions that aim to close the opportunity gap, protect undocumented students, and improve racial equity in the education system. We support a more comprehensive curriculum that includes greater BIPOC perspectives and representation, including a requirement that Black studies and ethnic studies be included as a graduation criteria.

Building on the foundation of high-quality preschool in Seattle, we support additional coordination and funding from the State to continue to move closer toward infant care (birth to three) and preschool for all. We support expanding capacity and infrastructure for infant care, including home-based childcare, and preschool facilities and dual language instruction from early learning to K-12.

We support community colleges, apprenticeship programs, technical colleges, and state universities as they provide access to training and workforce development opportunities that build the workforce needed to address our compounding climate and housing crises and keep our economy thriving – specifically the expansion of the Washington Scholarship Grant and the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship. We also support the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), efforts to expand college and career readiness, support people experiencing homelessness and expansion of the English proficiency training program. We further support the state playing an active role in reducing financial barriers, closing the opportunity gap, and spurring economic activity by providing free tuition at community and technical colleges in Washington. We also support funding strategic plans that address diversity, equity, and inclusion; defining part time pay equity; achieving higher ratios of full time to part time faculty and student to counselors; improving salaries; and getting more funding to hire full time faculty and counselors, in part to address the impacts of increasing access to college.

We support tax increment financing, including new value capture concepts as a tool to encourage economic development and community improvement projects, and also support a set-aside for low-income housing. We support investments in thriving local industries, including arts and culture, maritime, marine tourism, global health and life sciences research, and clean, renewable energy.

Seattle support investments and policies that enhance equitable access and promote affordability of technology and technological infrastructure while preserving the City's authority to manage its property and public right-of-way. We support policies and funding that provide greater access and equity for broadband services including subsidies and better tracking of provider data services, and, during this challenging time of the COVID pandemic, including extension of ISP-provided COVID discounts, programs, and shut off prohibitions. New, innovative programs should focus on digital equity and inclusion and target the most underserved residents in our cities.

We support capital funding for infrastructure and public works projects, including support from the State to preserve Seattle's cultural and historical institutions. We support the expansion of capital funding for BIPOC communities and groups that have historically been disenfranchised from accessing such funds as a means of building community wealth and resiliency. We support the expansion of the leasehold excise tax exemption to include facilities/venues that are publicly operated. The City also supports considering the creation of a state investment trust or other funding mechanisms to provide financing for housing development, public works infrastructure,

educational infrastructure, student loans, environmental infrastructure and design, and community quality of life projects. We support public banking, efforts to have Washington State create a state-owned public bank and designing such a bank to allow it to meet the City of Seattle’s needs for a public depository. The City supports exceptions to regulatory and other state-imposed impediments to public banking, which would improve the financial feasibility of municipally owned public banks. In addition, Seattle supports the ability for municipalities to sustain international diplomacy through the maintenance of a bank account for nonpublic funds.

We support efforts to expand economic development tools, including enhancing business options and opportunities for the nightlife sector as well as clarifying and strengthening legislation that fosters the development of Business Improvement Areas (BIAs). We support promoting and incentivizing historic preservation, building and fire safety, and energy efficiency through direct or indirect assistance to property owners. The City supports Property Assessed Clean Energy and Resiliency loans and other financial mechanisms that can provide options for building owners to invest in making their building less carbon intensive, more energy and water efficient, and resilient. We also support legislation that allows for increased flexibility for cities to manage public works and other projects, and efforts aimed at increasing the participation of women and minority owned businesses (WMBE) in state and local contracting by restoring fair treatment of underserved groups in public employment, education and contracting.

The City of Seattle works to protect existing state and local shared revenues, including liquor revenues and revenue from the sale of marijuana; to preserve all existing local revenue authorities and controls; and to support new local revenue opportunities as well as increased equity in our taxation system.

We support comprehensive tax reform that leads to a more equitable and progressive tax structure and decreases reliance on flat tax sources like sale and property taxes. We support the authority to reduce Seattle’s sales tax rate and have the entire rate be reduced with the reduction going to the taxpayer rather than to the county. This includes support for a statewide capital gains tax and a progressive statewide payroll tax that does not preempt or diminish the City’s local authority. Seattle supports a homestead exemption and expanded access to the property tax exemption and deferral programs to promote increased participation by seniors and disabled veterans, and cultural nonprofits through a simplified application process and eligibility criteria tied to varying property values across the state. We support efforts to lower the taxable value of properties impacted by the stay at home order issued in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Seattle supports policies to fight climate change and support climate adaptation at a scale and timeline commensurate with the crisis and as justice demands. The City's stated goal is to be climate-pollution free by 2030, through policies that limit and reduce climate pollution, and increase investments in clean energy, public transit, vehicle, vessel and building electrification, energy efficiency - including progressive building energy codes and the authority for local adoption, low carbon/clean fuel standards, and a price on carbon.

We believe utilities have a role to play in reducing greenhouse gases and maximizing the value of its hydro and renewable energy resources. Seattle supports measures that clarify the role public utilities have in relation to the electrification of the transportation and building sectors. To assist

the City's work to ensure physical ability to secure water supply reliability and resiliency post-earthquakes, and in response to climate change, major water quality risks, and other challenges, we support state assistance to help build and grow resilience. The City supports efforts to enhance financing mechanisms for buildings with unreinforced masonry (URM) that require seismic retrofits.

Seattle supports measures to increase access to renewable energy, such as solar energy, while maintaining its flexibility and authority to set appropriate rates for its customers and protect ratepayers' interests. Specifically, Seattle supports the solar production incentives and an increase in the per-utility tax credit cap so Seattle City Light can continue to offer the state incentives to its customers and support the green-collar jobs in the solar installer sector.

We look forward to working with the Governor and State Legislature to create policies that will reflect the true cost of carbon pollution, rapidly reduce climate polluting emissions, and ensure equity for lower-income communities and communities of color to share in the economic opportunities presented by solutions to climate change. We support investments in climate resilient infrastructure, including flood risk reduction, salmon recovery and working lands protection and enhancement through its Floodplains by Design program.

In order to reduce emissions and noise pollution from diesel auxiliary engines on container ships, passenger ships, and refrigerated-cargo ships while berthing at the Port of Seattle, the City of Seattle supports at-berth regulations that provides vessel fleet operators visiting our port two options to reduce at-berth emissions: 1) turn off auxiliary engines and connect the vessel to some other source of power, most likely grid-based shore power; or 2) use alternative control technology that achieve equivalent emission reductions.

Seattle values the Clean Water Act's mission of protecting the environment and making our waterways safe for protection of public health, fishing, and recreation. We support a new, long-term state funding source for local storm water and solid waste management programs to help improve water quality, waste management, and cleanup of local toxic sites. We support revenue options to fully fund implementation of the Model Toxics Control Act and Remedial Action Grants using the funds for clean-up efforts and protection of the environment. We support efforts to codify many of the recommendations made in the updated Washington State Drought Contingency Plan, including creation of a more certain and stable funding source by establishing a permanent account for Ecology to draw from for drought resiliency, preparedness, and response projects. The City supports alternative water supply development requirements to ensure coordinated planning resulting in preservation of municipal water supplies for future growth. The City supports state assistance to help local governments implement a robust fish barrier removal program that complements that state's efforts to fully remove public fish passage barriers. We support stable funding of the Salmon Recovery Fund to support Chinook salmon restoration in the Puget Sound. We support the review of dig law standards while ensuring the protection of utility assets and rate payer affordability.

Seattle supports legislation that will reduce toxic chemicals in the environment, including regulating lead paint, toxins in children's toys, neonicotinoid pesticides that threaten our food supply by harming bees, and toxic materials in recyclable and compostable products and



packaging. We support development of common industry standards for recycled products, funding for recycling facilities, and legislative initiatives to reduce waste and increase recycling and composting. We support efforts to review developing markets for recyclables and to address deficiencies in domestic sorting, processing and remanufacturing capabilities, businesses, and facilities in addition to supporting a requirement for a minimum level of recycled content in certain products to create market forces to provide demand for collected paper and plastic. We support efforts to ensure responsible recycling practices, and product stewardship approaches for products and packaging. We support labeling and certification standards for film plastic products and food and beverage products to ensure they are biodegradable, while preserving local governments' authority to enhance such regulations. We are supportive of legislation that requires wipes to meet the International Water Services Flushability Group's utility approved flushability standard for labeling to help protect our sewer system infrastructure. Seattle supports product stewardship for surplus pharmaceuticals, batteries, carpet, paint, and additions to the products covered by E-Cycle Washington, efforts to provide consumers the ability repair, refurbish, and reuse electronic products. In addition, we support efforts to reduce and redirect food waste, including efforts to address hunger and nutrition issues through food waste reduction planning, and to reduce single-use bottled water usage. We also support legislation that will reduce or eliminate products that can be harmful to our residents, infrastructure, and waterways.

The City supports legislation that would strengthen the Pollution Liability Insurance Agency by supporting revenue options to fully fund the agency and ensure coverage in order to better protect households, particularly those with low and moderate incomes, from high cleanup costs in the event of an oil tank leak.

Seattle supports local authority to impose development-related impact fees for public safety, affordable housing, transit, public schools, and other necessary facilities and services, and to require appropriate infrastructure, such as open space and sidewalks, associated with new development. We support the expansion of incentive zoning to include provisions that encourage new open space, preserving current open space, creating multi-modal transportation infrastructure, and preserving landmark structures. We support a statewide requirement that racial and social justice be considered in land use and zoning decisions. We support housing policies that discourage exclusionary zoning, encourage inclusionary zoning, and the expansion of housing programs that encourage intergenerational wealth building for historically marginalized communities.

Seattle supports efforts to update state planning regulations to promote growth within urban areas, address the climate crisis through growth management, preserve agricultural and urban forestry space and resources, and incorporate environmental justice into planning efforts, while still examining, reviewing, and mitigating the impacts on the environment. We support efforts to preserve and expand access to parks and green space in urban areas.

We support maintaining Washington's strong payday lending protections for consumers and oppose the creation of new, high-interest lending products. We support creating and enhancing the ability of state and local governments to enforce laws related to discrimination, labor standards, environmental protection and pollution, consumer protection, business practices, and public health.

The City of Seattle supports designating local broadcasters as “first informers” with all the rights and responsibilities that entails. Additionally, we support legislation giving local broadcasters special access to public emergencies, so that real time information in times of crisis (*e.g.*, earthquake, wildfire, and extreme weather) can be provided consistent with Federal Communications Commission broadcast license responsibilities.

We support financial policies that value social justice and consider externalized costs to our residents and environment. We support local options to hold public depositories in credit unions and support the repeal of RCW 39.58.240, which restricts public depositories in credit unions but not in commercial banks.

### **An Interconnected City – one supported by a cohesive and multimodal transportation network**

We support transportation policies and multimodal funding proposals that include a significant share of funding for cities to help pay for local maintenance and preservation, the expansion of transit including light rail, active transportation, and other local needs; and meet both the City's and the State's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reductions. We support transportation policies that help to address the climate crisis, including electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, incentives for EVs and E-bikes, and regional tolling as a means of reducing congestion and emissions.

We support greater flexibility and autonomy for cities in managing their transportation infrastructure and financing. We support expanding local transportation revenue options for local governments and modifying the City's parking tax authority to allow for more equitable application of the tax. We also support raising bid limits and the public works contracting threshold to be better aligned with today's construction costs, and indexing those limits to the construction cost index.

We support freight mobility and value the importance of rail to the City, Region, and State economies. We support state investment in the West Seattle Bridge and other key high-capacity, multimodal bridges as critical assets in connecting business across the state with national and international markets, supporting jobs in agriculture, manufacturing, aerospace, and maritime industries. We support regulatory and financing flexibility to ensure mobility can be restored quickly and effectively.

We support efforts to ensure a safe and modern rail and maritime infrastructure, which includes protecting citizens from the hazards posed by oil and coal shipments through our rail corridor and waterways.

We support efforts to improve transportation safety, particularly for vulnerable users such as bicyclists and pedestrians. such as local autonomy in adjusting speed limits. We support more robust data collection and transparency on traffic collisions, and an update to official statutes to accurately describe traffic collisions as crashes rather than accidents. We support improved multicultural outreach and educational materials in language to ensure that all communities are

able to access our public roadways.

We support the decriminalization of transportation activity to improve safety for travelers and the public. We support ending the use of weaponized enforcement for traffic violations and allowing non-uniformed officers, including those working for a local city department that is not a police department, to perform garage and event management activities. We support decriminalizing pedestrian activities such as loitering and jaywalking, which disproportionately impact BIPOC communities. We support setting traffic citation amounts based on income to avoid perpetuating cycles of poverty while ensuring enforcement remains an effective deterrent regardless of an individual's income and providing additional mitigation for marginalized communities.

We support continued efforts to clarify and strengthen regulations of disabled parking placards and plates in order to cut down on fraud and ensure that necessary parking is available for those in need.

Seattle supports local control over regulations concerning the gig economy and transportation network companies. In addition, we support modifications to rental car regulations. We support the development of recommendations and possible policies aimed to address the operation of autonomous vehicles on public roadways in the state. We support clarifying regulations related to trucks and other commercial vehicles and adding more resources for commercial vehicle safety enforcement; we also support policies that equitably share the burden of responsibility for safety violations between drivers and equipment owners.

## **An Affordable City – one where housing and services remain affordable and accessible to everyone**

The City of Seattle, like many other cities across the country, is facing a homelessness crisis. Our goal is to make life better, safer, and healthier for unsheltered seniors, families, people with disabilities, and vulnerable individuals. Seattle's needs outweigh current capacity. We support additional tools and funding to address the homelessness crisis, including significantly increasing the document recording fee, increasing density both near transit and otherwise to grow affordable housing and protect our most vulnerable populations, and easing SEPA requirements as they relate to the setup of shelters and encampments.

We strongly support state efforts to address the impact of COVID-19 on housing affordability and homelessness. The City of Seattle will work to protect and increase critical funding for affordable housing, human services, public health, and other critical programs. We support new programs to allay the disastrous effects of the pandemic on the housing market, such as rental and foreclosure assistance, utility customer assistance, and a moratorium on evictions through the crisis. Now more than ever, we recognize that public health is an essential service and support additional funding to allow public health to rebuild its statewide infrastructure to combat the virus.

We support raising new state revenue, progressive revenue options for local governments, and removing the 1% limitation on property tax revenue growth from one year to next. We reject austerity measure that harm our small businesses, workforce, and community at large. We also support increasing flexibility for local tools, such as a bondable revenue stream and expansion of

the Housing Trust Fund for affordable housing, the expansion of the real estate excise tax, property or other tax exemptions that provide affordable housing benefits and prevent displacement of lower income residents, and expansion of essential human services. Seattle acknowledges the importance of the Housing Trust Fund for extremely low-income housing needs, including preserving subsidized housing stock, and is supportive of clarification of repayment requirements that support project stability. Seattle supports flexible authority to dispose of public surplus property without seeking fair market value to build affordable housing or other uses that would benefit the public. The City of Seattle supports exploring options to stimulate the condo development market while protecting consumers who have purchased condominiums. Seattle supports policies that balance the economic opportunity created by short-term rentals with the need to maintain a supply of long-term housing stock.

We support additional behavioral health funding to ensure those in crisis receive the ongoing care, housing, and services they need. We support the state ensuring that there is parity of services for all people seeking medical treatment through the Affordable Care Act. In addition, to ensure quality of care, we support fully funding caseload ratios and staffing levels for Medicaid case management and increasing reimbursement rates. The City also supports efforts to guarantee health care for all and prohibits discrimination against transgender individuals. We support funding for Medicaid long-term services and supports, which serve our elderly and most vulnerable residents, including needed increases in funding for both skilled nursing facilities and home and community based services.

We support continued and expanded funding for essential safety net programs, including Maternity Support Services, public health, Community Health Clinics, mental health treatment services, Apple Health for Kids, Housing and Essential Needs (HEN), the Aged Blind and Disabled (ABD) Program, the Medical Care Services program, the Senior Services Act programs, immigrant services, State Food Assistance, the WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, Working Connections Childcare, family planning, Nurse Family Partnerships, the Kinship Navigator Program, and Home for Good.

Seattle supports creating, expanding, and preserving budget appropriation, financing tools, and policies to help ensure housing affordability and stability for tenants, including robust investment in the Housing Trust Fund and acquisition, development, operation, and services of permanent supportive housing. We support the state's Medicaid 1115 Waiver extension and amendment request, which includes the Foundational Community Supports Medicaid benefit. We support access to legal counsel for those facing eviction and the repeal or modification of RCW 35.21.830, to allow local governments to protect tenants from unrestricted rent increases, without causing a negative impact on the quality or quantity of housing supply. Seattle supports incentivizing affordable housing, and supporting homeowners facing foreclosure and tenants facing eviction. We support efforts to expand alternative models of land ownership, such as co-operative ownership, as a means of providing affordable housing alternatives.

For tenants facing eviction, we support a statewide just cause eviction ordinance (JCEO), support the amendment of language in RCW 59.18.220 that limits Seattle's ability to extend our own JCEO to tenants at the end of their lease term. We support adjustments to RCW 59.18.440 to address eligibility barriers to qualify for relocation assistance when renters are displaced by

demolition, substantial rehabilitation, or change of use. We support reform of the unlawful detainer (eviction) process as well as giving the courts the ability to stay writs of restitution upon good cause. We support state efforts to make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time, and support utilizing health care reform opportunities to prevent and end homelessness, including a statewide solution to the benefit gap that impacts households that are reliant on federal disability insurance benefits to access and maintain stable housing.

As the federal government changes the process by which it allocates funds for homelessness programs from formulaic to competitive, we support modifications in state law that will provide us with better tools to compete for federal funds.

We also support preserving and expanding protections for renters, including banning discrimination based on a prior criminal record, and aligning state and federal law to ensure housing access for disabled residents with service animals.

We support providing the public with a full, fair, and transparent accounting of governance while ensuring City business continues on course.