

CITY OF SEATTLE

2010 State Legislative Agenda Final Report – Sine Die

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SESSION PRIORITIES – 2010

Budget Safety Net: Do No Harm

Periods of economic downturn affect people from every walk of life, but their effects are felt most keenly by the vulnerable. Despite budget deficits at every level of government, preserving the basic safety net of services becomes a paramount civic responsibility. Preservation of these vital services makes both social and fiscal sense: residents dependent on these programs merely turn to a number of other services, which is often an inefficient and ultimately more costly solution. Seattle believes that the State should allow no further cuts to human services, public health, or the Housing Trust Fund.

The Legislature addressed the budget deficit with a combination of budget cuts, new revenue, and an infusion of federal funds which the Congress has not yet fully appropriated.

Passed:

2SHB 2782 - the Security Lifeline Act, makes modifications to GA-U. Governor Gregoire signed the bill into law on March 29th. Seattle **supported** this compromise, which includes faster screening and transition to SSI, requires chemical dependency treatment if necessary; and places a 24 month time limit during a 5 year period, although clients may not be terminated until an SSI assessment has been completed. While the time limits mean a considerable number of clients will lose benefits, it appears to be the best outcome possible given current budget constraints.

Supplemental Operating: (ESSB 6444) & Capital Budget: (ESHB 2836)

Key programs:

Security Lifeline - (formerly GA-U): New program created in Security Lifeline Act (HB 2782) that transforms GA-U; implements a 24 month time limit on benefits within a 5 year period. The Legislature assumes this will result in a caseload reduction of 2,350 clients, which they assume will save \$15.9 million. The reforms also include an expedited transition to SSI and stricter chemical dependency requirements which the Legislature assumes will result in an additional \$12.3 million in savings. The Legislature also added funds to cover increased caseloads. Net increase of approximately \$20 million for the new program compared to GA-U last year.

Working Connections Child Care Program - Funding level maintained. The Governor's proposed Book 2 budget included a \$49 million reduction to this program, but funding was restored in the final budget

Family Preservation Services - Funding level maintained. The Governor's proposed Book 2 budget included a \$5.9 million reduction, but funding was restored in the final budget.

Senior Services Act - Funding level maintained. At one point, the budget included a \$1 million reduction, but funding was restored in the final budget.

Housing Trust Fund: Increased funding \$30 million.

Neighborhood Corrections Officers - Restored funding to \$197,000.

Crime Lab Equipment Funding - Funding level maintained. The Governor's proposed Book 2 budget included a reduction in funding for equipment, but funding was restored in the final budget.

State Work Study Program - The Governor's Book 2 budget would have completely eliminated funding, but the final budget reduced funding by approximately 30 percent or \$7 million.

Martin Luther King School - \$1.5 million to acquire the surplus school from Seattle Public Schools for use as a community center. This appropriation is in addition to \$1 million appropriated to acquire the property last year.

Washington Information Network (WIN211) - \$500,000 reduction.

Did Not Pass:

SB 6874 - would have increased cigarette taxes and used the revenue to fund health care. It passed the Senate on March 7th by a 29-19 vote. A related bill, **ESHB 2493** did pass as part of the revenue package and was signed into law.

SHB 3191 - the House's revenue package, eliminated certain tax exemptions, extends the state and local sales tax to candy, bottled water, cosmetic medical services, janitorial services, and custom software; increases tobacco taxes, and modifies certain B&O taxes including a 0.5% increase on lawyers, accountants, agents and consultants. Portions were included in the final revenue package.

SSB 6817 & HB 3177 - required the county auditor to administer a surcharge of sixty-two dollars for each document recorded and authorized the state finance committee to issue general obligation bonds to provide funds for the housing trust fund. Seattle **supported this legislation.**

Education

We believe it is the State's responsibility to fully fund K-12 education, and to implement programs that close the achievement gap. We support enhanced and stable funding for arts in public education. We also believe that the provision of state-wide, universal Pre-K instruction assures that all children enter elementary school ready to learn. During challenging economic times, it is also particularly important to support community colleges, technical colleges, and state universities as they provide access to retraining and workforce development opportunities. Public educational institutions are also a

major employer in Seattle and across Washington State and have a considerable impact on our economy.

The state constitution mandates the State to provide K-12 education for all children, including special needs children. Although the City of Seattle does not operate, manage, or fund public education, successful public schools are the heart of our neighborhoods and a quality education for all students is key to the social and economic vitality of our city and state. We are committed to the success of our Seattle schools and believe the State should continue to provide for the full funding of K-12 education.

Passed:

SHB 2893 - modifies school levy provisions, the bill restores the school levy base and raises the levy lid by 4 percent for all school districts through 2017. This measure could provide up to \$21.2 million for Seattle Public School students. Without asking voters for a modification to the recently passed operational levy, \$7.3 million would be made available in 2011. An additional \$13.9 million would be available if voters approved. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

2SHB 2731 - relates to early learning for at risk children. The Governor signed the bill into law on March 29th. The bill says that the Legislature intends to create an entitlement program for early learning, maintain the number of early learning slots in the 2011-13 biennia, and phases in funding over the next several biennia until the program is fully funded. The Governor vetoed the intent section because she stated it was in conflict with the substance in **SSB 6759**, which also relates to early learning and was signed into law on March 29th. It creates a work group to examine the opportunities and barriers to developing a comprehensive plan for a voluntary program of early learning. The work group will examine the opportunities and barriers to adding early learning to basic education and to creating a program of early learning as a protected entitlement. Seattle **supported** both of these bills.

E2SSB 6696 - is the education reform bill that would require action plans for persistently low-achieving schools and their districts to target funds and assistance to turn around the identified low-achieving schools, as well as other reforms. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

Did Not Pass:

SB 6757 - asserted that a voluntary program of early learning should be included in basic education and the Legislature intended to begin the program by creating a working group to identify and recommend a plan for implementation. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

Public Safety

We strive to ensure all people feel safe and protected in their homes, businesses, and on our streets. We would support a statewide ban on military-style assault weapons and the creation of a data collection and reporting system to determine what percentage of

violent deaths are caused by these and other weapons. We also believe that local governments should have the ability to regulate firearms or weapons in public areas to ensure the safety of their communities and local circumstances. We also support early intervention in juvenile possession of illegal firearms, and believe proactive detention for juvenile offenses can deter potential future convictions under the more severe adult sanctions. We believe that cooperative, community-oriented policing plays a primary role in maintaining safe and balanced communities and that the Neighborhood Corrections Initiative partnership between the Department of Corrections and local law enforcement should be fully funded.

Passed:

ESSB 6444 - the supplemental operating budget, restored funding for the Neighborhood Corrections Initiative. Seattle **supported** this funding.

EHB 1679 - also known as the Jason McKissack Act, reimburses members of LEOFF Plan 2 who are totally disabled in the line of duty for medical payments made for employer-provided benefits. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

SSB 6846 - allows counties to raise E-911 excise taxes to fund improved 911 services. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

Did Not Pass:

HB 2887 - was Governor requested legislation that would create the finding that if a person is found guilty and mentally ill, it would require them to remain under the supervision of the Dept. of Corrections after the defendant's mental health issues are resolved. Seattle **monitored** this legislation.

HB 2780 - would have heavily restricted the use of automated safety cameras and limit fines generated by automated safety cameras to \$25. In Seattle, automated safety cameras have resulted in reduced red light running, fewer persons injured at controlled intersections, and reduced vehicle speeds in school zones. Seattle **opposed** this legislation.

SSB 5838 - the vulnerable roadway user bill, would have created a new traffic infraction for negligent drivers that caused the death or injury of vulnerable roadway users such as cyclists and pedestrians. It passed out of the policy committee and was scheduled for a floor vote in the Senate, but failed to come up for a vote before cutoff. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

SB 6396 - the assault weapons ban, did not pass out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

Revenue

We strongly support maintaining current municipal revenue authority and existing city and state shared revenues. We, in concert with the Association of Washington Cities, support a broad city flexibility package that provides greater flexibility with existing

revenues and local determination of how these revenues are allocated. We do not support unfunded mandates. Seattle also supports comprehensive reform of the Washington State tax system to provide revenue stability for cities and counties and a more progressive state tax structure, including consideration of a constitutional amendment to establish a state income tax.

Passed:

ESHB 3179 - relates to local excise tax provisions for cities and counties and was signed into law by the Governor on March 19th. This bill removes the non-supplant requirements, but it also contains additional provisions that would allow cities to impose a .1 public safety sales tax by public vote if the county fails to impose the full .3 by Dec 31st. In addition, HB 3179 clarifies the recent brokered natural gas court case to allow the City to continue collecting the tax. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

2ESSB 6143 - is the state's revenue package. The overall tax package raises approximately \$800 million through the rest of the current biennium and does not include a general sales tax increase. It includes an increase in the Service B&O tax rate, repeals a number of tax exemptions, extends the sales tax to candy, gum, and bottled water, increases the sales tax on soda pop and beer, and in a separate bill (**ESHB 2493**) they increase tobacco taxes. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

ESSB 6130 - suspends the 2/3 vote requirement to raise revenue required by I-960.

Did not Pass:

SB 6843 - **would have** suspended the 2/3 vote requirement of the Legislature for tax increases and did not pass out of Rules. A different version passed.

Fiscal flexibility bills:

The Legislature considered a variety of local fiscal flexibility bills (**HB 2650, HB 2749, HB 2773, SB 6164, and SSB 6424**) that didn't pass, before settling on ESHB 3179 which did pass.

HB 3176 - was an early House version of a revenue package. It would have raised revenue by closing certain tax loopholes, ending certain tax preferences, and extending the B&O tax to out of state businesses that operate in Washington.

Transportation

We believe that a well-maintained and supported transportation system is critical in advancing economic prosperity, meaningfully reducing greenhouse gas levels, and accommodating projected population growth in a sustainable manner. We support efforts to reduce vehicle miles traveled and to promote increased use of new and

existing tools to move people and goods through cleaner, more efficient choices. We believe the State should fully fund the transportation infrastructure system, particularly when there is an identified safety risk. The State should also play an increased role in funding transit and transportation choices as part of our state system. We support legislative efforts to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety, including the Safe Routes to School program and Complete Streets policies. Seattle also values a variety of transportation options to support the local economy and tourism industry and is committed to ensure that those options are safe for all the traveling public. To that end, we seek legislation that will restore local regulatory oversight and enforcement over towncars and limousines, as existed in the past.

The State should support local tools to reduce congestion through strategic investments, like additional flexibility in the Transportation Benefit District statute, restoration of the Public Works Trust Fund, and the GTEC and TRPP components of Commute Trip Reduction. Seattle concurs with the Association of Washington Cities that cities need a permanent transportation funding source for basic street maintenance and preservation. We support legislation that would create a street maintenance utility that would charge different user classifications based on trips generated and a city's cost to maintain and preserve its existing system. Seattle also supports strategies to enhance local enforcement of traffic laws, such as revised unlawful transit conduct statutes and stricter fare enforcement to ensure security and safety on transit. We support moving forward on the deep-bore tunnel as the preferred alternative for replacement of the Alaskan Way Viaduct and upholding the responsibilities set forth in the Viaduct Memorandum of Agreement (Seattle Ord. 123133). As the project manager for the deep-bore tunnel, the State has the role to implement the project on time and on budget. We will continue to work with the State on design and cost estimation of the tunnel to assist in this effort. We also support other investments funded by the Nickel Package and Transportation Partnership Account. We support efforts to develop a full funding package for replacement of SR 520. Seattle supports tolling and congestion pricing as a demand management tool and encourages development of a regional pricing system to help fund transportation alternatives to single occupancy vehicles. We support improved efficiency and oversight in licensing, including the administration of disabled parking placards and the transfer of vehicle ownership and registration.

Passed:

SR 520 legislation:

ESSB 6392 (HB 2929) relates to the use of toll revenue in the SR 520 corridor. The final version of the bill allows bond proceeds from toll revenue to be used to begin construction including \$200 million for the Westside. It also creates several workgroups that will examine transit connections on the Westside, refinements to the design on the Westside, and high capacity transit planning and integrated funding. Governor Gregoire vetoed the intent section and the section which would have limited the height of the bridge to 20 feet. **SB 6499** addresses toll collections, enforcement, and penalties for failure to pay tolls.

E2SHB 1591 -provides greater flexibility for Transportation Benefit Districts,

primarily by allowing the sales tax to be collected up to 30 years thereby allowing it to be bonded against. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

Did Not Pass:

ESHB 1775 - would have allowed the City to regulate limousines. The bill passed the House and passed out of the Senate Transportation Committee but failed to come up for a vote in the Senate. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

SHB 2855 - would have temporarily authorized transit agencies to raise revenue by imposing a \$20 annual vehicle license fee by a vote of the governing body without first forming a Transportation Benefit District (TBD). A later version of the bill included an amendment that would have increased the total annual vehicle license fee in Seattle up to \$120 if approved by voters (currently capped at \$100), but the bill failed to come up for a vote. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

SSB 6570 - would have allowed certain private transportation providers to use designated transit only lanes on public highways. Seattle testified with **concerns** about the bill being too broad and that it could impede bus rapid transit, and clog transit lanes with private vehicles. The bill passed the Senate but died in the House.

SB 6366 - would have in certain circumstances limited the local role in permitting transportation projects. Seattle **opposed** this legislation because it would give WSDOT total control over local permitting and appeals related to major transportation projects.

Water Stewardship

We concur with the Association of Washington Cities that a long-term state funding mechanism for local stormwater management programs is necessary to ensure full implementation of stormwater management programs and requirements and to achieve water quality standards. Seattle supports legislation that would establish a fee on a barrel of unrefined oil to raise revenue for stormwater and water quality programs and projects. We also support stormwater management programs that set goals which are achievable and not cost-prohibitive. We support the responsible use of water and promote environmental stewardship, including funding for salmon recovery. We support legislative efforts to address a variety of water issues, including in-stream flows, protection of municipal water rights, disputes over water rights, and implementation of watershed planning. We support maintaining current funding for priority environmental programs related to water quality. We support the Puget Sound Partnership's efforts to restore and protect the health of Puget Sound.

Passed:

Supplemental Capital Budget:

ESHB 2836 – While legislation creating a permanent funding source for local stormwater clean-up failed to pass, the supplemental capital budget includes \$54

million for stormwater projects across the state. The bulk of the funds will be made available to local jurisdictions to help meet their Clean Water Act stormwater obligations. The Department of Ecology will administer the funds. Seattle **supported** this funding.

Approximately \$23.5 million is expected to be made available to local governments for stormwater projects through a competitive grant process; approximately \$23.5 million would also be distributed directly to local governments to implement projects and programs to fund our stormwater plans, including projects and programs, improve staffing capacity, to improve storm water research, data management and monitoring. The details are still being worked out, but it appears the City of Seattle/Seattle Public Utilities will receive \$1.6-\$1.7 million directly, plus the opportunity to compete for additional funding.

MTCA (Model Toxic Control Act) - An additional \$16 million in state and local toxics funds transferred to the state operating budget. However, legislators renewed their commitment to using the Local Toxics Control Account for its authorized purpose (after sweeping the revenue into the state general fund in 2009) by preserving \$38 million for remedial action grants, including funding for Superfund projects in Seattle. Additionally, a proviso in the final supplemental budget introduced the idea of "grant funded cleanup trust" accounts which could be used to stabilize funding for long-term cleanup projects.

Protecting the Cedar River Water Supply - The supplemental operating budget contains a **proviso** requiring the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to do an environmental impact statement (EIS) before they could declare the Cedar River Municipal Watershed (game management unit 490) open for deer and elk hunting. The City of Seattle/Seattle Public Utilities **supported** this language.

E2SSB 6267 - authorizes an alternative cost-reimbursement process for water right applications as well as an expedited processing procedure for water right applications. It creates a Water Rights Processing Account to support processing of water right applications. **Though it passed, we were concerned about the amendment, which prohibits DOE from requiring meters on exempt wells.** As we understand it, exempt wells can be drilled within the SPU service area and the quantity cannot be limited for certain activities.

Did Not Pass:

HB 3181 & SB 6851 - would have provided state funding for local stormwater clean up, primarily through a competitive grant program. It would have increased the Hazardous Substance Tax – the existing funding source for the state and local toxics accounts (MTCA) and used some of the new revenue to fund a competitive grant program for stormwater projects. The bills never came to a vote, but the Legislature included \$54 million in the capital budget to fund stormwater projects and through a grant program. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

HB 1614 - would have established a \$1.50 fee on a barrel of unrefined oil to raise revenue for stormwater and water quality programs and projects. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

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ONGOING PRIORITIES – 2010

The policy statements below represent ongoing priorities for the City of Seattle and its residents. The City urges the State Legislature to initiate and support legislation that advances the following principles:

Race & Social Justice/Civil Rights

Every person has the right to live, work, and learn free from discrimination. We support local discretion with regard to implementing I-200 restrictions in both education and employment opportunities. We support legislation that prevents discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations, and lending practices. We also support efforts to reduce racial disproportionality and promote racial justice in the areas of economic equity, environmental justice, criminal justice, health equity, education equity, and in government policies, programs, and procedures.

Passed:

E2SHB 3026 - relates to school district compliance with state and federal civil rights laws. The bill represents one of the recommendations made by the Achievement Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee. It prohibits discrimination in Washington public schools on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained guide dog or service animal by a person with a disability. It directs OSPI to develop rules and guidelines to eliminate such discrimination, and allows private court actions to be brought for violations of the law and rules that are developed. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

Did Not Pass:

SHB 1666 - would have authorized counties above a specified population threshold to create cultural access authorities with the authority to impose a voter-approved sales and use tax of up to 0.1 percent to fund cultural access projects. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

SSB 6338 - concerned transitional housing. Seattle **opposed** the bill because it would have exempted individuals living in transitional housing from the protections afforded by the Residential Landlord Tenant Act. Residents of transitional housing are often a marginalized and vulnerable population. This proposed legislation would have had a disproportionately negative impact on the poor and low-income, the recently institutionalized, single parent families, and racial and ethnic minorities. It passed the Senate but died in the House.

Climate Protection & Environment

We believe all levels of government should implement practices and policies that provide for strong climate protection and that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. We support flexible state funding for local government efforts to combat climate disruption.

We support measures to mitigate the impact of increased energy costs to lower income households. Seattle supports a hard cap on greenhouse gas emissions and supports the aggressive implementation of a cap-and-trade program. We believe the State should assert leadership through bold policy implementation to ensure we are well positioned when the federal government takes action.

Passed:

EHB 2561 - The Jobs Act, places on the November ballot a referendum to authorize the issuance of \$505 million in general obligation bonds to create jobs by funding capital improvement projects at schools that will result in energy savings. If approved by voters, it would make permanent the temporary sales tax on bottled water and use that revenue source to help pay the bonds. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

Economic Development

We support state efforts to provide local governments with financing tools and to remove unnecessary regulatory barriers in order to attract and retain businesses. We also support incentives that promote increased job and apprenticeship opportunities, wage progression, and retention for workers. We encourage efforts aimed at increasing the participation of Women and Minority Business Enterprises (WMBE) in state and local contracting. We support efforts to enhance our tourism industry, including performing arts and cultural organizations and institutions. Seattle supports a safe and vibrant nighttime economy and mechanisms to help it thrive.

Passed:

2SSB 6675 - creates the Washington Global Health Technologies and Product Development Competitiveness Program. It is a grant program that will be administered by a non-profit with the board appointed by the Governor. Grant monies will come from both public and private sectors. Grant recipients must conduct their research and development in Washington. Seattle **supported** this legislation as a way to further develop opportunities for commercialization and job creation in this growth sector. The program leverages the City's existing capacity and will help attract additional investments in the commercialization of new technologies.

SSB 6889 - concerns the governance and financing of the Washington State Convention and Trade Center. SSB 6889 allows an additional public facility district (PFD) to be created in King County for the purpose of acquiring and operating the Center once it is transferred from the public nonprofit that currently operates it. The new PFD would be governed by a nine person board, three of them appointed by the city of Seattle, three by King County, and three by the Governor. The PFD may impose a 2 percent lodging tax in Seattle that credits against the state sales tax rate. This bill is part of a settlement of a lawsuit against the state brought by Seattle hotels. Proponents of the bill testified that it will put the Center in a good position for future expansion. The House amendments change some of the provisions related to fund transfers between

the convention center account and the proposed new PFD. Seattle **monitored and supported** this legislation.

Did Not Pass:

SSB 6116 - would have taken the 2 percent car rental tax, the 0.5 percent restaurant tax, the 2 percent state shared hotel-motel tax, and 75 percent of the 1 percent car rental tax and re-prioritized their use as the Safeco and Qwest bonds are paid off. The King County Council could have used the existing taxes for arts and heritage programs, tourism promotion, youth sports activities, regional centers, publicly owned stadiums, community development, and low-income housing. A related bill, ESSB 6051 would have dedicated a portion of the King County hotel-motel tax to funding the arts and heritage programs. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

2ESHB 2912 - directed stadium related taxes to dedicated accounts once the debt obligations for stadiums were paid. As it passed the House, it requires the dedicated accounts to fund the arts, affordable housing, tourism promotion, youth athletic facilities, regional centers, performing arts centers, and health and human services provided by nonprofit agencies. The bill passed the House but died in the Senate. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

Elections and General Government

We believe the State of Washington should finance all elections related to state government and state offices. We support efforts to facilitate the secure use of electronic signatures for local governments. We support local governance structures that provide clarity and flexibility among jurisdictions to meet requirements, such as open public meetings, in a way that reflects the organizational structure of the jurisdiction and does not interfere with public access. Seattle feels strongly that the State should not pre-empt or otherwise prohibit local governments from establishing local policies that address their own diverse communities' needs and priorities.

Passed:

SB 6243 - eliminates the requirement that candidates file disclosure information with their local county auditor in addition to the state PDC. At one point, an amendment was added that would have prevented the City of Seattle from requiring candidates and political action committees from filling with the City. Seattle **opposed** that amendment and it was subsequently removed.

Energy

We support policies that help us continue producing and delivering environmentally responsible, safe, low-cost, reliable power. We support the development of a long-term energy strategy that includes planning for adequate energy capacity and supply. We also support measures which assist in our continued ability to meet our zero greenhouse gas emissions goal. We support the inclusion of low-impact hydroelectric power as a renewable energy source in any legislation related to renewable energy portfolio standards as well as equal treatment among the publicly owned utilities.

We support opportunities for greater enforcement of building codes to ensure energy efficiency, and a balanced system of incentives and fees to promote innovations in energy efficiency. We also support increased opportunities for solar production as well as an expanded role for zero-emission vehicles. We believe that new technology jobs are critical to a strong green economy.

Passed:

EHB 2561 - the Jobs Act, places on the November ballot a referendum to authorize the issuance of \$505 million in general obligation bonds to create jobs by funding capital improvement projects at schools that will result in energy savings. If approved by voters, it would make permanent the temporary sales tax on bottled water and use that revenue source to help pay the bonds. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

ESHB 2925 - affects Seattle City Light's impact fee agreement with Pend Oreille County regarding City Light's hydroelectric generation facility in the county. Seattle **supported** the final version of the bill because it includes a provision that triggers arbitration between the two parties if they cannot reach an agreement and it allows City Light to continue making payments under terms of the old contract until a new one is reached.

2ESSB 6261 - is a bill addressing utility service collections against rental property. A compromise was reached between cities, landlord representatives and Columbia Legal Services representing tenants over a disputed section of the bill. This bill will require some changes in our billing practices and notice of shutoff in situations where a tenant has paid rent (with an understanding that the landlord will pay the water/power bills) but where a landlord has failed to pay the bill. The changes protect our lien authority.

Did Not Pass:

ESSB 6656 & HB 2853 - would have authorized municipalities to establish conservation utilities to finance residential energy efficiency investments. . Seattle **supported** these bills.

HB 2471 - would have raised the threshold of qualifying net metering systems for utilities to interconnect from 100kw to 2mgw.

HB 3034 - and the Senate version, **SB 6672** would have made modifications to I-937, the Energy Independence Act. Seattle testified with **concerns** about the bills as drafted and was working with various stakeholders on potential amendments, but the bills died.

HB 2536 - would have required electric utilities to provide standard offer contracts of no less than 20 years for the purchase of electricity produced from certain renewable energy systems. Seattle **monitored** this legislation.

Growth Management, Land Use and Annexation

We support the Growth Management Act (GMA) as the primary means of planning for growth. We support the further integration and streamlining of state land use and related statutes while preserving environmental protections. We support better integration of land use and transportation.

We support efforts to provide local governments with tools to implement “growth pays for growth” policies. We support state funding to assist jurisdictions in meeting planning requirements and infrastructure needs of the Growth Management Act and the Shoreline Management Act.

Did Not Pass:

HB 3067 - would have allowed developers to defer payment of impact fees until purchase of a property, rather than at the time of application. It was amended to alleviate escrow companies of liability if the fees aren't paid. Seattle **opposed** this legislation.

Hazardous and Solid Waste

We support measures to reduce toxins entering the waste stream and support cleaning up hazardous waste sites through state assistance to local governments for the handling, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials.

We support development of common industry standards for recycled products, funding for recycling facilities, promotion of product stewardship, and legislative initiatives to reduce waste and increase recycling. Specifically, we support product stewardship for fluorescent lighting products and surplus pharmaceuticals, as well as framework legislation to ensure manufacturers' responsibility for waste products, such as fluorescents, paint, and carpeting. We also support the creation of a Do Not Mail Registry that would allow residents of Washington State to opt out of receiving unsolicited commercial mailings, which burden our waste disposal systems and recycling capacity.

Passed:

ESSB 5543 - requires all mercury-containing lights collected in the state by product stewardship programs or other collection programs to be recycled. The program also requires producers of mercury-containing lights sold in or into the state for residential use to fully finance and participate in a product stewardship program and to pay annual fees to the Dept. of Ecology for enforcement and administration costs.

SSB 6557 - would limit the use of copper in brake friction material, phased over the next ten years. Copper has been shown to have a significant negative impact on salmon and other aquatic species. It enters water bodies, including Puget Sound, through stormwater run-off. This bill is a high priority of the Puget Sound Partnership. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

Did Not Pass:

2SHB 1165 & 2SSB 5279 - would have provided for the safe collection and disposal of unwanted drugs from residential sources through a producer-provided and funded product stewardship program. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management

We support efforts to protect the public from terrorist threats and believe funding should be based on threat and risk assessments, both foreign and domestic. It is also critical that the State implement measures and provide funding to prepare our communities for natural disasters. We support legislation that protects information regarding emergency preparedness and critical infrastructure. We support additional local tools to generate resources for fire and emergency management levies. We support efforts to balance the need to effectively combat terrorism while protecting civil liberties and freedoms.

Passed:

SSB 6846 - allows counties to raise E-911 excise taxes to fund improved 911 services. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

Homelessness

Seattle continues to work with other local jurisdictions and the State to help assure appropriate financial participation by all levels of government for critical human services. To that end, Seattle supports State efforts to assist with the implementation of the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness including:

- Measures to require state institutions, including the Department of Corrections, and the foster care system to create informed and responsible discharge practices;
- Measures to facilitate development of low-income and affordable housing; and
- Efforts to use existing funds more efficiently, working to fund provision of services and housing in a coordinated fashion.

Did Not Pass:

HB 2905 - was a planning bill to address the issue of requiring a discharge plan (including housing) prior to releasing people from institutions, whether they are in residential treatment, mental health hospitals, or criminal justice facilities. Seattle **supported** this legislation. **HB 2623** would have provided a one-year forbearance on foreclosure for a borrower who is receiving unemployment benefits. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

Housing

Seattle believes that housing—its availability and affordability—is critical to the quality of life of our residents and neighborhoods. We seek to restore state resources for the Housing Trust Fund at \$200 million per biennium. We also support resources for transitional and short-term rent programs for those who are currently homeless or at risk

of becoming homeless, and for increased hospitalization opportunities for the mentally ill. We support policies to stem foreclosures in the region and enhance both counseling and data collection. With continued strong population growth in the region and an uncertain housing market, we support housing financing tools to help provide adequate housing opportunities for all.

Passed:

HB 2836 - the supplemental capital budget, included an additional \$30 million for the Housing Trust Fund, bring the total for the biennium up to \$130 million. Seattle **supported** this funding.

Did Not Pass:

SB 6817/HB3177 - would have required the county auditor to administer a surcharge of sixty-two dollars for each document recorded and authorizes the state finance committee to issue general obligation bonds to provide funds for the housing trust fund. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

HB 2906 - would have required the county auditor to administer a surcharge of sixty-two dollars for each document recorded and authorizes the state finance committee to issue general obligation bonds to provide funds for the housing trust fund. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

Human Services

We strongly support maintaining and enhancing state funding for critical human services programs, and identifying opportunities for self-sufficiency, poverty relief, and upward mobility. We believe that preserving the human services safety net, including General Assistance-Unemployable, the Basic Health Plan, and the Apple Health Children's Health Insurance Program, is essential to supporting our vulnerable populations and maintaining healthy communities. We support the protection of services and resources for senior citizens and people with disabilities. We support improving child care subsidy policies and professional development coordination to improve the quality of early education, pre-school, and after-school programs. Seattle also continues to support the legislative goals of the Area Agency on Aging.

Passed:

See budget safety net

2SHB 2782 - the Security Lifeline Act, makes modifications to GA-U. Governor Gregoire signed the bill into law on March 29th. Seattle **supported** this compromise, which includes faster screening and transition to SSI, requires chemical dependency treatment if necessary; and places a 24 month time limit during a 5 year period, although clients may not be terminated until an SSI assessment has been completed. While the time limits mean a considerable number of clients will lose benefits, it appears to be the best outcome possible given current budget constraints.

Infrastructure/Finance

Seattle believes that growth and density in the region should be focused in urban areas, which will require infrastructure improvements and community amenities to accommodate the expected increase. To meet this goal Seattle supports local control and flexibility in funding sources and additional tools to help attract people, businesses and jobs to the City and State. *This includes:*

- Further clarification that cities can enact a use tax on brokered natural gas;
- Maintaining and improving Seattle Center as a vibrant regional attraction; and
- Extension of the hotel/motel tax sunset for arts and culture in King County in 2020 and beyond, and the authority to spend down the arts endowment between 2013 and 2020.

Passed:

ESHB 3179 - relates to local excise tax provisions for cities and counties and was signed into law by the Governor on March 19th. This bill removes the non-supplant requirements, but it also contains additional provisions that would allow cities to impose a .1 public safety sales tax by public vote if the county fails to impose the full .3 by Dec 31st. In addition, HB 3179 clarifies the recent brokered natural gas court case to allow the City to continue collecting the tax. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

Did Not Pass:

REET Provisions in HB 3179 -

Provisions that would have increased the type of eligible capital facilities for the 2d quarter REET to match the first quarter uses, and allow the first quarter REET to be used for maintenance of capital facilities, did not pass. Floor amendments in both the House and Senate removed these provisions.

SSB 6116 - would have taken the 2 percent car rental tax, the 0.5 percent restaurant tax, the 2 percent state shared hotel-motel tax, and 75 percent of the 1 percent car rental tax and re-prioritize their use as the Safeco and Qwest bonds are paid off. The King County Council could use the existing taxes for arts and heritage programs, tourism promotion, youth sports activities, regional centers, publicly owned stadiums, community development, and low-income housing. A related bill, **ESSB 6051** would have dedicated a portion of the King County hotel-motel tax to funding the arts and heritage programs. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

2ESHB 2912- directed stadium related taxes to dedicated accounts once the debt obligations for stadiums are paid. As it passed the House, it required the dedicated accounts to fund the arts, affordable housing, tourism promotion, youth athletic facilities, regional centers, performing arts centers, and health and human services provided by nonprofit agencies. The bill passed the House but died in the Senate. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

Law & Criminal Justice

We support holding offenders accountable while striving to relieve demands on the adult and juvenile justice systems. We support changes to existing law to allow a local jurisdiction to employ a local ordinance that defines assault by vehicle as committing a traffic infraction that kills or seriously injures a person. We also support safeguards for protected groups from harassment and violence through misuse of the Public Records Act. In addition, we support reclassifying possession of small amounts of marijuana from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction. We also support immunity from prosecution for illegal drug possession for persons who witness or experience drug overdoses and call for medical assistance.

Passed:

ESB 5516 - provides limited immunity from prosecution to a person seeking medical assistance in a drug overdose situation. It also allows a person to administer naloxone to a person suffering from an apparent opiate-related overdose. Seattle **monitored** this legislation.

SSB 5798 - provides that health care professionals are excepted from liability and prosecution for authorizing marijuana use to qualifying patients. Seattle **monitored** this legislation.

HJR 4220 - is a proposed amendment to the State Constitution that would give judges discretion to deny bail to a person charged with a crime if only the pretrial detention of the person will reasonably assure public safety. Seattle **monitored** this legislation.

Did Not Pass:

SSB 5838 - the vulnerable roadway user bill, would have created a new traffic infraction for negligent drivers that caused the death or injury of vulnerable roadway users such as cyclists and pedestrians. It passed out of the policy committee and was scheduled for a floor vote in the Senate, but failed to come up for a vote before cutoff. Seattle **supported** this legislation.

Libraries

Seattle supports increased financial stability for public libraries, including changes to State law that would allow Seattle to establish a library district or other alternative mechanisms to provide dedicated library funding for The Seattle Public Library. Seattle supports open access for all users to all library materials in a variety of formats. Seattle opposes the elimination of any Washington State Library programs and services as a budget reduction measure.

Passed:

ESSB 6444 - The supplemental operating budget, reduces state support to library services by \$914,000. The reductions will be made to library services in state institutions, digital and general historical collections, and depository collections.

Parks

Preserving and protecting our natural resources is a major tenet in maintaining an urban quality of life. We encourage efforts to preserve and strengthen state support for parks, recreation, and open space programs. We also support tools to improve the vitality of and access to the Washington Park Arboretum, Woodland Park Zoo, and Seattle Aquarium.

No legislation.

Planning & Development

We support clarification that would allow courts to issue civil administrative warrants for conducting housing, property, and health inspections in order to enforce the City's codes. We oppose efforts to diminish current authority to access property for public safety and other business purposes. Seattle believes in the right to impose fees to fund necessary facilities and services related to the impacts of development and to require appropriate infrastructure such as open space and sidewalks associated with new development.

Passed:

SSB 6459 - establishes limitations on local government's authority to conduct mandatory rental inspection programs and provides local governments the authority to conduct civil administrative search warrants. Although improved in the House, the City is still **concerned** that this bill would permit a certificate of inspection to be issued even when illegal or hazardous housing conditions exist, and that the procedural requirements to obtain a search warrant are overly burdensome and take too long, especially when dangerous conditions exist. Consequently, the City enacted its own legislation on June 9th establishing a rental housing program in Seattle and is convening a stakeholder process to sort out details of the program. SSB 6459 allowed cities to establish their own programs prior to June 10th and grandfathered those programs in.

Public Health

It is critical that a stable, long term revenue source be identified for public health. We support efforts to ensure all persons have accessible, affordable, and culturally competent health care, and to ensure that the Basic Health Plan continues to play a vital role. We believe all persons in Washington State should have access to affordable prescription drug coverage, alcohol and substance abuse treatment, comprehensive mental health, and dental health services. We also support identifying enhanced and stable funding for drug and alcohol treatment programs.

Passed: See Budget: Preserving the safety net.

Did Not Pass:

HB 2388 - would have provided funding of public health activities by imposing sales and use taxes on sales of candy to be deposited in a new public health improvement account. A minimum of \$100,000 would have been distributed to each qualifying local health jurisdiction and the remaining funds in the account

would be distributed to each qualifying local health jurisdiction on a per capita basis. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence

We are committed to ending domestic violence and sexual assault for our residents. We support the provision of services, financial assistance, and other resources to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in order to support their safety and ability to leave abusive relationships. We also support improved standards, accountability, and monitoring for domestic violence perpetrator programs.

Passed:

ESHB 2777 - modifies provisions related to domestic violence. The bill includes provisions that give law enforcement and courts better tools to identify violent perpetrators of domestic violence, increases safety for individuals who seek protection of public and private agencies involved in domestic violence prevention, upgrades the delivery of treatment programs, and enhances the ability of the justice system to respond quickly to domestic violence. **Seattle supported** this legislation.

Sustainable Farming and Healthy Food

We support efforts to establish sustainable food and farming systems, increase food security, and improve access to healthy food for all people. We support food policies that encourage the use of renewable energy resources, minimize energy use and waste, develop new markets for farmers, promote sustainable agricultural systems and farmland management, preserve farmland, and assist small farmers and farm laborers. We support the establishment of a State Food Policy Council that develops, recommends, and coordinates food system policies.

Did Not Pass:

SSB 6343 - would have established a Washington Food Policy Forum to advance the following six food system goals: support local food; increase healthy food in schools; reduce hunger; develop health & nutrition programs; and protect resources needed for sustained local food production. The Legislature passed the bill but Gov. Gregoire vetoed it, yet subsequently issued a related Executive Order. **Seattle supported** this legislation.

Telecommunications and Cable

Seattle is committed to ensuring all residents are provided affordable, equitable access to telecom and cable services through competition and consumer protection. Seattle supports preserving local franchising authority to assure local control of our rights of way, the ability to guarantee the highest consumer protection standards, protection of local revenue, build-out requirements in all communities, and sufficient public, educational and government access channels. We oppose legislation that diminishes these priorities. We also oppose legislation that would diminish cities' existing authority to construct and operate a municipal broadband network serving the public.

No legislation.

Tribal Governments

We respect and uphold the unique sovereign status of tribes. We understand their treaty rights, the importance of their efforts to create a sufficient tax base, and their reliance on specific sources of revenue to operate programs for the benefit of their people.

No legislation.