



Legislation Text

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**CITY OF SEATTLE**

**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**

A RESOLUTION setting forth The City of Seattle’s 2023 State Legislative Agenda.

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle's State Legislative Agenda is developed annually with input from City

departments, elected officials, Seattle state legislative delegation, regional governmental agencies,

statewide interest groups, and advocates; and

WHEREAS, the City, in cooperation with these entities, will advocate to the Legislature for items included in

the State Legislative Agenda; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 legislative session will last 105 days and will likely result in the adoption of operating,

capital, and transportation budgets, as well as changes to state policy; NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR**

**CONCURRING, THAT:**

Section 1. Issues in The City of Seattle’s 2023 State Legislative Agenda are an accurate, though not exhaustive, list of City interests and priorities for the 2023 state legislative session.

Section 2. The City of Seattle’s 2023 State Legislative Agenda attached to this resolution as Exhibit 1 is adopted.

Adopted by the City Council the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, and signed by  
me in open session in authentication of its adoption this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

The Mayor concurred the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor

Filed by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth M. Adkisson, Interim City Clerk

(Seal)

Attachments:  
Exhibit 1 - City of Seattle 2023 State Legislative Agenda

**The City of Seattle is committed to being a safe, vibrant, affordable, and interconnected city for all. To achieve these goals, Seattle has identified the following priorities for the 2023 legislative session:**

The City of Seattle supports policies that center racial equity and end racial disparities that have disadvantaged Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC) and other historically marginalized communities. 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 Black and Brown lives and dismantles systemic racism and oppression. 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 historically marginalized and under-resourced 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 supports legislation that enables our city to create more equitable, safe, and inclusive communities as we adapt to and recover from the conditions created during the pandemic. We will support policies, programs, and investments that expand housing solutions for those who are unhoused or at risk of losing housing. We will prioritize efforts to create and expand affordable housing options including changing land use and permitting laws to ensure Seattle and all cities are supporting housing affordability and abundance. We will advocate for a range of policies to increase housing stability, including providing rental and foreclosure assistance, utility customer assistance, and other programs. We support sustained investments in programs for people who are homeless to increase their access to health and hygiene services, safe and secure housing options, and participation in treatment for substance use disorders. We will continue to support safety net programs to protect the most vulnerable populations and provide them with food assistance and access to unemployment insurance. We also will support legislation to assist small businesses, minority- and women-owned businesses, and workers requiring job re-training and workforce development opportunities. We support the continuation of all programs to ensure equitable access to free vaccines for all.

The City of Seattle supports efforts to increase accountability and transparency in law enforcement. We support 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, including the ability to lay off officers on the Brady list. We support ending qualified immunity for law enforcement.

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 accountability 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 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 expansion of and funding for de-escalation, implicit bias, and other critical training for law enforcement officers to respond appropriately and equitably, and we also support increasing the flexibility for local jurisdictions to allow civilian personnel to respond to 911 calls and low-level criminal calls, as in the CAHOOTS program.

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 support strong civil rights protections for all, especially any 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 increased access to naturalization supports, including full funding and expansion of the WA New Americans program for all eligible lawful permanent residents (LPR). We support the expansion or establishment of an unemployment insurance program that serves undocumented individuals. We support efforts to provide health coverage for low-income immigrants, including undocumented immigrants. 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 for money transmitters, many of which serve immigrants and communities of color.

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, contracting, 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 increased funding and support for our working families and children through increased childcare provider pay, increased childcare slots, affordability of quality childcare, and access through culturally appropriate, transit-oriented childcare locations. We support adequate funding to ensure that the behavioral health and social service workforce can afford to live in the communities they serve, and that clients and residents have the support they need by addressing recruitment and retention in this field. We support extending the state's labor protections to all workers – including workers in the digital economy. 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 have continued flexibility in using tax revenue to reduce homelessness and improve behavioral health.

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 support the elimination of the prohibition on the state Department of Labor and Industries to issue rules about preventing repetitive stress injuries. We support state investment in best-practice workforce development tools including apprenticeship and career ladders for incumbent workers in high-demand fields such as healthcare, manufacturing, and other essential work. 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 efforts to end the use of credit scores when determining how much people pay for insurance products.

We support policies and programs that remove barriers and create opportunities for greater civic engagement, transparency, and access, including efforts to assess the impacts of those policies on racial and gender equity. We support increased opportunities for civic engagement, including the authority for local jurisdictions to expand voter participation and adopt new voting methods.

We support common sense, responsible solutions to reduce gun violence, including efforts to limit or ban assault weapons. We support policies that hold negligent gun dealers and manufacturers civilly liable for the harms their products cause. We support policies that institute a 10-day waiting period and require a permit to purchase a firearm. We believe in maintaining funding for critical gun violence prevention research and intervention projects. We support laws that regulate the presence of firearms or other weapons in sensitive public places to ensure the safety of their communities in accordance with local circumstances. We support laws that allow local jurisdictions the ability to build upon statewide standards and adopt sensible gun regulations. As the City coordinates with Seattle Public Schools to keep firearms away from classrooms, we ask the legislature to support and empower locally-preferred approaches to preventing gun violence in high schools.

We support funding programs and policy changes that help previously incarcerated individuals successfully transition back into society, including restoring voting rights and 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, making the system more equitable, and ending the death penalty. We support legislation to reduce the impact of economic disparity by de-linking drivers' license suspensions from non-payment of traffic fines and moving to an income-based fine schedule. The City supports providing low-income Washington residents with relief from Legal Financial Obligations (LFOs). The City supports efforts to explore alternatives to incarceration and evidence-based programs that emphasize early intervention, particularly for youth. We support including consideration of youthfulness in sentencing, raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction, removing juvenile felonies from consideration in adult sentencing, and ending the harmful youth sex offender registry. We further support expanding access to sentencing review for those who were under 18 and tried as an adult when the crime was committed.

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, including behavioral health rate increases. The City also supports increased funding for treatment and evaluation of substance use disorders, including opiates, methamphetamines, and other substances harming our residents and communities. We support action that reduces overdose deaths, including from fentanyl. The City supports legislation to facilitate the establishment of community health engagement locations. We support funding to increase crisis stabilization facilities within the City. We recognize a full continuum of behavioral health services is needed in our community to support people with behavioral health conditions, including children and youth. We also support continued investment in mobile crisis response teams and full implementation of the 988 crisis line. We urge the state to invest in community-based behavioral health agencies and permanent supportive housing in addition to inpatient treatment settings.

We support safe access to abortion and other reproductive healthcare services, laws that specify protections of individuals from other states seeking care in our City and in the state, and other efforts to address the inequities and loss of rights resulting from the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision. We support a constitutional amendment to protect a right to abortion access, reproductive health care, and gender affirming care. We support legislation to prohibit hospital mergers that would diminish access to care, including abortion and gender affirming care.

The City supports recommendations made by the Washington State Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP) Task Force, including establishing and fully funding a Cold Case Investigation Unit within the Attorney General's Office with a focus on MMIWP cold cases, mandating that all law enforcement agencies use the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System. The city additionally supports reauthorizing and extending the Task Force.

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. The City supports review of regulations

surrounding vapor products and legislation that will protect the public from harm or risk related to vapor products.

We also support 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. We support a funding increase for services to crime victims, to ensure there are not cuts to local programs and services. The City supports statewide standards for the handling, storage and destruction of these kits to ensure they are available to help solve cold cases. We support training and supports for sexual assault nurses.

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, regulatory, and programmatic efforts to protect survivors of human trafficking and close businesses that profit from this crime. We also support strengthening criminal consequences for sexual exploitation and increased supports for victims of human trafficking including expanding ABD and HEN referral eligibility to victims. 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.

As a state we have legalized the recreational use of cannabis and have built a legal market that ensures access to cannabis for those over the age of 21. Unfortunately, as we have built the legal market we have not done the necessary work of centering equity and undoing the racist history that the War on Drugs has brought to our Black and Brown communities. The City of Seattle believes that public policy work should ensure that those communities disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition in the past are able to thrive, both from an ownership and a worker perspective. We support investments in community-based organizations already doing the work to mitigate the ongoing, harmful impacts of the War on Drugs. We support efforts to develop job retention, stability, and security in the cannabis industry and workforce. We support efforts to advance equity in cannabis licensing and expanding licensed activities. We support legislation to remove barriers to entry for cannabis delivery services that will help reduce the impact of cannabis retailers on neighborhoods. We also support increased labor and community- involvement in the expansion of new cannabis businesses, including consumption lounges. We support state and city partnerships on credit card authorization to increase safety and access within cannabis stores. We support harmonizing laws prohibiting underage cannabis use with laws prohibiting underage alcohol use. We support expunging all cannabis related felonies and offences to address the disproportionate impact on the Black community. Recognizing the harm that punitive drug policies have had on people of color and low-income communities and the potential medical benefits of entheogens, we support the decriminalization of entheogens at the state level.

Seattle supports continued high-quality emergency response capabilities to help residents experiencing a fire or medical emergency. We support a general Medicaid increase for ambulance services. We support efforts to address over capacity issues at hospitals and reduce “wall time” for medical transportation providers. We support efforts and incentives 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. We support first responder safety training related to newer power options including lithium ion, fuel cell, solar, and electric car charging infrastructure. The City supports the Seattle Fire Department’s (SFD) work in providing a fire-safe community, especially as it relates to the food truck industry, and ensuring the Fire Department’s ability to continue their work. We support using the expertise of the State Building Code Council in the development of legislation related to fire codes. 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 legislation related to public disclosure laws that maintain transparency, protect the privacy and safety of vulnerable and protected groups, support accurate reporting to the public, and expand confidentiality protections to local whistleblowers. We support legislation protecting the authority of the City’s Office of the Employee Ombud to provide confidential support to employees facing workplace disputes.

We support funding for the Washington Information Network (WIN) 211, which helps the public access essential information and government programs and services locally and state-wide. We support funding for research that assesses geological hazards and informs the public of their potential impacts on the region. We support funding for emergency communications systems and networks that enable emergency managers and disaster response and recovery teams to share information and coordinate operations during and after disasters.

## **A Vibrant City – one that supports innovation, education, economic opportunity, and a healthy environment**

We support maximum public funding for early learning, K-12, and post-secondary 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 including investments in apprenticeship programs. Seattle supports simplifying the requirements for individuals to become teachers in designated critical shortage areas. We support continued efforts to expand in-classroom access to education for students with learning and other disabilities.

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 childcare providers and advancing ongoing and increased support of these providers.



We support programs that create healthy learning environments for students, including support for their mental and physical health. The City supports ample funding for mental and behavioral health counselors in high schools, specializing in cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), dialectical behavior therapy (DBT), or other culturally-appropriate counseling and healing approaches. We encourage funding of these positions at a minimum ratio of 1.0 FTE counselors for every 200 students. We support access to healthy food choices during the school day and before and after school time, to ensure they are ready and able to learn. We support universal free school meals. 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 continued investments in infant care, including home-based childcare, and preschool facilities and dual language instruction from early learning to K-12. We also support funding for the Department of Commerce’s Early Learning Facilities Grant.

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 create equitable opportunities to participate in a thriving economy. We support continuation of using dedicated revenue sources to fully fund the Washington College Grant, Washington State Opportunity Scholarship, and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). We also support continued efforts to expand college and career readiness, create educational access for people experiencing homelessness, and expanding 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 support continued state funding for College in the High School and eliminating fees for Running Start students. 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 policies to expand local authority to adopt tax increment financing, including new value capture concepts as a tool to encourage economic development and community improvement projects, and support a set-aside for low-income housing. We support investments in start-up and thriving local industries, including arts and culture, maritime, marine tourism, global health and life sciences research, and clean, renewable energy.

Seattle supports 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 rights-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, to protect against disruptions in service associated with climate events or other public health or safety emergencies. New, innovative programs should focus on digital equity and inclusion and target the most vulnerable populations and underserved residents.

We support capital funding for infrastructure and public works projects, including support from the State to preserve, maintain, and strengthen 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 and diversification tools, including enhancing business options and opportunities for the nightlife sector as well as clarifying and strengthening legislation that fosters the development of and investments in Business Improvement Areas (BIAs). We support local jurisdictions having the authority to adjust nightlife closing hours. We support funding for business restoration and access to capital for small business, including for tenant improvements and facility repairs. We support policies that promote the vitality of downtown and economic recovery for businesses, including allowing local authorities to create a commercial affordability incentive program to preserve affordability for small businesses. We support efforts to reduce organized retail theft, including establishing an Organized Retail Crime Unit within the Office of the Attorney General. We also support efforts to modify rules to authorize more opportunities for outdoor dining.

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 alcohol revenues and revenue from the sale of cannabis; 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 and support to small businesses.

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 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 also support additional progressive, local funding options.

Seattle supports policies and investments 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; increase investments in clean energy, public transit, vehicle, vessel and building electrification; and promote energy efficiency - including robust residential energy codes.

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 bolster the authority that public utilities have in incentivizing electrification in the transportation and building sectors. We support measures that reduce the preference for natural gas in the built environment. 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 while maintaining its flexibility and authority to set appropriate rates for its customers and protect ratepayers’ interests. Seattle supports the solar production incentives and an increase in the per-utility tax credit cap and expansion of municipal authority to produce green electrolytic hydrogen for internal and external use.

We look forward to working with the Governor and State legislature to create policies that will support the implementation of the Climate Commitment Act and the Clean Fuels Standard, 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 acceleration of investments in green stormwater infrastructure and stormwater retrofits, multi-benefit flood risk reduction, salmon recovery and working lands protection and enhancement through its Floodplains by Design program. We support increased state investment in local decarbonization. We support a just transition for workers in fossil fuel industries, improved access for women and BIPOC in the clean energy economy and expanded training, apprenticeships, and career pathways for clean energy trades.

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 and policy changes that will support Chinook salmon restoration in the Puget Sound and increased research and monitoring funding to improve tracking of recovery progress. 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 and other harmful substances in the environment, including regulating lead paint, toxins in children's toys, neonicotinoid pesticides that threaten our food supply by harming bees, building materials, and other and toxic materials in recyclable and compostable products and packaging. We support development of common industry standards for producers of recycled products, funding for recycling facilities, and efforts to ensure responsible product stewardship for products and packaging. We support initiatives to reduce waste and increase composting and other diversion of organic matter from landfill streams. 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 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. Washington state has made significant progress on wipe flushability, in line with the International Water Services Flushability Group’s utility approved standard for labeling, we continue to support this policy as well as further efforts 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, as well as 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 the State phasing out or banning of any remaining sources of the harmful chemical element lead, including from water pipes, aviation fuels, and other sources.

The City supports legislation that would strengthen the Pollution Liability Insurance Agency by supporting revenue options to fully fund the agency and ensure coverage 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 to fund 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 transit-oriented development, 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, capture increased economic value from higher density land uses to advance public benefit, and expand housing programs that encourage intergenerational wealth building for historically marginalized communities. We support policies that set a statewide floor for residential density, provided such legislation considers the impacts on marginalized communities, including policies to mitigate and prevent displacement.

Seattle supports efforts to update state planning regulations to promote growth within urban areas, address the climate crisis through growth management, preserve agricultural land, and preserve and increase 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 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 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 locally authorized encampments, shelters, and infill development. We support independent funding options for our homelessness authority. We oppose preemption of local regulations, including but not limited to regulations protecting tenants and achieving housing affordability.

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 funding and zoning reforms that allow inclusive universally affordable mixed-income housing developed on public land.

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 measures 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, and supports clarification of repayment requirements that ensure 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. We support state funding and policies to support cities to fund utility hookup assistance for affordable housing. 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.

We support additional behavioral health funding to ensure those in crisis, including our students and young people, receive the ongoing care, housing, and services they need. The City supports efforts to protect health care access across all our communities in Washington. We support the state ensuring that there is parity of services for all people seeking medical treatment through the Affordable Care Act and adequate funding for all people to access reproductive health services. 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 safe harbor protections for individuals seeking gender affirming care. 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. Seattle supports ensuring the state’s WA Cares Fund program works for aging Washingtonians and their ability to afford nursing care and other support 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. We support expanded authority to develop a local health plan to address gaps coverage of Apple and employer health plans.

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, maintenance, and services of permanent supportive housing. We support the state’s Medicaid 1115 Waiver renewal, which includes the Foundational Community Supports Medicaid benefit. We support increased funding for Apple Health and Homes, including for seniors. We support increased funding for local governments, authorities and nonprofits to transition individuals currently living on public rights-of-way to permanent housing solutions. We support increased funding to support capacity and sustainability of nonprofit homelessness service providers and permanent supportive housing providers. We support access to legal counsel for those facing eviction and the repeal or modification of rent control laws 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 addressing barriers to homeownership, 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. We support programs that increase equitable access to residential real estate through mechanisms like community land trusts, real estate trusts, and individual financial empowerment programs such as financial literacy, bank access, and college savings accounts.

Seattle supports state level efforts to enforce the Residential Landlord Tenant Act. For tenants facing eviction, we support the statewide just cause eviction ordinance (JCEO), and we support the amendment of language in RCW 59.18.220 to enable Seattle 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.

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

We support transportation policies and 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. 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, including modifying the City's parking tax authority to allow for more equitable application that includes commercial parking offered for free. We support an increase in Sound Transit's authorized debt capacity. 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 transportation policies and funding that help to address the climate crisis and meet both the City's and the State's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reductions, including electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, incentives for EVs and e-bikes, and greater congestion pricing authority as a means of reducing emissions. We support making e-bikes, e-cargo, or e-family bikes more affordable and accessible as a low-carbon and lower cost alternative to driving for low and middle-income families. We are committed to environmental justice in the transportation sector, including the removal of freeways in marginalized communities such as South Park.

We support freight mobility and value the importance of rail to the City, Region, and State economies. We support state investment in key high-capacity, City-owned multimodal bridges and streets, including the Ballard-Interbay Regional Transportation System and essential corridors for economic development such as Third Avenue. We support efforts to ensure a safe and modern urban supply chain, including 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, including increased local authority to designate pedestrian zones and set speed limits below 20 miles per hour. We recognize that a complete sidewalk network coupled with a connected safe citywide network of protected bike lanes connected to reliable, frequent transit is the foundation of a sustainable, accessible and equitable city and therefore support policies that would fund safe and accessible crossings at rights-of-way, and ensure these essential transportation facilities are maintained and accessible. We support expanded City authority for automated traffic camera enforcement. 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 can access our public roadways.



We support policies to improve safety for travelers and the public. We support providing local authority to end 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 a policy that would allow for a single flagger to direct traffic without a traffic or police officer present as part of the traffic control plan approved by the city. 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 laws that reduce punitive enforcement of non-safety related traffic violations and improve road safety.

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

We support action to address the theft of catalytic converters, including repealing state's preemption of the regulation of scrap metal processors.

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 safe operation of autonomous vehicles on public roadways in the state that maintain local authority for regulating this technology. 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.

**SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE\***

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact/Phone:</b>	<b>CBO Contact/Phone:</b>
Legislative	Karina Bull / 206-715-2460	Samir Junejo / 206-684-3871

*\* Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

**1. BILL SUMMARY**

**Legislation Title:** A RESOLUTION setting forth The City of Seattle’s 2023 State Legislative Agenda.

**Summary and Background of the Legislation:** This resolution would adopt The City of Seattle’s 2023 State Legislative Agenda, a list of the City’s interests and priorities for the 2023 state legislative session. The City’s State Legislative Agenda is developed annually with input from City departments, elected officials, Seattle state legislative delegation, regional governmental agencies, statewide interest groups, and advocates. The City will advocate to the Legislature for items included in the State Legislative Agenda.

**2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

**Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project?**      \_\_\_ Yes  x  No

**3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget?**      \_\_\_ Yes  x  No

**Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs?**  
No

**Are there financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?**  
No

**4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**  
This legislation has tangential effects on all City Departments and Department heads are aware of it.
- b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**  
No

**c. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**

No

**d. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**

No

**e. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? What is the Language Access plan for any communications to the public?**

The City advocates for policies that can benefit historically disadvantaged communities.

**f. Climate Change Implications**

**1. Emissions: Is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way?**

No

**2. Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.**

No

**g. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s)?**

N/A

**Summary Attachments:**