



# City of Seattle

## 2025 State Legislative Priorities

We have identified the following priorities for the 2025 legislative session:

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- Champion legislation that fosters a safer environment for everyone by giving local jurisdictions tools and funding to uphold justice, protect communities, and hold those who violate the law accountable for their actions.
- Restrict firearms in city buildings, parks, and community centers and end preemption of local gun violence prevention laws.
- Support the expansion and use of Seattle's Community Assisted Response & Engagement to increase alternative 911 responses.
- Update police accountability arbitration rules and procedures to ensure discipline for misconduct is fair and consistent.
- Improve our public safety infrastructure by providing Seattle the same ability as other local jurisdictions to hire pro tem judges that reside outside of the city.
- Allow for federally accredited labs to conduct testing of blood samples in presumed drug and liquor intoxication cases.
- Increase funding to help local governments hire more police officers and continue state funding for 100 percent of Basic Law Enforcement Academy costs.
- Clarify applicability of exceptions to statutory requirements for juvenile access to attorneys when contacted by law enforcement for juveniles who may be a victim of a crime or witness to a crime.
- Support continued efforts to address the high rate of disappearances and murders of indigenous women and people.
- Help the city advance Vision Zero by increasing pedestrian safety through safe systems improvements, funding Move Ahead Washington commitments that improve safety on state highways, and policy changes such as expanding local authority for shared streets.

### **PUBLIC & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

- Fund intensive case management and comprehensive, on-demand, and culturally attuned substance use disorder treatment. Support a secure detox facility in Seattle that allows individuals to stabilize and get treatment.
- 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.
- Increase funding for mental health supports for students and invest in a wide range of programs including, but not limited to, Red Barn Ranch and other programs that support the mental and physical health of youth.
- Support safe access to abortion and other reproductive healthcare services for all.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SMALL BUSINESS**

- Support small businesses by addressing cost pressures, capital improvements, insurance, organized retail theft, and public safety issues.
- Support special events and World Cup activations regarding food and drink.
- Create a fast and responsive graffiti abatement process along tunnels and walls on state highways to allow for a vibrant, safe, and welcoming city for locals and visitors.

## **HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS**

- Improve the state's encampment resolution program to provide more urgent responses and additional funds for maintenance and activation of WSDOT rights-of-way.
- Provide immediate support for individual and family asylum seekers by funding and prioritizing operational completion of the state-led system.
- Increase homeownership options by addressing barriers to condominium development.
- Provide Connecting Housing to Infrastructure investments for the Fort Lawton Redevelopment Plan to establish permanent supportive housing, workforce housing, and homeownership opportunities.
- Support stabilization for a range of affordable housing options, including permanent supportive housing and workforce housing, and provide capital, operating, maintenance, and services funding.
- Increase funding for the Housing Trust Fund and other housing programs to maximize state leverage for local housing priorities, including the development of permanent supportive housing, homeownership, workforce housing, and operating support for new and existing affordable buildings.

## **CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT**

- Enact recycling reform to make curbside recycling easier and cheaper.
- Promote and incentivize energy efficiency and decarbonization of buildings.
- Secure Capital funding for decarbonization projects, including, but not limited to, creation of the Seattle Center Eco-district.
- Support policies and investments to fight climate change, support climate adaptation, and assist local government removal of fish passage barriers.

## **ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR SERVICES & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

- Lift the arbitrary cap on local government property taxes.
- Explore progressive revenue options first, before considering options that put a higher tax burden on low-income and middle-income households.
- Fully fund early childhood/preschool education and K-12 education and support Seattle Public Schools families through investments in basic education, mental health, student transportation, universal free school meals, special education, technical assistance for districts, and other operational costs.
- Support efforts to increase affordable childcare access statewide, including construction of new facilities, increasing workforce development, and expanding access to state subsidized childcare slots.

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