

**The City of Seattle is committed to being a safe, vibrant, interconnected, and affordable city for all. To achieve these goals, Seattle has identified the following priorities for the 2019 legislative session:**

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

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

We support gender equity and family-friendly workplace policies, such as paycheck fairness and affordable childcare, so that all people regardless of gender thrive economically, and are safe and healthy. Seattle supports policies to make benefits portable especially for gig economy workers and the concept of public markets for irregular employment. We support local governments' ability to adopt standards to protect the health, safety, and well-being of their residents, to adopt tax measures that do not unfairly burden those in need, and to adopt tax measures that promote or expand public safety issues. We oppose preemption of local regulations related to protecting tenants and achieving housing affordability.

We support strong civil rights protections for all and efforts to protect the rights, programs, and services provided to immigrants and refugees. In addition, we support policies and programs that remove barriers and create opportunities for greater civic engagement and that assess the impacts of those policies on racial and gender equity.

We support common sense, responsible solutions to reduce gun violence and we believe that local governments should have the ability to regulate firearms or weapons to ensure the safety of their communities in accordance with local circumstances.

We support funding programs and policy changes that help women and men previously incarcerated successfully transition back into society, including providing increased employment and housing opportunities for previously incarcerated individuals to reduce recidivism and increase public safety. We support legislation to reduce the impact of economic disparity by de-linking drivers' license suspensions from non-payment of traffic fines. Further, the City supports efforts to explore alternatives to incarceration and evidence-based programs that emphasize early intervention. The City also supports abolishing the death penalty and pursuing safe and just alternatives.

We support legislation to clarify the process for evaluating and considering civil commitment petitions for defendants charged with misdemeanors in Seattle whose cases are dismissed for incompetency to stand trial. We support additional funding to ensure that there are sufficient facilities to care for individuals in need of mental health evaluations and services, and funding for the recruitment and retention of high-quality mental health care providers.

We support legislation that clarifies and strengthens state driving under the influence (DUI) laws, including clarifying the law regarding physical control of a motor vehicle under the influence and strengthening laws regarding drug related DUIs. We also support clarifying DNA sample collection

laws to allow for samples collected from a defendant convicted of a similar crime under a local ordinance to be included in the state DNA database. Seattle supports legislation to clarify that a crime can be tried under a local ordinance if it matches state law. We also support additional funding for the state patrol crime lab to address the backlog of sexual assault evidence kits.

The City of Seattle supports efforts to reduce domestic violence, ensure access to legal protection for immigrant survivors of domestic violence, and protect our most vulnerable citizens from abuse. We support vacating convictions of individuals victimized by prostitution and sex trafficking. The City supports legal and regulatory efforts to protect survivors of human trafficking and close businesses that profit from this crime. The City supports review of the sexual assault statute of limitations and the bolstering of laws to protect employees from sexual assault and harassment in the work place. We also support strengthening criminal consequences for sexual exploitation.

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 legislation to enable law enforcement agencies to build departments more reflective of the communities they protect by extending employment opportunities to legally permanent residents. We also support providing adequate resources to programs that provide law enforcement officers with the critical training to help them respond to a wide range of issues.

The City supports legislation that broadens the definition of disqualifying conduct to ensure that police officers who engage in serious misconduct may not work in a law enforcement capacity elsewhere. It also supports legislation that allows the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission to initiate revocation of certification once the police agency issues a final sustained finding. The City supports the efforts to review and amend state law regarding the use of deadly force by police officers.

We support legislation to remove barriers to entry for marijuana delivery services that will help reduce the impact of marijuana retailers on neighborhoods. We support harmonizing laws prohibiting underage marijuana use with laws prohibiting underage alcohol use. We support giving local jurisdictions authority to establish marijuana vaping lounges. The City supports vacating misdemeanor convictions for possession of marijuana for those over 21 years of age when the conviction occurred.

The City supports legislation to facilitate the establishment of community health engagement locations. We also support additional funding to support and enhance chemical abuse and dependency treatment services.

We support the expanded use of automated traffic safety cameras and other devices that improve safety and efficiency of our transportation system – especially for efforts to manage block the box and transit lane violations. We support legislation to define what an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) or drone is, and to regulate their use by law enforcement or other state agencies, commercial

businesses, and the general public.

Seattle supports amending the “Hold Harmless Law” to include protections for Seattle Department of Transportation and Seattle Fire Department 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.

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

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

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

We support maximum funding for early learning, K-12, and higher education. We support equitable, ample, and sustainable funding for the K-12 education system. We support the continued use of the Certificate of Academic Achievement and additional high school graduation options. Seattle supports simplifying the requirements for individuals to become teachers in designated critical shortage areas.

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

We support programs providing support to students, including support for mental and physical health, and access to healthy food choices to ensure they are ready and able to learn. The City is supportive of legislative solutions that aim to close the opportunity gap.

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 preschool for all. We support expanding capacity and infrastructure for preschool facilities and dual language instruction from early learning to K-12.

We support community colleges, apprenticeship programs, technical colleges, and state universities as they provide access to training and workforce development opportunities that keep our economy thriving – specifically the expansion of the State Need Grant and the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship. We also support the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), efforts to expand college and career readiness, 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 tax increment financing, including new value capture concepts, as a tool to encourage economic development and community improvement projects, and also support a set-aside for low-income housing. We support investments in thriving local industries, including arts and culture, maritime, marine tourism, global health and life sciences research, and clean, renewable energy. In addition, Seattle supports the ability for municipalities to sustain international diplomacy through the maintenance of a bank account for nonpublic funds. We also support investments and policies that enhance access and promote affordability of technology and technological infrastructure while preserving the City's authority to manage its property and public right-of-way. We support capital funding for infrastructure and public works projects, including support from the State to preserve Seattle's cultural and historical institutions. We support the expansion of 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 efforts to expand economic development tools including enhancing business options and opportunities for the nightlife sector as well as clarifying and strengthening legislation that fosters the development of Business Improvement Areas (BIAs). We support promoting and incentivizing historic preservation, building safety, and energy efficiency through direct or indirect assistance to property owners. 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.

The City of Seattle will work to protect existing state and local shared revenues, including liquor revenues and revenue from the sale of marijuana; to preserve all existing local revenue authorities and controls; and to support new local revenue opportunities.

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. The City supports reviewing and updating the eligibility requirements under the property tax exemption for senior citizens and disabled persons. Seattle supports a homestead exemption to promote increased participation by seniors and disabled veterans through a simplified application process and eligibility criteria tied to varying property values across the state.

Seattle supports policies to fight climate change. The City's stated goal is to be carbon neutral by 2050, through policies which reduce greenhouse gas emissions, investments in clean energy, public transit, vehicle electrification, energy efficiency -including the creation of a stretch Residential Energy Code and the authority for local adoption, low carbon/clean fuel standards, and a price on carbon.

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

Seattle supports measures to increase access to renewable energy, such as solar energy, while

maintaining its flexibility and authority to set the appropriate rates for its customers. We look forward to working with the Governor and State Legislature to create policies that will reflect the true cost of carbon pollution, 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.

Seattle values the Clean Water Act's mission of protecting the environment and making our waterways safe for fishing and recreation. We support a new, long-term state funding source for local storm water management programs to help improve water quality, and to ensure cleanup of local toxic sites. We support revenue options to fully fund the Model Toxics Control Act and using the funds for clean-up efforts and to protect 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. We support the review of laws around dig law standards while ensuring the protection of utility assets.

We support legislation that will reduce toxic chemicals in the environment, including regulating lead paint and toxins in children's toys. We support development of common industry standards for recycled products, funding for recycling facilities, and legislative initiatives to reduce waste and increase recycling and composting. We support efforts to review developing markets for recyclables and to address deficiencies in domestic sorting, processing and remanufacturing capabilities, businesses, and facilities in addition to supporting a requirement for a minimum level of recycled content in certain products to create market forces to provide demand for collected paper and plastic. We support labeling and certification standards for film plastic products and food and beverage products to ensure they are biodegradable. Seattle supports product stewardship for surplus pharmaceuticals, batteries, carpet, paint, and additions to the products covered by E-Cycle Washington, efforts to provide consumers the ability repair, refurbish, and reuse electronic products, in addition to efforts to reduce and redirect food waste, including efforts to address hunger and nutrition issues through food waste reduction planning. We also support legislation that will reduce or eliminate products that can be harmful to our residents, infrastructure, and waterways.

Seattle supports local authority to impose development-related impact fees for public safety, affordable housing, transit, public schools, and other necessary facilities and services, and to require appropriate infrastructure, such as open space and sidewalks, associated with new development. We support the expansion of incentive zoning to include provisions that encourage new open space, preserving current open space, creating multi-modal transportation infrastructure, and preserving landmark structures. Seattle also supports efforts to update state planning regulations for maximum efficiency and promotion of growth within urban areas, while still examining and reviewing the impacts on the environment.

We support maintaining Washington's strong payday lending protections for consumers and oppose the creation of new, high-interest lending products.

The City of Seattle supports designating local broadcasters as "first informers" with all the rights and responsibilities that entails. Additionally, we support legislation giving local broadcasters special access to public emergencies, so that real time information in times of crisis (e.g., earthquake,

wildfire, and extreme weather) can be provided consistent with Federal Communications Commission broadcast license responsibilities.

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

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

We support transportation policies and multimodal funding proposals that include a significant share of funding for cities to help pay for local maintenance backlogs and other local needs; and meet both the City's and the State's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. Seattle supports modifying local options that could be used to significantly improve pedestrian safety, such as adjusting speed limits, and help expand transit, including light rail. Seattle supports regional tolling as one possible option to meet the needs and demands of aging infrastructure. We also support the review of bid limits and the public works contracting threshold to be better aligned with today's construction costs. In addition, Seattle supports modifying the City's parking tax authority to allow for more equitable application of the tax.

We support freight mobility and value the importance of rail to both the City and State economies. We support efforts to ensure a safe and modern rail and maritime infrastructure, which includes protecting citizens from the hazards posed by oil and coal shipments through our rail corridor and waterways.

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

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

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

The City of Seattle, like many other cities across the country, is facing a homelessness crisis. Our goal is to make life better, safer, and healthier for unsheltered seniors, families, and individuals. Seattle's needs outweigh current capacity. We support additional tools and funding to address the homelessness crisis and protect our most vulnerable populations.

The City of Seattle will work to protect funding for affordable housing, human services, public health, and other critical programs. We recognize that public health is an essential service and we support additional funding for core services to allow public health to rebuild its statewide system.

We support raising new state revenue and 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 and a local property tax exemption to help preserve affordable housing, preserving multi-family tax exemption units to prevent displacement of lower income residents, and expand essential human services. Seattle supports flexible authority to dispose of public surplus property without seeking fair market value to build affordable housing or other uses that would benefit the public. The City of Seattle supports exploring options to stimulate the condo development market while protecting consumers who have purchased condominiums. Seattle supports policies that balance the economic opportunity created by short-term rentals with the need to maintain a supply of long-term housing stock.

We support additional mental health funding to ensure those in crisis receive the ongoing care, housing, and services they need. We support the state ensuring that there is parity of services for all people seeking medical treatment through the Affordable Care Act. In addition, in order 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 and prohibits discrimination against transgender individuals.

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 Senior Services Act programs, immigrant services, State Food Assistance, the WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, Working Connections Childcare, family planning, Nurse Family Partnerships, and the Kinship Navigator Program.

Seattle supports creating and preserving financing tools and other policies to expand affordable housing and help ensure affordability and stability for tenants. We support the repeal or modification of RCW 35.21.830, to allow local governments to protect tenants from rent increases, without causing a negative impact on the quality or quantity of housing supply. Seattle supports incentivizing affordable housing, supporting homeowners facing foreclosure and tenants facing eviction. We support state efforts to make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time, and support utilizing health care reform opportunities to prevent and end homelessness.

As the federal government implements changes to the way they allocate funds for homelessness programs from a formulaic to competitive process, we support modifications in state law that will provide us with the tools we need to better compete for federal funds.

We also support expanding protections based on a renter's source of income and aligning state and federal law to ensure housing access for disabled residents with service animals.