

2022 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Council Budget Action: Agenda

Tab	Action	Option	Version
FG	002	B	001

Budget Action Title: Express City Council's commitment to work with the Mayor to identify options for making Seattle's tax structure more equitable and generating new revenue for city priorities including the Equitable Community Initiative, Participatory Budgeting, and community safety investments in 2023 and beyond

Ongoing: Yes Has Attachment: No

Primary Sponsor: Teresa Mosqueda

Council Members: Andrew Lewis, Lorena González

Staff Analyst: Tom Mikesell

Date		Total	LH	TM	KS	AP	DJ	DS	AL	BC	LG
	Yes	0									
	No	0									
	Abstain	0									
	Absent	0									

Statement of Legislative Intent:

This Statement of Legislative Intent would express the City Council's commitment to work with the Mayor to review Seattle's tax structure and identify ways to make it more equitable and to raise new progressive revenue. Priorities in the 2022 Proposed Budget that lack an ongoing revenue source include but are not limited to the Equitable Community Initiative (ECI) investments, the Participatory Budgeting (PB) program, community safety investments previously authorized by the Council (Community Safety RFP and Community Safety Initiative), and some homeless services, in 2023 and beyond.

The 2022 Proposed Budget includes ongoing appropriations for ECI, PB, and for a portion of the community safety investments (\$10 million of the \$14 million authorized in 2021) but does not include an ongoing revenue source to support these investments. Instead, these proposed ongoing expenditures rely on a higher-than-intended ongoing transfer-in from the JumpStart Fund to the GF in 2022 and beyond. This would mean that ongoing investments anticipated in the JS Fund policies would be significantly reduced in future years. This is demonstrated by the budget legislation transmitted with the Mayor's 2022 Proposed Budget that would change the JumpStart Fund policies for 2022 to allow for higher use of payroll expense tax revenues to support these and other GF expenditures in 2022 and would completely rescind the spending plan in 2023 and beyond.

As such, Council Budget Action FG-001-A-001 reverts these investments to one-time in 2022 and realigns 2022 JumpStart Fund expenditures with the JumpStart Fund policies. The commitment expressed in this Statement of Legislative Intent would be to collaborate with the Executive in 2022 to identify ways to equitably identify existing and new ongoing revenue for these investments, as originally intended in the 2021 Adopted Budget passed by the Council on November 23, 2020 (ORD 126237). It is expected that this process would include empaneling a task force of community experts to develop a report listing progressive revenue options. This report would be due to the Finance and Housing Committee by July 1, 2022.

Responsible Council Committee(s):

Finance & Housing

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Date Due to Council:

July 1, 2022