



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Lorrie McKay, Intergovernmental Relations Consultant

Date: July 23, 2021

Subject: STAFF AND LEGISLATIVE WORKGROUP REPORT

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended by the Legislative Working Group and support staff that the City Council eliminate the category of "Priority Coalition Advocacy" from the Council's state legislative agenda. It is further recommended that the Council return to the Legislative Support Items Agenda for purposes of tracking state legislative policies and budgetary items championed by its allies and for which Council supports. No action is sought from the Council at the August 4 Council meeting. This information is provided to inform the full Council as to the reasons for the recommendation. The initial 2022 legislative agenda review later this fall will further highlight the issue.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

In advance of the last (2021) state legislative session, following discussion at its October 20, 2020 and November 4, 2020 regular meetings, the City Council adopted its 2021 Legislative Agenda which included the City's top legislative priorities, as well as a new section called "priority coalition advocacy items" (PCA). The priority coalition advocacy items tested a new approach to how the city might engage in support of its organizational allies and their top legislative priorities.

Council's intent in adopting PCA items was to elevate important and timely legislative goals, that are not Kirkland-specific and are best championed by organizations with whom the City is allied. Recognizing the limited capacity of staff to dedicate to issues championed by others, Council narrowed its PCA issue areas to the following three categories: Housing/Homelessness; Gun Safety/Responsibility; and Police Reforms. The organizational leads on these specific issue areas were the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance, the Alliance for Gun Responsibility, and the Association of Washington Cities respectively.

For the majority of the session, the City identified and focused on twelve bills in the three issue areas. Ultimately, ten of these bills were passed by both chambers and signed into law by the governor. The ten PCA related bills that passed are:

Bill # and Sponsor	Short Title	City's 2021 Position
ESHB 1070 (Ryu)	Modifying allowed uses of local tax revenue for affordable housing and related services to include the acquisition and construction of affordable housing and facilities	PCA priority / City priority support
E2SHB 1220 (Peterson)	Supporting emergency shelters and housing through local planning and development regulations.	PCA priority / City support

ESHB 1236 (Macri)	Protecting residential tenants from the beginning to end of their tenancies by penalizing the inclusion of unlawful lease provisions and limiting the reasons for eviction, refusal to continue, and termination.	PCA priority / City support
E2SHB 1277 (Ormsby)	Revenue source for eviction prevention & housing stability	PCA priority / City priority support
E2SSB 5160 (Kuderer)	Addressing landlord-tenant relations by providing certain tenant protections during and after public health emergencies, providing for legal representation in eviction cases, and authorizing landlord access to state rental assistance programs	PCA priority / City support
ESSB 5038 (Kuderer)	Prohibiting the open carry of certain weapons at public demonstrations and the state capitol.	PCA priority / City priority support
SSB 5066 (Dhingra)	Concerning a peace officer's duty to intervene.	PCA priority / City priority support
E2SSB 5259 (Nobles)	Concerning law enforcement data.	PCA priority / City priority support
ESHB 1054 (Johnson)	Establishing requirements for tactics and equipment used by peace officers.	PCA priority / City Monitor
E2SSB 5051 (Pedersen)	Concerning state oversight and accountability of peace officers and corrections officers.	PCA priority / City Monitor

While the City's position on two PCA bills remained as "monitor" over the course of the 2021 session, Council's Legislative Workgroup was, following significant council discussion at its regular meetings, able to meaningfully participate in amendment efforts to bill language. Council's Legislative Workgroup is proud of how the City engaged with lawmakers in Olympia on these larger, critical issues last session.

The Legislative Support Items Agenda

Until 2021, the City of Kirkland had employed a Legislative Support Items Agenda in order to track state legislative policies and budgetary items championed by its allies. Council's directive with regard to its legislative support items agenda is that "Kirkland generally supports the policy principles of the items below, however, formal City support is contingent upon reviewing and approving the specific language of any legislative proposal drafted to advance a particular item."

Working with representatives from each organization in November and December, city staff prepare a draft of the Legislative Support Items Agenda that is generally presented to Council the first week of January. This timing allows organizations to complete their processes of developing and approving their top legislative priorities. The City's 2020 legislative support items agenda is attached (Attachment A) to provide an illustration. In preparation for the 2020 session, city staff distilled 46 pages of legislative priorities materials, provided by 22 of its organizational allies, into 17 pages of highlighted policies and budgetary issues for the Kirkland City Council to consider supporting throughout the 2020 session. Organizations included: Association of Washington Cities, Transportation Choices Coalition, Eastside Transportation Partnership, Eastside Human Services Forum, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance, King County-Cities Climate Collaborative, People for Climate Action – Kirkland, Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, Washington Fire Chiefs, Washington Recreation & Parks Association, Washington Coalition for Open Government, Water Resource Inventory Area 8, Cascade Water Alliance, Alliance for Gun Responsibility, Indivisible Kirkland, Lake Washington Institute of Technology, Sound Cities Association, King County and City of Seattle.

Unlike the priority coalition advocacy items, the legislative support items agenda allows the City significant flexibility to track a variety of policy and budgetary issues of interest to the broad compendium of its organizational allies. The practical application of the legislative support items agenda is, once approved by Council, bills associated with our allies' issues that are dropped in Olympia are identified by the city's lobbyists and then reviewed by city staff. If staff determine a bill could impact the City (positively or negatively) it is flagged as either "support," "monitor" or "oppose." As the legislature assigns bills to various committees, city staff track the bills as they are scheduled for hearings and the city's lobbyists sign-in at hearings on behalf of the City indicating whether the City is "pro" or "con" on a given bill. While the City Council can choose to engage deeper on issues listed on its adopted legislative support items agenda, the legislative support items agenda generally impacts city staff only at the bill review level.

THE CITY COUNCIL'S LEGISLATIVE WORKGROUP:

The City Council's Legislative Workgroup, chaired by Deputy Mayor Arnold, met weekly throughout the session to track the status of the City's priorities and provide support and oversight of strategies for achieving the priorities. The Workgroup also includes Mayor Sweet and Councilmember Curtis. It is staffed by the City Manager, the Intergovernmental Relations Manager and CMO's Management Analyst, with participation from Waypoint Consulting Group, the City's contracted lobbyist.

Staff and Legislative Workgroup's Recommendation for Future Legislative Support Items

The Legislative Workgroup conducted a post-session evaluation of the City's legislative accomplishments last session, and especially the effectiveness of the PCA category for the effort required. It is important for the full Council to recall that two of the city's adopted 2021 legislative priorities, TOD at WSDOT-owned facilities and residential street maintenance, were postponed for consideration in the upcoming 2022 session. Kirkland's deeper involvement in advocating for PCA priorities was mainly possible because these Kirkland-specific top priorities were not pursued. Even so, staff and council's increased involvement on twelve PCA related bill, severely stretched the City's capacity to provide appropriate information, thoughtful decision making, and tactical action in Olympia.

The primary challenges of the PCA-related categories were the quantity, complexity and rapidly changing nature of the PCA-related bills. By definition, the PCA categories were high-visibility topics that were very important to state legislators, key stakeholder and advocacy groups as well as Kirkland. Multiple bills on each topic were introduced in both the House and the Senate and it was difficult for staff to track each of the versions and understand and explain the key differences and the potential pros and cons to each version. The result was that many PCA bills were placed on "monitor" status until bills were consolidated and clear legislative vehicles emerged. Because the bills were complex and focused on state matters, even Kirkland's subject matter experts (SMEs) often felt they lacked the expertise necessary to properly advise the Council. Many of the bills were a combination of policy and political advocacy that are more often the purview of elected officials which also made it challenging for the staff SMEs to make recommendations. Finally, the review process also placed a much higher workload on the City's subject matter experts than before. The City Attorney, Police Chief, Finance staff and Planning staff were particularly impacted by the additional PCA-related review and analysis.

With recognition of the need for staff to focus on Kirkland specific priorities and recognizing the limited capacity of city staff, Council's Legislative Workgroup is recommending that the City Council eliminate the PCA category for 2022. The Workgroup believes similar outcomes can be achieved by reinstating the Legislative Support Items Agenda for purposes of tracking state legislative policies and budgetary items championed by its allies and for which Council supports. This recommendation is also supported by the staff.



CITY OF KIRKLAND 2020 LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT AGENDA

Kirkland generally supports the policy principles of the items below, however, formal City support is contingent upon reviewing and approving the specific language of any legislative proposal drafted to advance a particular item.

2020 Legislative Support

Select Legislative Support and carryovers from Kirkland's past agendas

- Support continued sustainable funding to maintain high-quality statewide training for law enforcement officers and corrections officers to ensure no waiting period to get law enforcement and corrections officers trained and in the field.
- Support gun safety measures that promote safe and responsible gun ownership and reduce gun violence, and that are consistent with the 2nd Amendment of the US Constitution and Article I Section 24 of the Washington State Constitution.
- Supports full funding of the State Emergency Management Division.
- Supports maintaining local flexibility in determining location, design and size of small cell (telecommunication) deployment with adequate cost control.
- Support the establishment and operation of a state-chartered, public cooperative bank in the state of Washington
- Support vested rights legislation that keeps predictability and certainty for local governments, real estate developers and environmental and community advocates.
- Support legislation to enable local funding sources for multi-benefit watershed projects.
- Support updates to the Public Records Act that will create a path to predictability on fines for jurisdictions that make good faith efforts to comply with records requests.
- Support allowing both the state and local governments the option of replacing the property tax cap, currently fixed at 1 percent, with a cap that is indexed to both population growth and inflation.
- Support providing cities with financing options to support public/private partnerships.

Support for Infrastructure Funding

- Establishment of a State-Chartered, Public Cooperative Bank
- Safe Routes to Schools & Complete Streets Program Funding
- Transportation Investment Board Funding (TIB)
- Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB)
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)
- Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)
- Regional Mobility Grant Funding Program - Preserve
- Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board Funding
- Support Healthy & Sustainable Communities Initiative

Additionally, Kirkland supports selected priority items from the 2020 legislative agendas led by the following ally organizations:

Association of Washington Cities

- **Adopt a comprehensive city transportation package that provides new resources and options**

Cities are responsible for a significant share of the statewide transportation system and fund most of that responsibility out of local tax dollars. Cities struggle to meet the \$1 billion gap in transportation maintenance and preservation costs. To meet these ever-expanding needs, the state must maintain existing and create new transportation specific revenue options for cities. The state must also work on a statewide transportation package that includes increased resources for city transportation needs.

- **Fully fund the Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF)**

The Public Works Trust Fund is a crucial funding partner in our efforts to provide the necessary infrastructure for our communities. We seek full funding for the program and ask the state to protect the current stream of loan repayments and uphold the 2% state share of REET dedicated to the account. Additionally, we look to strengthen the program by ending the ongoing revenue diversions as soon as possible.

- **Create a tax increment financing (TIF) option for cities**

Washington's cities need economic development tools that help maintain, expand, and modernize local infrastructure to help spur local private sector investment. By investing in TIF, the Legislature can partner with cities and towns to advance our shared goals of building a robust and diverse economy for communities around the state. For maximum impact, cities need access to both property-tax and sales-tax based TIF programs.

- **Preserve city fiscal health with secure funding sources**

Cities need revenue authority and flexibility to keep up with community growth and increasing service needs. State investment in shared revenue distributions is instrumental to support essential programs and services. Responsive revenue options allow local elected officials to make the best community-based decisions about how to keep up with growth and the increasing costs of providing basic services like public safety and transportation. Arbitrary restrictions on local revenue decisions unnecessarily hurt residents by limiting critical local services.

- **Support statewide medication assisted treatment (MAT) services in city and regional jails with local flexibility**

Cities are experiencing the ramifications of an overwhelmed state behavioral health system. While the state has made investments to address some of the challenges, more help is needed. Local jails have increasingly been called to action to address opioid use disorder and provide treatment. However, the economic costs are overwhelming city criminal justice budgets across the state. City jails need additional state support to access MAT services to save lives and reduce recidivism.

- **Advance a watershed-based strategic plan to address local fish-blocking culverts along with state culverts**

Cities need the state to adopt a broader vision to create a comprehensive response that funds local barrier corrections and provides actual habitat access for fish. Cities recognize that the state is facing a \$4 billion price tag to fix fish-blocking culverts that the U.S. Supreme Court has found to impinge on tribal treaty rights to fish harvests. Cities also own 1,300 barriers in the same streams, and similarly have no identified revenues to pay for needed corrections. A statewide approach is the only way to achieve meaningful salmon and orca recovery.

- **Continue to pursue new resources and policies to increase affordable housing both at the state and local level**

Our communities continue to face a housing crisis and need state support to incentivize housing options. The Legislature can help by proactively supporting cities' voluntary adoption of more effective ADU ordinances and providing additional councilmanic tax authority for housing. Cities need enhanced tools to attract and preserve multifamily development, like changing the multifamily tax exemption program to open it to smaller cities, extending the tax exemption for continued affordability guarantees, and expanding the ability to preserve existing affordable housing.

Transportation Issues

Transportation Choices Coalition

- **I-976 Response**

Identify and seek legislative support to address the impacts and financial losses imposed by the passage of I-976. This may include addressing long-term, structural barriers to transportation funding.

- Protect committed funds — Including Connecting Washington Multimodal Fund and Sound Transit 3, ensuring we keep buses moving and provide lifeline services to those who most depend on it, including those with disabilities and in rural areas.
- Align transportation investments with state goals — Require transportation project lists to include a performance-driven analysis tied to Washington State climate, health, equity, and safety goals.
- Identify new and flexible transportation revenues
 - Road Usage Charge — Develop framework for an equitable program that funds state transportation priorities, including safety, environment, and health.
 - Improve local funding — Remove two 10-year Transportation Benefit District limits and expand revenue options.
 - Support innovative and progressive funds to help backfill gaps left by I-976.

- **Automated traffic safety camera enforcement**

HB 1793/SB 5789 ("Don't block the box, don't block the bus") would allow large cities to use traffic camera enforcement for transit lanes, zones, and crosswalks to improve safety and increase transit speed and reliability.

- **Give public transit agencies flexibility with state-owned, funded, or leased Park & Rides**

Seek legislation (SB 5673) to provide flexibility in the way transit agencies can manage customer usage of park and ride facilities, which are either owned by, funded by, or leased from the state.

- **Support an Autonomous Vehicles Health Impact Assessment**

- **Support Washington State Ferries Orca LIFT pilot**

- **Transition to a clean and equitable transportation system**

- Climate planning — Give power to MPOs or otherwise direct comprehensive planning requirements to include greenhouse gas reductions and plan for mitigation and adaptation.
- Cleaner vehicles and fuels to reduce environmental justice impacts — Support legislation such as SB 5811 and HB 1999 (reducing emissions by strengthening the clean car standards and clean car program) and HB 1110 and SB 5412 (reducing emissions associated with transportation fuels).

- Strategic planning for electrification and transit investments — Develop a transition plan to a sustainable, low-emissions transportation system.
- **Increase access to sustainable modes**
 - Commute Trip Reduction & Transportation Demand Management — Support and strengthen legacy and expanded demand management programming and policy.
 - Support WSDOT I-5 Corridor Scenario Planning — HOV 3 and transit networks are top priorities.
 - Ensure new transportation options support safety and complement transit investments — Center environment, health, equity, and safety in Autonomous Vehicle policy development; Improve privacy around trip data; protect against TNC (Uber/Lyft) preemption bills.

Eastside Transportation Partnership

No 2020 priorities available as of 12/15/19

Housing Issues

Washington Low Income Housing Alliance

- **Investing \$10 Million into the Housing Trust Fund for preservation of affordable homes.**
Many currently affordable homes across Washington are at risk of being lost. An additional appropriation for the Housing Trust Fund in the state's Supplemental Capital Budget would help save homes and prevent the displacement of people living in them. This would preserve affordable homes already subsidized but at risk of loss. Funds could be used for the preservation of all units at risk of loss, including USDA properties in rural communities and homes funded with Low Income Housing Tax Credits.
- **Requiring a legitimate business reason to make someone move.**
SHB 1656/Macri & 5733/Saldaña
Currently in Washington State, landlords can end a month to month lease and make a tenant move without even telling the tenant why. This leaves a loophole in Washington's fair housing laws and other legal protections for tenants. Additionally, the fear of getting a twenty-day no cause notice to move is a common reason tenants don't assert their rights under the law. Landlords should not be able to make someone move unless they have a legitimate business reason and they should be required to provide more than twenty days' notice. SHB 1656 would require a landlord to have a legitimate business reason to make someone move and require more than twenty days' notice. The amended bill includes a variety of reasons similar to Seattle's Just Cause Eviction Ordinance, but HB 1656 also applies to month to month tenancies.
- **Requiring a move-in fee installment payment plan over a three-month period when a tenant requests it.**
HB 1694/Morgan
Moving costs, including first and last month's rent, deposits, and fees can add up to thousands of dollars and is a major hurdle for people trying to transition out of homelessness. Allowing tenants a three-month payment plan to cover these move-in costs will help address this significant barrier.

HB 1694 does not regulate fees, but it requires a landlord to accept a tenant's request for a three-month payment plan for all the move in fees, deposit and first/last month's rent.

- **Creating a Real Estate Excise Tax exemption for selling to a nonprofit who acquires it for affordable housing.**

The lack of properties available to develop multifamily housing and the inability to compete with for-profit developers to acquire existing properties is a significant issue facing nonprofit affordable housing developers across the state. Providing a Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) exemption when selling to a nonprofit or public housing authority for affordable housing will incentivize preserving or developing affordable homes. All sales or transfers of real property to a nonprofit entity, public development authority, or public housing authority would be exempt from the REET if the purchasing entity records a covenant requiring the property to be used for affordable housing.

- **Eliminating the ABD shelter penalty.**

The Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD) cash grant program serves extremely low-income people with disabilities who are in the process of applying for federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) assistance. The ABD cash grant was dramatically cut from \$339/month to \$197/month during the Great Recession and the shelter penalty was implemented which lowers the cash grant even further to \$120/month for an individual who is deemed to not have out-of-pocket housing expenses. The ABD cash grant is a critical resource for addressing basic needs and every ABD recipient should be able to access the full \$197.

This impacts about 15 percent of ABD recipients who are already struggling to make ends meet. While there is more work needed to increase the ABD cash grant, eliminating the shelter penalty is a common-sense step the legislature can take during a supplemental budget year to address the needs of an extremely low-income disabled population. The Operating budget impact for fiscal year 2021 is estimated to be \$2.5 million.

- **Fixing the property tax exemption for affordable rental housing for very low income households.**

Nonprofit affordable housing is currently granted a property tax exemption under certain circumstances, but it needs to be adjusted to work with the needs of today's affordable housing providers. If a tenant's income increases — which it often can because affordable housing stabilizes lives and improves employment opportunities — housing providers can be required to pay the full property tax. This unpredictability drives funders to require significant up-front cash reserves which can significantly increase the cost of building affordable homes. This bill would adjust the initial target income of tenants from 50% of Area Median Income (AMI) and below, to 60% AMI and below to apply to more people. It would also eliminate the wildcard of future tax liability by allowing a tenant to increase their income without it triggering a tax liability for the property. Current law has this safeguard but limits it to properties of 10 units or less. This change would also require the apartment to be rented on vacancy to someone at 60% AMI or below. The Operating Budget impact is unknown, but likely very modest.

Housing Development Consortium

- **Fund the State Housing Trust Fund & Expand Funding for Housing & Homelessness Services**

- Invest in a state revenue stream for preservation of affordable housing
- Expand the State Property Tax Exemption qualification from 75 percent of units occupied by households at 50 percent AMI and below to 75 percent of units occupied by households at 60 percent AMI and below
- Ensure that public dollars are used efficiently by pursuing measures that lower the costs of acquiring and/or rehabilitating affordable housing

- **Empower Local Governments to Address Their Constituents' Affordable Housing Needs**
 - Give local governments councilmanic authority to pursue revenue options suited for their local housing needs
- **Expand Homeownership Opportunities**
 - Homeownership is a driver of both personal and community wellbeing. Owning a home offers stability and enables a household to build wealth, yet this opportunity has been increasingly difficult for many as median home sale prices around Washington State have increased more than 60 percent since 2012, and by even greater amounts in areas of concentrated growth like King County. HDC supports efforts to further the promise of increasing homeownership opportunities for low-income communities.
- **Progressively Increase Revenue to Fund Essential Services.**
 - Adopt an equitable and responsible budget that increases revenue progressively and expands vital human services
- **Enact Reasonable Tenant Protections that Incorporate Broad Stakeholder Voice**
 - Ensure that tenants are not unfairly evicted
 - Ensure that people exiting the criminal justice system are not unfairly denied housing

Tacoma/Pierce Habitat for Humanity

- **Amend RCW 84.52.105**
RCW 84.52.105 allows jurisdictions to levy a voter-approved property tax (no more than \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value for no more than 10 years) for the production of affordable housing. The RCW currently limits the distribution of moneys raised to fund projects for households earning up to only 50% of the area median income (AMI). We recommend amending RCW 84.52.105 to allow the option for jurisdictions, which pass a voter approved affordable housing property tax levy, to distribute moneys raised to affordable homeownership and home repair programs serving households earning up to 80% of the local AMI.
- **Infrastructure Funding for Housing Development**
We recognize one of the primary impediments to housing and affordable housing development is the cost of development infrastructure. By addressing this issue and property resourcing local jurisdictions, the legislature could move the needle for low and modest income households. We continue our support for HB 1680, which would redeposit 4.1% of the Real Estate Excise tax into the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA) and direct moneys collected for the next biennium to development infrastructure in support of housing development.
- **HB 1590 w/ Amendment**
We support HB 1590, which would give councilmanic authority to levy a 1/10th of 1% sales tax for affordable housing.

We also support an amendment to RCW 82.14.540, as a part of this legislation, to designate a new population service group to include households earning up to 80% of the area median income (AMI) participating in affordable homeownership programs.
- **Incentives for Sellers of Land for Affordable Housing Development**
We believe it's important to provide affordable housing developers with a wide variety of opportunities to secured developable land. We support a Real Estate Excise tax (REET) exemption

for the seller of real property to a non-profit organization for the purposes of housing and/or housing development for households earning up to 80% AMI.

Human Services Issues

Eastside Human Services Forum *DRAFT*

- **Cross Cutting Priorities**
 - Increase funding levels for human services
 - Build agency capacity by increasing reimbursement rates through Medicaid, Social Security Act 4E and 4B, and Working Connections Child Care
 - Provide support for the work force including living wages and programs such as affordable housing and child care
 - Increase coordination and funding for transportation to ensure equitable access
- **Support Access to Basic Needs and Health Services**
 - Support and expand access to flexible, accessible prevention and treatment for opioid and other substance use disorders including services delivered on school campuses
 - Create community-based capacity to treat mental illness and drug dependency
 - Enact a Working Families Tax Rebate
- **Make Homelessness Rare, Brief, and One-Time by Making Housing More Accessible**
 - Increase funding for Housing Essential Needs program and increase the value for housing vouchers for SSDI recipients in King County
 - Continue to invest in the Housing Trust Fund and allow local communities to retain a portion of the state's sales tax to invest directly into affordable home construction
 - Continue eviction reform and require just cause to terminate tenancy
- **Support Older Adults and People with Disabilities**
 - Support legislation that will make medications more affordable and help employees save for retirement
 - Continue support for Long-Term Care needs and increase funding where needed, such as nursing homes and in-home case management services
- **Strengthen Early Learning and Youth Services**
 - Make child care and early learning accessible to all
 - Improve educational re-engagement programs and the GRADS program
 - Provide wrap-around supports for college students
 - Support the Child Support Pass Through

King County Behavioral Health

- **The State should promote enhanced Integrated Managed Care (IMC) by encouraging local networks that incorporate locally-funded systems of social determinants of health.**

Washington should integrate IMC with regional approaches to state crisis services and locally-funded systems of social determinants of health to achieve whole person care.
- **Establish robust accountability and transparency of Medicaid funding.**

Washington should establish clear transparency in rate-setting to assure that Medicaid funding for community behavioral health care is clearly identified and enhanced, or maintained, in the integrated financing approach. The Health Care Authority, in partnership with counties, should

also establish measures to monitor and mitigate for potential increases in crisis services. At a minimum, a maintenance-of-effort (MOE) funding level should be maintained and formally monitored for behavioral health care.

- **Increase access to care by addressing workforce challenges and expanding community-based behavioral treatment capacity with housing and supports.**

King County supports investments in safe and appropriate treatment options for care close to home. Community placements with integrated services and supports are essential to the stability of individuals with behavioral health conditions discharging from state and local hospitals.

Faith Action Network

No 2020 priorities available as of 12/15/19

Environmental Issues

King County-Cities Climate Collaborative (K4C)

- **Climate Policy**
 - **K4C supports comprehensive science-based limits and a market-based price on carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases.**
 - Support a price on carbon based on best available science that reinvests a substantial share of revenues in efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., transit service, energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, forest protection and restoration), prioritize investments that benefit communities most impacted by climate change, and ensure a just transition for workers in fossil fuel industries.
 - Support policies that establish and use “cost of carbon” methods for analysis and decision-making.
 - Strengthen state climate change targets to align with the Department of Ecology’s 2016 recommendations which are complementary to K4C and Growth Management Planning Council adopted targets.
- **Transportation and Land Use**
 - **K4C supports comprehensive state policies and investments that reduce emissions from the transportation sector by reducing vehicle miles travelled, lowering the GHG intensity of fuels, and catalyzing investments in clean passenger, transit, and heavy-duty vehicles. K4C supports policies to focus growth inside the Urban Growth Area cities and centers well served by transit and other mobility options.**
 - Support, as part of a comprehensive strategy for reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions:
 - ✓ Protection for and expansion of funding for public transit;
 - ✓ Adoption of cleaner fuel standards;
 - ✓ Incentives and investments for electrification of public and private fleets and lower pollution from transportation fuels;
 - ✓ Continued funding and expansion as in previous years of the Commute Trip Reduction program and the Regional Mobility Grant program;
 - ✓ Policies and incentives to support transit friendly development and easy connections in vicinity of planned rail and high capacity transit and employment centers;
 - ✓ Follow through on principles for the VW Funding Settlement developed by the Puget

- ✓ Sound Clean Air Agency in partnership with King County and several K4C partners

- **Energy Supply**

- **K4C supports existing state renewable energy commitments including the Renewable Portfolio Standard and the Clean Energy Transformation Act that provide for 100% Clean electricity supply by 2045 by partnering with local utilities, state regulators and other stakeholders on a countywide commitment to clean energy resources. Support policies that meet our future energy needs through deep energy efficiency, grid modernization, and expanded renewable generation while phasing-out fossil fuels.**
 - Support a clear, articulated pathway for retirement of fossil fuel energy supplies that protects ratepayers, creates jobs, supports a just transition, and maximizes replacement with new renewable resources.
 - Support changes in the utility Integrated Resource Planning process that promote equitable consideration of environmental and health benefits and greater emphasis on energy efficiency and demand management.
 - Support the Energy Independence Act (I-937) that requires increasing percentages of new energy load to be met by renewable sources other than hydropower. Washington State's current renewable portfolio standard is currently at 9% of utility load, increasing to 15% by 2020 and years beyond.
 - Support distributed solar energy generation. Current state legislation limits the size of solar arrays that qualify for retail electricity rates and limits the ability to meet net zero energy goals for larger buildings and the cumulative generating capacity from these renewable energy systems. We support policy changes that would expand utility limits for these systems and allow for development of larger solar installations while considering both the benefits of increased distributed solar energy generation and ratepayer fairness.

- **Green Building and Energy Efficiency**

- **K4C supports state policy changes and investments that will help us to reduce energy use in existing buildings 25% below 2012 levels by 2030, achieve net-zero GHG emissions in new buildings by 2030, and reduce fossil fuel use in buildings by 20% by 2030.**
 - Continue to strengthen our Washington State Energy code, leading the way to "net-zero emissions" buildings by 2030.
 - Support policies and new funding mechanisms to reduce energy use and save money for King County residents and businesses.
 - Support policies, tools and programs to reduce construction-related emissions, including embodied carbon in construction materials.
 - Provide State Department of Commerce grants to leverage energy efficiency and renewable energy investments by local governments.

People for Climate Action Kirkland

- **A Clean Fuel Standard**

HB 1110/SB 5412

- Reducing the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with transportation fuels. Transportation fuels are responsible for nearly half of our global warming pollution in Washington. This bill requires oil refiners and importers to reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuels by 10% by 2028 and a 20% by 2035.

- **Adoption of California ZEV (Zero Emission Vehicles) Standards**

SB 5811/HB 1999

- Reducing emissions by making changes to the clean car standards and clean car program. California is the only state allowed under the federal Clean Air Act to adopt state standards for vehicle emissions, however other states are allowed to match California's standards. This bill authorizes Washington to match all of California's requirements for automakers to make available for sale in Washington State, both a broad range and a certain percentage of Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV's). 10 states currently have adopted a ZEV standard, including our West Coast neighbors, California and Oregon.

- **Rulemaking on Methane Emissions**

HB 1597

- Incorporating comprehensive measurements of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from certain fossil fuels into state environmental laws. Establishes a rule detailing the global warming impact of gas infrastructure/upstream methane pollution. Methane is such a powerful GHG that some have stated it is 87 times more damaging than carbon dioxide. This bill directs the Dept. of Ecology to establish a rule detailing the global warming impact of gas infrastructure, including new power plants. The Department of Ecology will manage the rulemaking process with a group that includes state agencies, local governments, affected communities, tribal nations, electric and gas utilities, pipeline companies, academic and industry experts, environmental advocates and the general public. It authorizes the Department of Ecology to establish the rate at which methane (primary component of natural gas) leaks throughout the lifecycle process (from fracking at the wellhead to transporting, processing, storing and burning at power plants, LNG facilities, petrochemical facilities, homes and businesses). This leakage rate will apply to state and local permits for new gas projects and to assess the impacts of existing facilities. It would establish a rule to research and develop both a leakage rate and the global warming potential of methane (CH₄) emissions. Rules about methane leakage accounting will help ensure gas-fired power plants aren't built in transition to 100% clean energy.

- **Commercial Buildings Efficiency Funding Bill**

HB 1796/SB 5730

- Concerning commercial property assessed clean energy and resilience. (C-PACER Bill) Commercial, Property Assessed Clean Energy & Resilience). Establishes low-cost, long-term funding for new and existing commercial, industrial, non-profit and multi-family building's energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, fire protection, seismic or flood readiness enhancements. Local government and local lenders would cooperate on loans secured by the property tax obligation, similar to a local improvement district. This debt does not appear as an obligation on the owner's balance sheet and the repayment obligation stays with the property rather than the owner, when the building is sold. Many such loan programs do not require any money down. Loan payments are largely offset by lower utility bills and lower insurance premiums. More than 30 states have passed PACE legislation since it was developed in 2008. California was the first to pass it and has made nearly \$3 Billion in PACE loans.

Water Issues

WRIA 8

- **STATE POLICY LEGISLATION PRIORITIES**
 - Support and explore opportunities to engage in developing legislation that seeks to provide immunity from liability for entities that implement habitat restoration projects involving the placement of large wood.
 - Track and support legislation that seeks to improve regulatory protections for areas that are important for salmon habitat, and oppose legislation that reduces regulatory protections for these areas.
 - Track and participate in continued efforts to explore watershed-based and/or regional funding authorities to support multiple-benefit projects that address salmon habitat protection and restoration, water quality, stormwater management, and flood management.
- **STATE SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET PRIORITIES**
 - Identify and support specific funding requests for priority projects identified in and/or consistent with the WRIA 8 salmon recovery strategies.
 - Support state agency budget requests for monitoring salmon populations and for studies and management of predation, disease, and other issues that affect WRIA 8 salmon populations.

Cascade Water Alliance

- **Wastewater Governance:** Find solutions that enable utility agencies within the King County wastewater service area to have a voice and a vote in critical governance, rates, budgets, plans, etc. on measures that directly affect their customers
- **PFOAs Measures:** Work with affected utilities to coordinate on this critical issue and raise legislative awareness regarding allowable levels and potential remediation (**PFOA is short for perfluorooctanoic acid <also called C8>, a synthetic chemical compound that is used, along with PTFE, to manufacture certain fluoropolymer- and telomer-based consumer products, including nonstick pan coatings like Teflon*)
- **Affordability Measures:** Consider statute language to allow utilities to address such issues
- **Milfoil Prevention:** Follow example of California and Oregon and restrict boater access to state waters without boat inspection

Public Safety Issues

Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs

No 2020 priorities available as of 12/15/19

Washington Fire Chiefs Association

- **Stable funding & revenue for fire service agencies**
 - In conjunction with other fire service partners, WFC supports legislation to allow for the permanent imposition of a fire benefit service charge, subject to voter approval.
 - Working with other fire service partners, WFC supports passage of HB 1169 (Peterson/Griffey) to clarify state law regarding cost reimbursement from insurance carriers for services and supplies used in the cleanup and removal of debris and hazardous substances that go beyond what taxpayers fund for fire department readiness.

- **Wildland Policy**
 - Early deployment of mobilization resources – WFC supports legislation to allow for the early deployment of resources in instances of known, forthcoming mobilizations, with the aim of engaging suppression efforts earlier.
 - Adequate reimbursement for mobilization costs – WFC, in conjunction with local agencies, is exploring possible efforts to enable fire service jurisdictions sending resources for state-approved mobilization events to recover more of their actual cost for those resources, with the aim of mitigating local disincentives to sending needed resources for mobilization efforts.
 - Wildland fire funding increase – WFC supports DNR’s funding request for additional investment in several key areas regarding wildland fire suppression and mitigation, which would lead to quicker response, increased prevention efforts, and better forest health practices.
- **Volunteer FF Pension**
 - WFC is supporting an effort by the WSFFA/BVFF to increase the pension benefit for volunteer firefighters. HB 1912 (Blake) & SB 5892 (Mullet) have been introduced and would increase the base pension by \$50, up to \$350/month, for all current and future retirees; remove the cap of 25 pension payments; increase the annual pension fee from \$60 to \$90; and increase the annual disability fee from \$30 to \$50. There will be no increase in administrative costs to the agency.
- **JATC Funding & Sustainability**
 - WFC, in conjunction with the WSCFF, supports a study to identify opportunities for improving the JATC program, which currently resides with the State Fire Marshal’s Office and is governed by LNI. The study would be led by the Washington State Board for Community & Technical Colleges, where many other apprenticeship programs are currently operated.
- **Washington State Association of Fire Marshals’ Issues**
 - WFC supports WSAFM efforts on a number of legislative action items, including food truck safety, townhome fire safety, and adult family home (AFH) fire safety.

Alliance for Gun Responsibility

- **Regulate Access to Ammunition and High-Capacity Magazines:** Washington’s background check system helps ensure firearms do not make it into dangerous hands. However, we do not currently address access to ammunition and the high-capacity magazines that make semi-automatic weapons extraordinarily deadly. We should take steps to require background checks on all ammunition and magazine purchases and prohibit magazines that can carry more than 10 rounds.
- **Address the Intersection of Alcohol and Firearm Violence:** Emerging research shows a clear link between even a single driving under the influence (DUI) conviction and future violent acts. Today, our law prohibits firearms possession after a felony DUI. We can help keep guns out of crisis situations by adjusting our laws to temporarily restrict access to firearms after a second DUI conviction, while incentivizing treatment pathways and encouraging continued sobriety where appropriate by allowing for earlier restoration of firearms rights.
- **Keep Kids Safe:** Firearms are prohibited in K-12 schools across our state. But other places where our children gather to learn and play do not have similar protections. We can help keep our kids safe by extending the protections for K-12 schools to early learning centers, parks, and libraries across Washington.

- **Restore Local Authority:** If local leaders determine there are events or places where firearms present a high risk, they should be able to act. Our state should allow local governments to put stronger laws into place when it is right for the community.
- **Centralize Our Background Check System:** In 2019, the Legislature passed HB 1949, directing the Office of Financial Management to study ways to centralize our state's background check system. The Legislature should implement and fully fund the suggestions brought forward as a result of that study.
- **Keep Confiscated Crime Guns Off The Street:** Allowing the State Patrol to destroy confiscated crime guns, rather than require them to auction or trade them will help keep dangerous crime guns out of our communities.
- **Require Safety Training:** Twenty-seven states and the District of Columbia require safety training before issuing a concealed pistol license; Washington is not one of these states. Updating our laws to include training requirements will help ensure people carrying concealed weapons know how to safely handle them.
- **Community and Victim Protection:** Washington continues to make tremendous strides to help ensure firearms are removed from dangerous people and crisis situations. As we implement these laws, there are additional ways to strengthen these provisions, including allowing access to important databases, aligning penalties for violations, clarifying procedures to restore firearm rights, ensuring concealed pistol licenses are removed at the same time as firearms, funding crime victims support with a surcharge on ammunition sales, and using best practices for surrender processes statewide.
- **Support Community-Based Programs:** Research on programs in cities like New York, Oakland, and Milwaukee continues to show the promise of holistic, community-based programs in preventing gun violence. Supporting programs like these in Washington will help interrupt and prevent gun violence.
- **Require Reporting of Lost and Stolen Firearms:** Our state should follow the example of a growing number of cities in Washington and require owners to alert law enforcement that their weapon may now be on the black market within 48 hours of the weapon being lost or stolen.
- **Require Law Enforcement Agencies to Participate in Firearms Tracing:** Law enforcement agencies have a number of tools at their disposal to trace firearms from the point of sale to the crime scene, and to connect weapons to multiple crimes, but all too often these systems go unutilized. Implementing programs to overcome barriers to using these systems will help law enforcement agencies to use them statewide.
- **Update Laws to Ensure Violent Individuals Are Prohibited from Purchasing Firearms:** Illegal discharge, or display of a firearm and other crimes do not currently prohibit potentially dangerous individuals from purchasing and possessing firearms. This ought to be rectified. In addition, we should make the act of threatening to commit mass violence a crime that prohibits individuals from possessing firearms.

Parks Issues

Washington Recreation and Parks Association

- **Provide Local Parks and Recreation Agencies with new Funding Options to Address Vital M&O and Preservation Needs and to Enhance Economic Development**
 - (Policy/Fiscal Bill) Parks and recreation are outdoor, quality-of-life amenities that are highly valued by the public. They offer activities that help us maintain physical health and well-being; protect open spaces and facilities that make our communities attractive and vibrant; they help to sell homes. Just as importantly, local parks and recreation programs enhance jobs-creation and economic development efforts and build trail networks that connect our communities. But investments in local parks and recreation suffered during the Great Recession and have lagged behind areas such as public safety in the years afterward. At the same time, a WRPA survey of parks agencies has shown a growing M&O deficit and backlog. WRPA will work with key lawmakers on a modified bill that is narrower than 2019 legislation authorizing the creation of Parks Benefit Districts. The 2020 bill will allow parks and recreation agencies to take a .1 percent sales tax increase to voters and bond against new sales tax proceeds upon voter approval. A few parks and recreation agencies have this authority, but the overwhelming majority – including all Metropolitan Park Districts (MPDs) and Park Districts – do not.
- **Strongly Support \$50,000 Allocation to Update Outdoor Recreation Sector Economic Analysis**
 - (Operating Budget) WRPA joins a broad-based coalition of organizations in urging the Legislature to expend \$50,000 to update the “Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State” first released in January 2015. The initial report showed that the outdoor recreation sector generates \$21.6 billion a year in economic activity, \$12.5 billion in direct sales, and \$4.7 billion in household wages. The study should be regularly refreshed and updated to give fiscal and policy decision-makers current information on the economic, social, health, and environmental benefits of the outdoor recreation sector.
- **Protect Funding for Dedicated Accounts within the Capital Budget**
 - (Capital Budget) As the Legislature considers its 2020 Supplemental Capital Budget, WRPA urges lawmakers to refrain from diverting funding from dedicated accounts that are focused on funding outdoor recreation activities. Additionally, WRPA urges legislators to utilize the dedicated accounts for fund outdoor recreation programs and avoid the use of “bond backfill” that ends up putting funding in jeopardy and in competition with other critical construction projects. Dedicated accounts that are key to WRPA include the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP), Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF), and Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA), as well as others including the Boating Facilities Program (BFP), Non-Highway Off-Road Vehicle Account (NOVA), and Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). WRPA urges lawmakers to keep top-of-mind studies showing that the outdoor recreation sector generates nearly \$22 billion a year in economic activity for the state, as well as 200,000+ jobs.

Open Government and Transparency Issues

Washington Coalition for Open Government

No 2020 priorities available as of 12/15/19

Other Jurisdictions' Issues

Lake Washington School District #414

- **Academic Success**
 - **Special Education Programs and Services:** The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) estimated the cost of fully funding special education to be \$308 million per year or \$616 million per biennium. This would be needed on top of the approximately \$3.3 billion allocated to the special education programs going forward. In the 2019 Session, the Legislature increased special education funding by changing the safety net program and increasing the excess cost multiplier.
While the Legislature has made some progress, more work needs to be done. The special education funding shortfall forces school districts to either spend levy dollars on this essential component of basic education or risk being in violation of federal law.
- **Well-Being**
 - **Social Emotional Learning:** Students are most successful when their social-emotional, mental, and physical needs are met at school. The Legislature needs to update the prototypical school model and provide more funding for counselors at all grade levels. The Legislature should work with districts on additional pilot programs that could help to promote social-emotional learning which enhances school safety.
- **Effective Use of Resources**
 - **School Construction Funding:** Rapid enrollment growth in the Puget Sound area and new class size mandates have created significant demand for new school facilities. We also need changes to the school construction funding formula so that the state pays a fair share of the cost of building schools.
 - **Simple Majority for School Bonds:** We need a constitutional amendment that authorizes simple majority for school bonds.
- **Excellent Staff**
 - **School Employees Benefits Board:** In 2017, the Legislature created the School Employees Benefits Board (SEBB). The goal was to bring all school employees in the state into one benefits pool and save money. There are a number of outstanding issues with the new program, including unfunded costs, coverage for substitutes, and ending program participation when premiums are not paid.

King County

No 2020 priorities found as of 12/15/19

SCA 2020 Legislative Agenda

- **Address the Affordable Housing and Homelessness Crisis**

The state and cities must partner to preserve and increase the supply of affordable housing as, well as address behavioral health needs and other root causes of homelessness. Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to:

- *Allow cities to create and preserve affordable housing through optional local tools, including extending the timeline to approve a "qualifying local tax" provided under HB 1406 adopted in the 2019 legislative session*
- *Continue to expand investment in the Housing Trust Fund*
- *Address other underlying causes of homelessness by providing support to cities to implement innovative local solutions and increasing investments in our state's behavioral health system*

- **Invest in Transportation Infrastructure and Mobility**

The economic vitality of our state demands that we invest in our existing transportation infrastructure and prioritize new investments that improve the movement of people and goods. Cities have increased investments in local transportation systems, but still face an annual funding gap for maintenance and operation of those systems of \$1 billion statewide. Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to:

- *Partner with cities to develop a comprehensive transportation bill that provides new resources and options for local government to address transportation and mobility needs*

- **Fully Fund the Public Works Trust Fund and Provide Options for Local Infrastructure Needs**

Today's cities are building the infrastructure necessary to accommodate a growing population and economy. Investments in infrastructure keep communities vibrant, protect the environment, and attract economic development. Cities need tools to lower the cost of providing local infrastructure and to avoid further exacerbating the housing affordability crisis. Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to:

- *Fully fund the Public Works Trust Fund*
- *Support economic development tools that help maintain and expand local infrastructure, such as Tax Increment Financing and similar tools*

- **Preserve Local Decision-Making Authority**

Cities possess strong local knowledge and authority to keep communities safe, healthy, and improve quality of life. It is critical cities maintain the authority to provide the necessary services and retain local control over land use planning that will help communities thrive.

- **Provide the Tools for Cities to Address Local Priorities**

City revenue streams are limited and are not structured to sustainably keep-up with rising costs. Cities need flexible local funding tools, fewer unfunded mandates, and continued support from the state for shared responsibilities. Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to:

- *Replace the arbitrary 1% cap on annual property tax increases with a limit tied to inflation plus population growth*
- *Meet the state's commitment to revenues intended to be shared with cities to serve our shared constituents*
- *Continue streamlined sales tax mitigation to affected cities*

Other Allies / Issues

Lake Washington Institute of Technology

- **Support Washington Community and Technical Colleges 2020 Supplemental Capital Budget request, which would fund 25 projects at 23 colleges across the state.**

For the 2020 session, the Washington Community and Technical Colleges are requesting capital investments to modernize its aging campuses and ensure they provide excellent teaching and learning environments for their students. The capital investments to modernize their aging campuses and ensure they provide excellent teaching and learning environments for their students.

In the 21-23 biennium, Lake Washington Institute of Technology's (LWTech) community and technical college plans to request \$31.5 M in capital budget funding for the construction of its Center for Design. The new facility will include state of the art classrooms and labs for our high-demand engineering, design, gaming, and software development associate and applied baccalaureate programs. This facility would also include much needed multipurpose space for college and community functions.