



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**City Manager's Office**  
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## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager  
**From:** Lorrie McKay, Intergovernmental Relations Manager  
**Date:** February 16, 2021  
**Subject:** KING COUNTY COUNCILMEMBER CLAUDIA BALDUCCI, LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

City Council should receive a legislative update on County issues from King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci (Attachment A).

### **BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:**

King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci believes that government should tackle the big issues that drive livability in our region, notably housing, transportation and the environment. She represents King County District 6 on the Eastside, was elected by her colleagues to chair the King County Council in 2020, Claudia was unanimously re-elected as Chair of the County Council in January this year.

A former Mayor of Bellevue, Balducci is Chair of Sound Transit's System Expansion Committee, Vice President of the Puget Sound Regional Council, and Chair of the County's Affordable Housing Committee. A longtime resident of Bellevue, Claudia was elected to the Bellevue City Council three times, serving for 12 years. She served as Bellevue Mayor from 2014-15 and successfully advocated for arts and culture programs, improved educational opportunities, and smart transportation investments.

County councilmembers serve four-year terms. Ms. Balducci was re-elected in 2019 and her current term is through 2023.

Claudia lives in Bellevue with her husband Jim, their son Victor, and adopted shelter pets Sabrina the cat and Angel the dog.

Attachments: Attachment A - Biography

# About Claudia

King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci is a mom, transportation and affordable housing leader, and a former public safety official. She believes that government should tackle the big issues that matter to people, notably housing, transportation and the environment. Claudia represents King County District 6 on the Eastside, and in 2020 was elected by her colleagues to chair the King County Council.

Claudia first became active in civic life when she joined her neighbors to advocate for the revitalization of her local shopping center in the Lake Hills community of Bellevue. She went on to serve as on the Bellevue City Council, including one term as Mayor. She is a regional leader, serving as chair of the Sound Transit Board's System Expansion Committee, vice president of the Puget Sound Regional Council and chair of the County's Affordable Housing Committee.



## **Transit Champion**

As an elected official, Claudia has championed transportation solutions to benefit all Eastsiders, notably fighting to extend light rail from Seattle to Bellevue, Redmond and beyond. She has also advocated for improvements to major freeways, like SR 520 and I-405, as well as local arterials, regional trails and better bike lanes in Bellevue.

## **Affordable Housing Leader**

Because runaway housing costs and homelessness are regional problems that require regional solutions, Claudia has worked with stakeholders and leaders across King County to find solutions. In 2017 and 2018 she initiated and co-chaired a Regional Affordable Housing Taskforce, which included elected representatives from the County, Seattle and other cities to develop recommendations toward a common goal of providing homes for all residents. She now chairs the Affordable Housing Committee, a regional body dedicated to implementing the Task Force recommendations. Additionally, as Mayor of Bellevue and County Councilmember, Claudia has worked with Eastside cities to create emergency shelters for men, women and families without homes.

## **Connecting Parks and Open Space with People**

As Chair of the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee she led Council's work on the 2020-2025 King County Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Levy, which 70% of voters approved in 2019. The renewed levy makes investments across the county, including over \$50.5 million to build out the new Eastrail connecting from Renton to Woodinville. It also funds open space, pools and playfields across the Eastside.

## **In the Community**

Claudia is a strong advocate for education and the arts, supporting great organizations like KidsQuest Children's Museum, Music Works Northwest, Bellevue Youth Theater, Youth Theatre Northwest, and many more. In 2019, she worked to find \$1 million for the Outdoors for All Foundation's capital campaign that will enable the organization to expand its ability to provide life enriching recreational programs to people living with disabilities across our region.

In 2015, Claudia was recognized as "Elected Official of the Year" by the Alliance of Eastside Agencies (Human Services) and the Washington State Democratic Party. In 2016, Claudia was inducted into the Transportation Choices Transportation Heroes Hall of Fame and, in 2019, the Puget Sound Business Journal named her the Transportation Executive of the Year.

Claudia is a graduate of Providence College and the Columbia University School of Law. She lives in Bellevue with her husband, Jim, son Victor, and adopted shelter pets Sabrina the cat and Angel the dog.