

**CITY OF SEATTLE**

**RESOLUTION** 32120

A RESOLUTION setting forth The City of Seattle’s 2024 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 2024 legislative session will last 60 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 2024 State Legislative Agenda are an accurate, though not exhaustive, list of City interests and priorities for the 2024 state legislative session.

Section 2. The City of Seattle’s 2024 State Legislative Agenda attached to this resolution as Exhibit 1 is adopted.



## City of Seattle 2024 State Legislative Agenda

### Budget & Revenue

The City of Seattle supports protecting existing state and local shared revenues, including alcohol revenues and revenue from the sale of cannabis; preserving all existing local revenue authorities and controls; and supporting new local councilmanic 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 also support state authority to allow local real estate excise taxes to be progressive. This includes support for a progressive statewide payroll tax that does not preempt or diminish the City’s local authority. We support statewide wealth and estate taxes. Seattle supports a homestead exemption and expanded access to the property tax exemption and deferral programs to promote increased participation by seniors and veterans with disabilities. We support updating the non-profit affordable housing property tax exemption.

We support raising new state revenue, progressive revenue options for local governments, and modifying the 1% limit on property tax revenue growth to allow for factors like population growth and inflation. We reject austerity measures that harm our small businesses, workforce, and community at large. We support tax policies that support and attract small businesses. 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. We support sustainable revenue streams that are dedicated to affordable housing, including for ongoing operations and maintenance for permanent supportive housing. We support updating the existing local option Public Safety Sales Tax to allow implementation by councilmanic authority and greater flexibility for using the funds for homelessness, behavioral health, and alternative response.

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. 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.

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 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 also support a set-aside for low-income housing.

## **Climate & Environment**

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 and commercial energy codes.

We support the Climate Commitment Act and look forward to working with the state to strengthen rather than weaken our programs. We support efforts to require price transparency from oil and gas companies and hold companies accountable when they engage in price gouging. Seattle supports directing revenues from the Climate Commitment Act towards rapidly reducing climate polluting emissions and ensuring equity for lower-income communities and communities of color in the economic opportunities presented by solutions to climate change. We support increased state investment in local decarbonization, including decarbonizing municipal buildings and fleets. 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.

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, maintain resiliency post-earthquakes, respond to sea level rise, minimize major water quality risks, and other challenges, we support state assistance to help build and grow climate 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 solar production incentives and an increase in the per-utility tax credit cap and expansion of municipal authority to produce green electric hydrogen for internal and external use. We support consumer protections for solar customers, community solar programs, and net metering programs that do not have a negative cost shift impact for low-income non-solar customers. Seattle

supports adding advanced nuclear reactor technology to the guiding principles for the Washington State Energy Strategy to encourage reducing the state’s dependence on fossil fuel energy sources.

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 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 protecting and bolstering recent investments in drought resiliency, preparedness, and response at the Department of Ecology. We support investments in climate resilient infrastructure, including acceleration of investments in green stormwater infrastructure and stormwater retrofits, multi-benefit flood risk reduction including property acquisition, salmon recovery, and working lands protection. The City supports alternative water supply development requirements to ensure coordinated planning resulting in preservation of municipal water supplies for future growth and climate change. The City supports state assistance to help local governments implement a robust fish passage barrier removal program that complements the 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 and Sockeye salmon restoration in the Puget Sound region 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 upstream legislation that will reduce toxic chemicals and other harmful substances in the environment, including regulating PFAS “forever chemicals”, 6PPD in tires, and PCBs. We support 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. We support Washington’s progress on wipe flushability to protect our sewer system infrastructure. Seattle supports product stewardship for appliances, lightbulbs, as well as efforts to provide consumers the ability repair, refurbish, and reuse electronic products. 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.

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.

## **General Government**

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, adopt new voting methods, and giving local governments the option to administer elections in even-numbered years.

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 also support raising bid limits and the public works contracting threshold to be better aligned with today's construction costs, providing alternative bid thresholds for certain projects, and indexing those limits to the construction cost index.

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.

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.

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 also support removing or mitigating barriers to access to swim lessons and we support efforts to improve water safety. We support increases and equitable access to outdoor and recreational grants.

## **Healthcare & Behavioral Health**

Our city, state, and region are facing a behavioral health crisis requiring bold state investments in a health-first approach. We support state action that increases the capacity and efficacy of mental health and substance abuse treatment systems. We support increases in provider reimbursement rates to ensure sufficient funding to grow the behavioral health workforce, increased bed capacity across the entire continuum of care, and fully funding the crisis response system.

The City supports increased funding for treatment and evaluation of substance use disorders. We support action that reduces overdose deaths, including from fentanyl. The City supports funding for community health engagement hubs, recovery residences, crisis stabilization facilities, and post-overdose stabilization and outpatient treatment 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 efforts to increase capacity, efficiency, and responsiveness of the civil commitment system and increased funding and support for assisted outpatient treatment.

We also support more options to divert individuals from the criminal legal system to community-based treatment options through increased funding for pre-arrest diversion, alternative response programs, and therapeutic courts.

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. We support efforts to provide health coverage for low-income immigrants, including undocumented immigrants. We support safe harbor protections for individuals seeking gender affirming care and efforts to prohibit discrimination against transgender individuals.

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 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 also support mandating insurance coverage for fertility treatment and services.

We support legislation to prohibit hospital mergers that would diminish access to care, including abortion and gender affirming care. We support efforts to address over capacity issues at hospitals and reduce “wall time” for medical transportation providers. We support legislation that will allow Basic Life Support (BLS) Units to transport patients to alternative destinations other than Emergency Departments of hospitals, based on the patient’s needs.

## **Housing & Homelessness**

The City of Seattle, like many other cities across the country, is facing an affordable housing and 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 and easing SEPA requirements as they relate to the setup of locally authorized encampments and shelters. We support independent funding options for our regional homelessness authority. We support ongoing State investments in inflationary wage increases for human service providers. We oppose preemption of local regulations, including but not limited to regulations protecting tenants and achieving housing affordability. We support reform of State law to allow local regulation of lot boundary adjustments to foster the public interest.

We support policies, programs, and investments that expand housing solutions for those who are unhoused or at risk of losing housing. We support efforts to create and expand affordable housing options, including social housing, and changing land use and permitting laws to ensure Seattle and all cities are supporting housing affordability and abundance. We support policies that incentivize office to residential conversions. 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 support a range of policies to increase housing stability, including providing rental and foreclosure assistance, protecting tenants from excessive rent increases, utility customer assistance, and other programs. Seattle supports state level efforts to enforce the Residential Landlord Tenant Act. We support addressing 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 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. 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. We support direct rental assistance for tenants facing eviction. We support increased state investment in housing vouchers.

We 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.

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 and non-profit affordable 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 greater state resources to provide services, shelter, and housing to unhoused individuals on state rights-of-way. We support increased funding to support capacity and sustainability of nonprofit homelessness service providers and permanent supportive housing providers. We support insurance solutions for affordable housing providers facing problems with insurance coverage and cost, we support efforts to mitigate rental arrears for affordable housing providers, and we support the creation of an operations mitigation fund for affordable housing providers.

Seattle supports incentivizing affordable housing, 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 funding for The Covenant Homeownership Account and Program and permanently affordable homeownership projects. We support programs that increase equitable access to residential real estate through mechanisms like community land trusts and real estate trusts.

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 funding and zoning reforms to allow inclusive universally affordable mixed-income housing developed on public land. 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 encourage transit-oriented development provided such legislation includes policies to mitigate and prevent displacement, allows local flexibility, and does not preempt affordability incentive programs like the Mandatory Housing Affordability program.

Seattle supports efforts to update state planning regulations to promote growth within urban areas, address the climate crisis through growth management, preserve agricultural land, 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 efforts to help the state Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation in preserving and protecting our critical historic and cultural resources.

## **Labor & Commerce**

The City supports 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 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 support extending the state’s labor protections to all workers – including workers in the digital economy. We also support maintaining the ability of local jurisdictions to provide important protections for app-based workers. 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.

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 support increased paid sick and vacation time requirements, increased minimum wage, and equal pay for equal work. We are supportive 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 expanding workplace retention policies for grocery workers. We support requiring employers to provide sanitary workplace conditions.

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, public transit, public utilities, 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.

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

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 believes that public policy work should ensure that 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 efforts to provide cannabis businesses access to critical banking infrastructure. We support harmonizing laws prohibiting underage cannabis use with laws prohibiting underage alcohol use. We support expunging all cannabis related felonies and offenses 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.

We support legislation to assist small businesses, minority- and women-owned businesses, and workers requiring job re-training and workforce development opportunities.

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 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. The City supports efforts to bolster our creative economy including increased state funding for film production incentives.

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 efforts to increase tourism to the city and region. 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. We support local jurisdictions having the authority to adjust nightlife closing hours. We also support efforts to allow more flexible use of public space including authorizing more opportunities for outdoor dining and establishment of social districts.

## **Public Safety**

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 department policy, professional standards, and public trust, and the ability to sustain those decisions, including the ability to lay off officers on the Brady list who were also found to be dishonest by an accountability investigation process. 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, including requiring arbitrators use a uniform standard of review defined by a preponderance of the evidence. The City 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 policies that limit law enforcement's use of deception during custodial interrogations. 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 basic law enforcement academy classes, 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.

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 common sense, responsible solutions to reduce gun violence, including requiring a permit to purchase a firearm, restricting the ability to bulk purchase firearms, increasing responsibility for gun dealers, and supporting Medicaid reimbursement for hospital-based violence interruption programs. 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, including public parks, libraries, and community centers. 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 legal system, including but not limited to decreasing mass incarceration and supervision, decreasing racial disproportionality, and reforming the state's sentencing grid. We support ending solitary confinement, and we support increased state oversight of local jails and improved jail-based standards. 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 policies that allow for restorative justice models in schools. We support including consideration of youthfulness in sentencing, raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction, and removing juvenile felonies from consideration in adult sentencing. 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 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 support continued efforts to address the high rate of disappearances and murders of indigenous women and people.

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 no 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 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.

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 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 its work. We support using the expertise of the State Building Code Council in the development of legislation related to fire codes.

We support review and expansion of the Washington State Crime Victim Compensation Program, including families of victim's of vehicular homicide.

### **Social Programs & Education**

We will continue to support safety net programs to protect the most vulnerable populations and provide them with necessary assistance and access to services.

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. The City of Seattle supports providing housing or shelter accommodations, essential legal services, and community navigation to indigent immigrant and refugee residents and asylum seekers.

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 reducing regulatory barriers for money transmitters, many of which serve immigrants and communities of color.

We support increased funding and support for our working families and children through increased childcare provider pay, increased childcare slots, increased non-traditional hours 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.

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 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.

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), and 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. We support efforts to prevent book bans in our public or school libraries.

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 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 individual financial empowerment programs such as financial literacy, bank access, small business start-up funding, and college savings accounts. We support a statewide guaranteed basic income pilot program.

## **Transportation**

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 and incentives for EVs and e-bikes. 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 and people with disabilities.

We are committed to environmental justice in the transportation sector, including the removal of freeways in marginalized communities such as South Park. We are committed to expanding the use of freeway lids across the city, including on Interstate 5 and State Route 520, to reconnect neighborhoods and provide public land with amenities such as affordable housing, open space, and pedestrian and bike connections to transit stations. We support ongoing and increased investment in graffiti removal on State rights-of-way.

We support freight mobility and value the importance of rail to the City, Region, and State economies. 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 planning and funding efforts for the Cascadia High-Speed Rail project.

We support additional state funding to rebuild the Alaskan Way roadway as part of the city and state's longstanding partnership to complete the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program. The city also supports funding in the current biennium for the Aurora Avenue North Safety Improvements Project originally funded in the Move Ahead WA transportation package.

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 prioritize equitable mobility. Specifically, that means improving safety and comfort for vulnerable users such as children, elders, people with disabilities, low-income residents, and others who rely on mobility devices, bicycles, or walking for mobility. We support increased local authority to designate pedestrian zones and set speed limits below 20 miles per hour. We support all efforts that would help the city achieve its Vision Zero plan to end traffic deaths and serious injuries on city streets by 2030. 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 modifying state law to allow non-law enforcement personnel to review and issue tickets for infractions detected through the use of an automated traffic safety camera.

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 are able to access our public roadways.

We support continued efforts to clarify and strengthen regulations of disabled parking placards

and plates 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.

We support policies aimed to address the safe operation of autonomous vehicles on public roadways while maintaining local authority for regulating the use of this technology on city streets.

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.

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 support expanding current authority to allow county transit agencies to remove vehicles obstructing streetcar tracks.

*This agenda provides guidance for OIR’s State lobbying team to represent the City’s interests during the 2024 state legislative session and acknowledges the prerogative of City elected officials to advocate as individuals in Olympia.*