

# Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board

<http://www.seattle.gov/sweetenedbeveragetaxboard>

**Date:** November 15, 2019

**To:** Councilmember Bagshaw, Councilmember González, Councilmember Harrell, Councilmember Herbold, Councilmember Juarez, Councilmember Mosqueda, Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Pacheco, Councilmember Sawant

**From:** Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board

**cc:** Mayor Jenny Durkan, Ben Noble

**Subject:** Council Budget Actions OSE-2-B-1 and OSE-2-C-1

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Dear City Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory (CAB), this memo responds to the following two Council Budget Actions currently under your consideration:

<u><b>CBA OSE-2-B-1</b></u>	<u><b>CBA OSE-2-C-1</b></u>
<b>Budget Action Title:</b> Add \$765,000 Sweetened Beverage Tax (SBT) to OSE, add \$960,000 SBT to HSD, add \$300,000 SBT to SPR, add \$475,000 SBT to DEEL, cut \$2,500,000 SBT from DON, and impose a proviso	<b>Budget Action Title:</b> Add \$540,000 Sweetened Beverage Tax (SBT) to OSE, add \$960,000 SBT to HSD, add \$300,000 SBT to SPR, add \$475,000 SBT to DEEL, cut \$2,275,000 SBT from DON, and impose a proviso

The CAB reviewed and deliberated these proposed Budget Actions at its November 14, 2019 meeting and came to consensus on the following budget-neutral recommendations:


1. Reduce the one-time Sweetened Beverage Tax (SBT) funds for capital improvements in the P-Patch program in the Department of Neighborhoods from \$3,000,000 to \$725,000.
2. Maintain the \$225,000 for Fresh Bucks, as originally proposed in OSE-2-B-1. Fresh Bucks remains a consistent priority of the CAB because the program provides direct benefit to Seattle residents most impacted by food insecurity. To offset this addition and keep the P-Patch appropriation at \$725,000, the CAB recommends reducing the food and meals micro-grant program from \$960,000 to \$735,000, which is still above and beyond our original recommendations.
3. Include stronger proviso language that not only restricts the \$725,000 in P-Patch capital improvements to gardens located within Healthy Food Priority Areas, but also specifies that the capital improvements must be used in support of new or existing food access and early learning activities on P-Patch gardens. Examples of food access and early learning activities on P-Patch gardens include P-Patch Market Gardens that accept EBT, donating fresh and culturally

appropriate produce to food banks and community meal programs, and providing hands-on educational experiences for young children.

In closing, the CAB appreciates that both Council Budget Actions would use one-time SBT funds to support investments that align with our [2020 budget recommendations](#), including water filling stations; scratch cooking at Seattle Public Schools; a food and meals micro-grant program; program evaluation support; CAB support; and material support (diapers) for families. These recommendations are based on the priorities of community stakeholders who participated in the CAB's community engagement activities as well as the expert opinion of CAB members who have deep experience and expertise in food access and early learning issues and community priorities in Seattle.

Thank you for your continued consideration of the CAB's recommendations.

Sincerely,



Christina Wong, Chair

**Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board**

- Lisa Chen, Food Access Representative
- Tanika Thompson, Community Representative
- Christina Wong, Public Health Representative
- Laura Flores Cantrell, Public Health Representative
- Jen Moss, Public Health Representative
- Paul E. Sherman, Public Health Representative
- Dila Perera, Early Learning Representative