

2026 City of Seattle State Legislative Agenda

The City of Seattle has identified the following priorities for the 2026 legislative session:

Federal Response

- Prohibit law enforcement and federal enforcement agencies from wearing face coverings and require that officers be clearly identifiable while performing their duties.
- Add protections and benefits for immigrant workers, including notice to employees of interactions with immigration officials and job and wage stability for detained workers.
- Support protections for LGBTQIA+ youth, adults, and communities, and oppose anti-transgender legislative efforts.
- Mitigate losses of federal funding for essential services including food access, housing and shelter, Medicaid, and immigrant services.
- Provide state support for the Seattle–King County Public Health Clinic to ensure access to essential health services for uninsured and immigrant communities.
- Maintain funding for asylum and migrant support services.
- Allow local governments to enact additional progressive revenue options to address federal funding cuts to state and local governments, including a vacancy tax, an income tax on millionaire earners, and a wealth tax.

Affordability & Workforce

- Advance policies, including B&O tax exemptions, that expand equitable access to groceries and medicine.
- Maintain and strengthen state investments in Working Connections Child Care and ECEAP to ensure access to affordable, high-quality early learning opportunities.
- Increase healthy food access through support for food banks, universal free school meals, and other ways to address food deserts.
- Support progressive revenue options that help safeguard access to essential services.
- Expand tax relief to lower-income families and seniors, including expansions of the Working Families Tax Credit and property tax exemptions for seniors, and support a guaranteed basic income pilot.
- Support efforts to simplify and create a universal application for income-qualified benefits and relief.
- Explore a revenue neutral swap for sales tax.

- Allow collective bargaining over matters related to adoption of artificial intelligence in the workplace, including impacts on employee wages and performance evaluations.
- Further investments in workforce development in the state maritime industry.
- Provide local municipalities with more revenue options.

Housing & Homelessness

- Invest in service-intensive shelter capacity for those diverted from the public safety system.
- Support operations, maintenance, services, and stabilization for a range of affordable housing options, including permanent supportive housing and workforce housing.
- Strengthen anti-displacement tools and requirements for communities who have historically faced housing discrimination, such as redlining, prioritizing seniors' ability to age in place; and provide relief from highest and best use as appropriate and encourage flexibility for assessors' offices.
- Support updates to state law so that social housing developers have access to the same benefits as housing authorities and non-profit affordable housing developers.
- Provide funding and additional flexibility for current funding tools to address homelessness.
- Restore full funding for the state Encampment Resolution Program.
- Reduce liability requirements to encourage the development of condominiums and incorporate smaller scale condominium buildings into the residential building code. Change elevator standards for cities and counties to match global or North American safety and related standards to increase elevator access and flexibility.

Public Safety

- Address the State Patrol's toxicology lab backlog and allow for federally accredited labs to conduct testing of blood samples in presumed DUI cases.
- Increase funding to help local governments hire more police officers and reinstate the state's coverage of the 25% local costs to send officers to the Basic Law Enforcement Academy.
- Allow local jurisdictions to restrict firearms in city buildings, parks, and community centers, and require secure storage for firearms in vehicles and residences; and lower threshold for early intervention for minors who unlawfully possess firearms.

- Advocate for a Public Safety element to be added to Comprehensive Plans for all jurisdictions to ensure consideration of emergency services and first response as a part of growth management.
- Improve the reasonable use of involuntary treatment by increasing system capacity and making the Involuntary Treatment Act a more effective and useful tool for first responders.
- Expand the scope of the crime of endangerment with a controlled substance to include fentanyl or synthetic opioids.
- Support criminal justice reform to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes through greater access to rehabilitative services, mental health, treatment, housing, and career support.
- Strengthen metal recycling regulations to prevent the sale of stolen public and private property.
- Ensure funds for maintenance and activation of WSDOT rights-of-way, including regular maintenance of fire hydrants and clearing needed for emergency services access; and improve WSDOT maintenance and testing standards for fire hydrants to meet national and City of Seattle standards.
- Champion legislation that fosters a safer environment for everyone by giving local jurisdictions tools and funding to uphold justice, protect communities, and ensure accountability.
- Clarify applicability of exceptions to statutory requirements for juvenile access to attorneys when contacted by law enforcement for any juvenile who may be a victim of a crime or witness to a crime.
- Expand state authorization for deployment of automated noise enforcement cameras, allowing Seattle to immediately pilot a program and gather initial implementation data and creating a pathway for other jurisdictions to create a pathway as well.
- Support policies that encourage diversified 911 response and allow civilian alternative response to appropriate crisis and welfare calls for service.
- Update police accountability arbitration rules and procedures to ensure discipline for misconduct is fair and consistent.
- Provide funding for organizations and programs that support survivors and victims of crimes.

Capital Budget

- Provide funding for shovel-ready improvements at Red Barn Ranch and the historic Camp Long Lodge to enable youth programming and regional outdoor learning access.

- Foster a strong regional green economy by securing funding for a demonstration project at Seattle Center that will help lead to a fully decarbonized eco-district.
- Authorize transfer of WSDOT's Montlake surplus property to the City for the purpose of affordable homeownership development.

Transportation

- Provide Sound Transit with expanded authority and financing options to maintain project timelines and deliver voter-approved light rail extensions.
- Fund city and county efforts to mitigate Revive I-5 construction project impacts.
- Provide local governments authority to remove vehicle obstructions from streetcar tracks to ensure reliable and efficient public transit operations.
- Increase the availability of passenger-only ferries for better regional connections.
- Support reduced emissions from most polluting vessels visiting Washington's ports.
- Prioritize Climate Commitment Act spending for mass public transportation capital projects to reduce greenhouse emissions.

Climate & Environment

- Support policies and investments to fight climate change, assist climate adaptation, and assist local government removal of fish passage barriers.

Native Communities & Tribal Governments

- Ensure Tribal representation in regional transportation planning to address disproportionately high traffic fatality rates among Native communities.
- Strengthen the implementation of the Since Time Immemorial Tribal history curriculum in K-12 schools by establishing timelines, compliance tracking, and Tribal compensation.
- Retroactively exclude certain juvenile convictions from offender scores, regardless of offense date.
- Exempt sensitive Tribal-related data from public disclosure laws.
- Create a process for automatic voter registration for Tribal members via state-Tribal compacts.
- Support the development of federally approved apprenticeship programs operated by Tribal Governments.