

CITY OF SEATTLE

2013 State Legislative Agenda

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SESSION PRIORITIES – 2013

Areas of Primary Focus

Protecting the most vulnerable: The City of Seattle will work to protect human services, public health, and other critical areas such as the Housing Trust Fund; and we support efforts to raise new revenue in order to preserve these essential programs and services.

Education: We support efforts to reform education on a statewide basis and to comply with the McCleary decision by fully funding basic education without cutting funding for human services or other important state services and programs.

Transportation, economic development and infrastructure: We support new local and regional transportation funding options and a statewide transportation package, as described below. We also support funding for infrastructure investments that leads to job creation, continued investments in job training, and expanding the Main Street Tax Incentive program to include Pioneer Square.

Public safety: We support gun safety laws and regulations that reduce violence and result in safe, responsible gun ownership, including: a ban on all assault weapons; a ban on large capacity ammunition magazines; universal background checks, including at gun shows; trigger locks and safe storage requirements; and micro-stamping technology in all firearms sold, purchased or delivered in the state to improve the capability of police to trace fired bullets. We support investments in youth violence prevention and intervention, new tools to prevent and reduce gang-related and other forms of violence, and domestic violence prevention and services. We support funding for programs that help women and men previously incarcerated successfully transition back into society and resources to evaluate and treat mentally ill offenders deemed not competent to stand trial. We support legislation allowing cities to set speed limits as low as 20 miles per hour in residential and business districts.

City fiscal health: The City of Seattle will work to protect existing state and local shared revenues, including the restoration of liquor revenues, and to preserve all existing local revenue authorities and support new local revenue opportunities.

Areas of Significant Interest

Human Services and Health

Periods of economic downturn affect people from every walk of life, but their effects are felt most keenly by those who are most vulnerable. To the greatest extent possible, we ask the State to preserve programs that protect the most vulnerable people and families and reduce future social costs by providing those who are able the tools needed for self-sufficiency. We have identified expanding healthcare coverage through implementing the Basic Health Option or other alternatives that provide federal support for health care

coverage, Maternity Support Services, public health funding, Community Health Clinics, mental health treatment services, Apple Health for Kids, Housing and Essential Needs, the Senior Services Act programs, immigrant services, State Food Assistance, the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, Small Farm & Direct Marketing Assistance Program, Farm to School Program, Working Connections Childcare, family planning, and Nurse Family Partnerships, and support implementing the Community First Choice Option provision of the Affordable Care Act to leverage increased federal funding for long-term care services as areas of particular importance to Seattle. In addition, Seattle recognizes that many young people aging out of foster care face numerous and serious challenges, and so we support full implementation of Extended Foster Care, the Foster Care to 21 portion of the Federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, to allow all youth the opportunity to remain in care until they are 21 years old.

Housing and Homelessness

Seattle believes that housing—its availability and affordability—is critical to the quality of life of our residents and neighborhoods. In addition, Seattle supports State efforts to assist with the implementation of the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. Therefore, we support legislation that will create additional financing tools and land accessibility to expand affordable housing.

We also seek additional changes in tenant screening laws to improve fairness, transparency and accountability, including improved protections for victims of domestic violence and fee relief for prospective tenants. We also support aligning state and federal law to ensure housing access for disabled residents with service animals.

Transportation

We support an environmentally sustainable transportation system with stable funding for transit and options to expand transit service in the future. To address long-term funding needs, Seattle supports efforts to craft a statewide transportation package for voter approval that prioritizes safety, transit and maintenance over expansion. Specifically:

- Includes a significant share of funding for cities to help pay for local maintenance backlogs;
- Includes sustainable funding for transit operations;
- Results in expanded transit service in areas with the greatest demand;
- Prioritizes safety and maintenance projects; and
- Meets both the City's and the State's greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets.

We support new local and regional options for transportation funding that could be used to help expand transit, including light rail; modifying the City's parking tax authority to allow for a more equitable application of the tax; and more progressive options regarding MVET.

To help better manage on-street parking and improve access to local businesses for all drivers (including those with disabled parking placards), we seek improvements to the disabled parking placard eligibility and administration process such that disabled parking placards are distributed to and used only for the benefit of those who need them.

We support the development of a full funding package for the SR 520 Replacement Project (SR 520 Project) that improves safety, improves the movement of transit, bikes, and pedestrians throughout the corridor and is consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding between WSDOT and the City of Seattle. We urge the State Legislature to fund continuing efforts in 2013 to advance the design of the West Side of the SR 520 Project and build upon the successful outreach and engagement efforts completed as part of the Seattle Community Design Process (SCDP) in 2012. Substantial progress has been made in refining project design near Seattle's neighborhoods and the Arboretum through collaboration with members of the community and the City of Seattle. Continued funding in 2013 is necessary to maintain the momentum, build upon the progress being made with the community and implement recommendations identified in the SCDP Final Report. We support the completion of analysis of tolling I-90. We also support establishing the authorization for tolling I-90.

We support additional resources for commercial vehicle safety enforcement and policies that equitably share the burden of responsibility for safety violations between drivers and equipment owners.

Public Safety

In addition to the issues identified in our highest priorities, we also support the continued use of automated traffic safety cameras and legislation that improves transparency and accountability.

We seek legislation to remove barriers that currently limit the City's ability to release Digital In Car Video footage to the public. We also support a waiver of the two party consent rule pertaining to police video cameras (body-cams), identical to the exemption for Digital In Car Video.

We believe that local governments should have the ability to regulate firearms or weapons in public places to ensure the safety of their communities and local circumstances.

We support funding for Win 211, which helps the public access important information and government programs and services after disasters.

Education

In addition to supporting efforts to reform education, the City supports maximum possible funding for Early Learning and Basic Education. During challenging economic times, it is also critically important to support community colleges, technical colleges, and state universities as they provide access to retraining and workforce development opportunities.

Sustainability and Environmental Protection

To ensure cleanup of local toxic sites, we support full funding for the Local Toxics Account and use of the funds for their statutory purpose. We also support a new, long-term state funding source for local stormwater management programs to help improve water quality and protect salmon.

Areas of On-going Concern

Economic Development and Infrastructure

Seattle supports tax increment financing, including new value capture concepts, as a tool to encourage economic development and community improvement projects, and supports a set aside for low-income housing.

We support the Global Health Fund and continued funding for the Life Sciences Discovery Fund.

Seattle supports revising Section 3 Chapter 38, Laws of 2011 to restore Seattle's ability to collect parking tax revenues from the baseball stadium public facility district.

We support increased capital funding for Seattle's cultural institutions.

The City also supports considering the creation of a state investment trust to provide financing for housing development, public works infrastructure, educational infrastructure, student loans, and community quality of life projects.

Sustainability and Environmental Protection

Seattle supports the Energy Independence Act (RCW 19.285) which was passed by the voters as I-937 in 2006. Seattle City Light has met its renewable and conservation targets and anticipates continuing to in the future. We support changes to the Act that would provide greater flexibility for utilities to meet their targets, such as the ability to roll over excess conservation into the next biennium but without undermining the initiative.

We support incentives for investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy development and net-metering.

We support legislation that will reduce toxic chemicals in children's toys. 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. We support product stewardship for surplus pharmaceuticals, carpet, paint, mercury-containing lighting and additions to the products covered by E-Cycle Washington as well as legislation to ensure manufacturers' responsibility for waste products.

To help promote waste reduction, we are also seeking elimination of the requirement that phone companies publish and distribute telephone directories and support efforts to create a statewide opt out system for commercial telephone directories.

General Government

Seattle seeks the ability to recover costs associated with egregious public records requests, clarification that the Public Records Act does not require ongoing or continuing responses and an automatic exemption for witnesses.

Race & Social Justice

Every person has the right to live, work, and learn free from discrimination. We support legislation that prevents discrimination and creates equitable opportunity in housing, employment, public accommodations, voting, contracting and in lending practices. We support efforts to promote racial equity in the areas of education, community development, health, jobs, housing, the environment, the criminal justice system and in government policies, programs and procedures. We support efforts to protect the rights of and services provided to immigrants. In the 2013 Legislative Session we give special attention to the legislative recommendations of the Race and Social Justice Community Roundtable working to eliminate the opportunity gap by reducing racial disparities in public high school graduation rates.

Law & Criminal Justice

We also support safeguards for protected groups from harassment and violence through misuse of the Public Records Act. We also support efforts that would allow courts of limited jurisdiction to order convicted defendants to pay restitution. We support legislation that clarifies state DUI laws regarding the number of violations that would trigger mandatory probation. We seek legislation to improve enforcement of limousine regulations.

Planning & Development

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. 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.