

**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 2020 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. We support extending the state’s labor protections to all workers – including workers in the emerging economies. 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, including but not limited 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, 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 expanded access to economic opportunity and intentional career pathways for all skill sets including returning professionals, skilled professions and entry level living wage jobs. In addition, we support policies and programs that remove barriers and create opportunities for greater civic engagement, transparency, and access; and assess the impacts of those policies on racial and gender equity.

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. 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 are supportive of legislation that simplifies the misclassification test and resolves ambiguity in favor of employment status. We support efforts to increase the Medicaid reimbursement rate for ambulance transports for vulnerable Medicaid eligible populations and by instituting a quality assurance fee eligible for a federal funding match. We also support a general Medicaid increase for ambulance services. 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 also support policies that make benefits portable, especially for gig economy workers.

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 individuals 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. The City supports efforts to reform the criminal justice system, including but not limited to decreasing mass incarceration and supervision, decreasing racial disproportionality, and making the system more equitable. 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. The City also supports increased funding for treatment and evaluation of substance use disorders.

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 continued and full funding for the state patrol crime lab to address the backlog of sexual assault evidence kits while ensuring that these funding sources are not burdensome or punitive to survivors. The City supports statewide standards for the handling, storage and destruction of these kits to ensure they are available to help solve cold cases.

The City of Seattle supports efforts to reduce domestic violence, ensure access to legal protection for immigrant survivors of domestic violence, and protect its most vulnerable citizens from abuse. We support vacating convictions of individuals engaged in sex work. The City supports legal and regulatory efforts to protect survivors of human trafficking and close businesses that profit from this crime. We also support strengthening criminal consequences for sexual exploitation. 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.

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, 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 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.

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. The City also supports review of marijuana licensing and the incorporation of a social equity program that is thoughtful and reflective of stakeholder engagement and input.

The City supports review of regulations surrounding vapor products and legislation that will protect the public from harm or risk related to vapor products.

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 and pedestrian walkways for everyone – especially for efforts to manage intersection blocking, crosswalk blocking, and transit lane violations.

Seattle supports continued high quality emergency response capabilities to help residents experiencing a fire or medical emergency and support options for property owners to install essential fire safety infrastructure like fire sprinklers. We support 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 and Transportation Department employees. The City supports the Seattle Fire Department’s work in providing a fire safe community, especially as it relates to the food truck industry, and ensuring the Fire Department is able to continue their work.

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 use flexible high school graduation options and requirements that prepare students for a variety of post-secondary 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; and advancing ongoing and increased support of these providers.

We support programs providing support to students, including support for mental and physical health, and access to healthy food choices during the school day and out of school time to ensure they are ready and able to learn. The City is supportive of the Farm to School program that connects farmers to local schools.

The City is supportive of legislative solutions that aim to close the opportunity gap. 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.

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 expanding capacity and infrastructure for infant care and 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 Washington Scholarship 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, support people experiencing homelessness and expansion of 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 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 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 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.

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 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 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 as well as increased equity in our taxation system.

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. 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.

Seattle supports policies to fight climate change. The City's stated goal is to be climate-pollution free by 2030, through policies that limit and reduce climate pollution, and increase investments in clean energy, public transit, vehicle, vessel and building electrification, energy efficiency - including progressive building energy codes 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. Specifically, Seattle supports the solar production incentives and an increase in the per-utility tax credit cap so Seattle City Light can continue to offer the state incentives to its customers and support the green-collar jobs in the solar installer sector.

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.

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 management programs to help improve water quality, and to ensure 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 support 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 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 in the environment, including regulating lead paint, toxins in children's toys, and toxic materials in recyclable and compostable products and packaging. 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 efforts to ensure responsible recycling practices, and product stewardship approaches for products and packaging. We support labeling and certification standards for film plastic products and food and beverage products to ensure they are biodegradable. We are supportive of legislation that requires wipes to meet the International Water Services Flushability Group's utility approved flushability standard for labeling 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, 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.

The City supports legislation that would strengthen the Pollution Liability Insurance Agency by supporting revenue options to fully fund the agency and that would ensure coverage in order to better protect households from high cleanup costs in the event of an oil tank leak.

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. 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 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, and automated enforcement authority. 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 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 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, increase density and protect our most vulnerable populations, including SEPA requirements as they relate to the setup of shelters and encampments.



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, 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 and is supportive of clarification of repayment requirements that support 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. 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, 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, and supporting homeowners facing foreclosure and tenants facing eviction.

For tenants facing eviction, we support a statewide just cause eviction ordinance, support the amendment of language in RCW 59.18.220 that limits Seattle's ability 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. 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 and aligning state and federal law to ensure housing access for disabled residents with service animals.

We support providing the public with a full, fair, and transparent accounting of governance while ensuring City business continues on course.