



CITY OF SEATTLE

2007 State Legislative Agenda Final Report

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SESSION PRIORITIES – 2007

Business & Occupation Apportionment Fix – Seattle estimates a loss of at least \$21 million annually to our general fund starting in 2008 due to the implementation of apportionment of local B&O taxes. We are asking the Legislature to address this issue and eliminate or reduce the anticipated loss.

SHB 2368 would provide some changes to the municipal business and occupation tax statute. Seattle anticipates a loss of up to \$21 million in 2008. This bill may have saved \$5 million. This bill did not come up for a vote in the House. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Education – Seattle supports the efforts of WA Learns and the State's responsibility to fully fund K-12 education, including closing the achievement gap between different ethnic groups and family income levels. A quality education for all students is key to the social and economic vitality of our city. Seattle specifically supports:

- A new comprehensive definition of basic education and full funding to, at a minimum, reach this basic level of education

HB 1288 revises the essential academic learning requirements and statewide academic assessment system. This bill did not pass out of the House.

HB 1641 and **SB 5501** implements Washington Learns recommendations. Neither bill made it out of its original committee.

- Additional resources for early learning programs

E2SSB 5828 is the Early Learning Bill creating an Advisory Committee and Quality Rating program that was signed into law and is effective July 22. The Operating Budget includes approximately \$12 million in State general funds, including \$5 million for quality rating which will be developed to standardize the evaluation of child care sites. This will provide valuable information for parents seeking good care for their children. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

- Fully funded all-day kindergarten

The operating budget (**HB 1128**) includes over \$51 million to begin phasing in all day kindergarten classes statewide focusing first on schools with high poverty levels. The funding anticipates approximately ten percent of enrollment will be covered during the 2007-08 school year and twenty percent in the 2008-09 school year.

- Maintain WASL standards and funding to attain passing scores

With **ESSB 6023** the legislature delayed the use of the math portion of the WASL as a graduating requirement until 2013 but they provided authority to the State Board of

Education to make a quicker reinstatement. Efforts to delay the reading and writing portions failed but additional alternative assessments for all three areas are part of this measure. This became law immediately upon the Governor's signature.

- Efforts to examine local governance of public schools to ensure greater fiscal accountability and student achievement

EHJR 4204 amends the Constitution to provide for a simple majority of voters to authorize a school levy. EHJR 4204 passed the House and Senate and was filed with the Secretary of State for a November, 2007 statewide vote. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

SB 5028 provides for a simple majority of voters voting to authorize school district bonds. The bill did not pass the Senate. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

- Efforts to advance standards for culturally competent education

There was no legislation introduced relating to this issue

- Enhanced and stable funding for arts in public education

There was no legislation introduced relating to this issue.

Annexation Incentives – Seattle supports legislation modeled after 2006 SB 6686 that would allow Seattle to receive a sales tax credit if it annexes all or a portion of the North Highline unincorporated area.

ESHB 1139 and **SB 5330** provide an opportunity to access a state sales tax credit if an annexation of a population of over 10,000 occurs before 2010. Neither bill moved from the Senate Ways & Means Committee. **Seattle supports these bills.**

Civil Rights - Every person has the right to live, work, learn and play free from discrimination. We support the extension of statewide protection to all class groups recognized by the City of Seattle. We support local discretion with regard to implementing I-200 restrictions in both education and employment opportunities. We support statutory changes to provide gay and lesbian people the legal right to marry. We support practices and local control to allow for equal opportunities for all people in business, education and job opportunities. We support the restoration of voting rights to felons once they have completed their prison term or time under community supervision. Finally, we support enacting laws to protect consumers from predatory terms and tactics employed in the lending and collection of payday loans and check cashing.

SSB 5336 protects individuals in domestic partnerships by granting certain rights and benefits such as the ability to visit the partner in the hospital, make funeral arrangements and sue for wrongful death. SSB 5336 was signed by the Governor and is effective July 22. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

SHB 1472 addresses racial disproportionality in the child welfare system by appropriating \$220,000 for implementation of a study to be conducted by the Washington State Institute of Public Policy to determine what disproportionality exists in the system. The bill has been signed by the Governor. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

The Operating Budget includes \$1.5 million of State general funds for naturalization services. The City of Seattle will receive approximately \$100,000 in additional funds for its Naturalization and Citizenship Initiative (NCI).

HB 1350 and **SB 5335** address civil marriage equality. Neither bill made it out of the original committee. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

HB 1473 and **SSB 5530** change requirements for the restoration of the right to vote for people convicted of felonies. Neither bill made it out of its original chamber. **Seattle supports these bills.**

HB 2132 directs Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee to conduct a comprehensive study of the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprise. This bill did not pass out of the House. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Pay Day Loans – Legislation to limit pay day lending to 37% did not pass. Significant differences in the approach to dealing with exploitative practices of pay day lenders exist, for example, some believe that improving access to loans through mainstream lenders would be more effective. **Seattle supports the imposition of regulations to limit excessive interest rates, especially to low income and vulnerable consumers.**

Crime Guns – To help keep our communities safe, Seattle supports the ability to collect and share crime gun data among law enforcement agencies statewide, and efforts to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, including legislation to close the gun show loophole, the banning of assault weapons and measures that prevent child access to firearms.

HB 1026 and **SSB 5197** would regulate the sale of firearms at gun shows and events. SSB 5197 passed out of the Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee but went no further. The House bill did not receive a hearing. **Seattle supports these bills.**

Discovery Park Funding – Seattle supports a capital funding request of \$1 million to help purchase the 24-acre CapeHart Housing site, adding it to the current 534-acre park enjoyed by people from the Puget Sound region.

ESHB 1092 makes appropriations and authorizing expenditures for capital improvements. The 2007-09 Capital Budget includes a \$1 million re-appropriation for the Discovery Park CapeHart Housing acquisition plus \$1.2 million in new state funding.

Environment – Seattle supports measures to protect our natural surroundings and promote a healthy and clean environment while reducing negative effects of climate change including:

- State efforts to reach the Kyoto Protocol Agreement targets and helping local jurisdictions and communities achieve similar goals

SHB 1929 authorizes utilities to engage in environmental mitigation efforts. This bill was drafted specifically to address the recent State Supreme Court decision *Okeson v Seattle*. The bill was signed by the Governor and becomes effective July 22. **Seattle supported this bill.**

ESSB 6001 mitigates the impacts of climate change. This bill places restrictions on the amount of greenhouse gases electric utilities emit and includes establishing Kyoto levels for the state. Performance standards are established beginning July 1, 2008, such as how many pounds of greenhouse gas emissions can be emitted per megawatt hour. These standards must be met when utilities enter into long-term financial agreements. Exemptions are made for catastrophic events related to electric system. The bill was signed by the Governor. **Seattle supported this bill.**

- Efforts to increase the use of and accessibility to alternative fuels

E2SHB 1303, encouraging the use of cleaner energy, has been signed into law by the Governor. This bill does a number of things to encourage the use of alternative fuels, including state purchasing of hybrids, switching out of dirty school buses, and a study group to explore vehicle electrification. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

- Measures to promote fuel efficiency and carbon emissions reductions, including tax incentives and higher fuel standards

There was no legislation introduced relating to this issue.

- Efforts to clean up and protect Puget Sound

ESSB 5372 creating the Puget Sound Partnership has been signed into law by the Governor. This measure restructures how the state will approach the management and clean up of Puget Sound.

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Infrastructure/Finance – Seattle believes that growth and density in the region should be focused in urban areas, which will require improvements to accommodate the expected increase. To meet this goal Seattle supports local control and flexibility in funding sources and additional tools for basic infrastructure to attract people, businesses and jobs to the city and state. This support includes:

- Streamlining Sales Tax with full mitigation for negatively affected jurisdictions

SSB 5089 implements the Streamlined Sales Tax provisions. SSB 5089 was signed by the Governor and becomes effective July 1, 2008. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

- Increasing the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)

The Capital Budget also includes \$100 million for the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP). Seattle will receive \$200,000 for Ercolini Park development, \$300,000 for Longfellow Creek Greenspace expansion, and \$500,000 for South Lake Union Park development. Magnuson Park Rugby Field, Magnuson Park Trail extension, Magnuson Park Wetlands restoration, and Lake Washington Boulevard Trail development are all alternates for funding in the WWRP.

- Maintaining and improving Seattle Center as a vibrant regional attraction

There was no legislation introduced relating to this issue.

- Allowing greater return on investments to the Public Works Trust Fund

There was no legislation introduced relating to this issue.

- Allowing cities to participate in the New Market Tax Credit program

HB 1430 allows local jurisdictions greater access to New Market Tax Credits by allowing cities to be the applicant for this federal economic development fund. Previously, cities were not allowed to apply for these funds. HB 1430 was signed by the Governor and becomes effective July 22. **Seattle supported this bill.**

- Providing all jurisdictions an opportunity to access the LIFT program

2SHB 1277 has been signed into law by the Governor. The bill and budget increases the amount the state will spend on the program from \$5 million to \$7.5 million per year. There is still confusion as to whether more than one jurisdiction per county can use the program.

- State participation in funding for commemorating the Centennial of the Alaskan Yukon Pacific Exhibition (AYPE)

There was no action taken relating to this issue.

- Support funding for performing arts and cultural organizations and institutions

There was nothing in the budget relating to this issue.

- Identifying stable and increased State funding to local public health agencies including Public Health Seattle & King County.

The operating budget includes \$20 million in new funding for core public health functions. Seattle-King County will receive approximately \$4.4 million in new funding for the biennium. **Seattle supported this funding request.**

Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness – Seattle will work with the State and other local jurisdictions to assure appropriate financial participation by all levels of government for critical human services. To that end Seattle supports State efforts to implement the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness including:

- Measures to reduce the number of people at risk of homelessness or seeking emergency shelter, including increasing the General Assistance – Unemployable (GA-U) benefit and increasing and protecting Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) benefits and eligibility
- Measures to reduce the number of people cycling through our jails, hospitals and institutions, including increasing King County’s share of state Medicaid funding for mental health treatment services and adding mental health as a GA-U Medicaid benefit

The Operating Budget included \$1.2 billion to implement all components of the WorkFirst program. \$500,000 was appropriated for services to TANF families in sanction status. GA-U funding was not reduced in the Operating Budget

2SHB 1201 extends Medicaid coverage for foster care youth until age 21. \$1.4 million of State general funds have been appropriated. The bill was signed by the Governor and becomes effective July 22. **Seattle supported this bill.**

- Creation of more affordable housing, helping to prevent homelessness by increasing the Housing Trust Fund and Washington Families Fund

The Capital Budget (**ESHB 1092**) includes \$130 million for the Housing Trust Fund.

E2SHB 1359 creates a new \$8 document recording fee to fund programs to end homelessness. The bill will bring \$4 million of flexible funding to King County each biennium. The bill has been signed by the Governor and becomes effective July 22. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

2SHB 1922 creates an independent housing program for youth who are legally dependent at age 18, including those in foster care. The bill has been signed by the Governor and becomes effective July 22. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

Transportation – Seattle supports legislation and funding that assists the City with maintenance of our entire transportation system, from mega projects like the SR 520 and Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall Replacement, to installing sidewalks in the city and increasing transit options. This includes:

After much discussion and bill drafts there were no changes to transportation governance in the Puget Sound region. However, there is \$400,000 for additional analysis of options. **SHB 1396** allows for a single ballot measure for the Sound Transit and the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) in the 2007 general election. This bill was signed by the Governor.

- The ability to move forward on the preferred alternative (Tunnel) for the Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall Replacement Project

ESHB 1094 is the Transportation Budget approved by the legislature. Regarding the Alaskan Way Viaduct (AWV), the bill states that money cannot be used to decrease capacity as measured by efficient movement of people and goods. A collaborative process will determine the final project design with a decision made by December 31, 2008, and the state has said it will not spend more than \$2.8 billion. There is \$915 million for targeted projects on the north and south end of the facility.

There is a fund of \$1 billion for a risk pool to be used solely for the SR 99 – AWV project or SR 520. The amount for SR 99 cannot exceed \$400 million.

The SR 520 finance plan consists of \$670 million in state and federal funds along with future anticipated federal funding (\$200 million), tolling (\$1.2 billion), the Regional Transportation Investment District (\$1.1 billion) and the risk pool (\$600 million to \$1 billion).

- State supported mitigation for the SR 99 and SR 520 Replacement Projects

ESSB 6099 suggests the use of a mediator to reach a consensus on the SR 520 project. It now calls for work to be done on a six lane facility with the ability to add high capacity transit. This measure was signed by the Governor.

- Provide funding for local transportation options, particularly those that encourage fuel efficiency and carbon reduction

SHB 1858 allows transportation benefit districts councilmanic authority to impose the first \$20 (out of \$100) of the vehicle license fee. All other previously approved revenue sources must be imposed through a public vote. This measure was signed by the Governor.

Seattle supported this legislation.

- Planning and funding for improving transit connections to Colman Dock and for other strategies that reduce ferry trips by single occupancy vehicles and providing accommodation of foot passenger only ferries at terminal

There was no legislation introduced relating to this issue.

- State funding to support the replacement of the South Park Bridge.

There was no legislation introduced relating to this issue.

Water Trust Transfer – Seattle seeks legislation to allow a transfer of water rights to conform to the agreement between the City and Muckleshoot Tribe, which protects our pristine water supply.

The City and the Muckleshoot Tribe have agreed to pursue an administrative solution with the Dept. of Ecology. Therefore, the City did not pursue legislation at this session.

STATEMENT OF POLICY - 2007

The policy statements below represent ongoing priorities for the City of Seattle and its residents. The City urges the State Legislature to initiate and support legislation that advances the following principles:

Climate Protection and Air Quality

We believe all levels of government should seek to implement practices and policies that provide for strong climate protection. We support efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. We support maintaining and improving existing air quality programs to protect against adverse effects on humans and the environment.

Domestic Violence Protections

We are committed to ending domestic violence for our residents. We support legislative efforts to provide victims of domestic violence with the services, financial assistance and other resources they need to support their safety and leave abusive relationships.

HB 1520 states that law enforcement, prosecutors or other government officials may not ask or require a victim of an alleged sex offense to submit to a polygraph exam. The Governor signed the bill which is effective July 22. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

SHB 1555 addresses sexual assault protection orders. The Governor signed the bill which is effective July 22. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

SHB 1642 concerns criminal violations of no-contact orders, protection orders, and restraining orders. The Governor signed the bill which is effective July 22. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

SHB 1703 creates a domestic violence pilot program to co-locate a domestic violence advocate in the Dept. of Social and Health Services offices. This bill did not pass the House. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Economic Development

We support state efforts to provide local governments with financing tools and remove needless regulatory barriers in order to attract and retain businesses. We also support incentives that promote increased job and apprenticeship opportunities, wage progression and retention for workers. We support efforts to enhance our tourism industry. We support outreach efforts aimed at increasing the participation of Women and Minority Owned Businesses (WMBE) in state and local contracting.

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Elections and General Government

We support legislation allowing a local campaign-matching program for campaign donations in exchange for limits on campaign spending. We believe the State of Washington should pay for all elections related to state government and state offices.

We support local governance structures that allow flexibility among jurisdictions to meet requirements, such as open public meetings, in a way that reflects the organizational structure of the jurisdiction and does not interfere with public access.

SHB 1551 and **SSB 5278** allow public funding of local office campaigns. Neither bill passed out of the house of origin. **Seattle supports these bills.**

Energy

We support continued state assistance for low-income consumers of energy and efforts to improve the State's green power program. We support the development of a long-term energy strategy that includes planning for adequate energy capacity and supply. We also support measures which assist in our continued ability to meet our zero greenhouse gas emissions goal. We support the inclusion of low-impact hydroelectric power as a renewable energy in any legislation related to renewable energy portfolio standards.

HB 2038 and **SSB 5881** modify water power license fees. The fees, first established in 1929 have not been raised since. The fees help pay for state agency staff that work on licensing and re-licensing of hydro facilities. The Governor signed the bill which is effective July 22. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

ESSB 5312 addresses the issue of stolen metal property by placing new restrictions on cash transactions for recycling metal scrap. The Governor signed the bill which is effective July 22. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

SHB 1037 regards electrical transmission and establishes a process for the siting of transmission corridors in multiple or single jurisdictions. The Governor signed the bill which is effective July 22.

HB 1208 and **SB 5416** encourage carbon dioxide mitigation. Neither bill passed out of the house of origin.

Growth Management, Land Use and Annexation

We support the Growth Management Act (GMA) as the primary means of planning for growth. We support the further integration and streamlining of state land use and related statutes while preserving environmental protections. We support better integration of land use and transportation. We support minimum urban densities that take into consideration the circumstances of cities and address the regional need to meet longer-term growth.

We support efforts to protect and provide local government tools to implement "growth pays for growth" policies. We support state funding to assist jurisdictions in meeting planning requirements and infrastructure needs of the Growth Management Act and the Shoreline

Management Act. In addition, we support funding to help support the infrastructure and operating needs of cities where growth is being concentrated or where annexations occur.

2SHB 1636 creates a regional transfer of development rights (TDR) program in the Central Puget Sound area. The bill was signed by the Governor.

HB 1477 and **ESSB 5558** allow local governments more zoning flexibility over gambling establishments and limit the number of establishments statewide. They also contain provision for gambling establishments in areas annexed by a city with a ban in place. Neither bill passed out of the House.

Hazardous and Solid Waste

We support cleaning up hazardous waste sites through maintenance of the Local Toxics Control Account, as well as additional state assistance to local governments for the handling, treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous materials. We support measures to reduce toxins entering the waste stream, such as mercury switches in junk cars and PDBEs.

We support development of common industry standards for recycled products, funding for recycling facilities and legislative initiatives to increase waste reduction and recycling. We oppose measures that place undue burdens on local jurisdictions regarding the reporting of recycling information.

ESHB 1024 phases out the use of polybrominated dipheyl ethers (PBDEs). The Governor signed the bill which is effective July 22. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

Health Care

We support efforts to ensure all persons have accessible, affordable and culturally competent health care. We believe all persons in Washington State should have access to affordable prescription drug coverage, alcohol and substance abuse treatment, comprehensive mental health and dental health services. We support identifying enhanced and stable funding for drug and alcohol treatment programs.

2SHB 1088 improves delivery of mental health services to children. The Governor signed the bill which is effective July 22. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

2SSB 5093 increases the health care to 32,000 more children. The bill includes a \$34 million appropriation and creates an entitlement for children in families up to 300% of the federal poverty level. The Governor signed the bill which is effective July 22. **Seattle supported this bill.**

E2SSB 5659 creates a family & medical leave policy providing individuals \$250 per week. The funding mechanism to implement this policy will be studied over the interim.

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Homeland Security and Emergency Management

We support efforts to protect the public from terrorist threats and believe funding should be based on threat and risk assessments, both foreign and domestic. It is also critical that the State support efforts to prepare our communities for natural disasters. We support legislation protecting information regarding emergency preparedness and critical infrastructure. Finally, we support efforts to balance the need to effectively combat terrorism while protecting civil liberties and freedoms.

SB 5296 establishing the emergency management, preparedness, and assistance account made it out of the policy committee but did not make it out of Ways & Means.

Housing

We support efforts to provide affordable and safe housing for all income levels. We also support the development of discharge planning policies that assist people leaving institutions, including jails, prisons, hospitals, foster care, substance abuse programs and mental health facilities, to obtain stable housing. We support measures which address the issues of condo conversions.

We support legislation to allow courts to issue civil administrative warrants for conducting housing, property and health inspections in order to enforce the City's codes. We oppose efforts to diminish current authority to access property for public safety and other business purposes.

SGA 9223 appointed Seattle Councilmember Richard McIver to the Housing Finance Commission. The appointment was confirmed on April 4. **Seattle supported this appointment.**

E2SHB 1910 modifies property tax exemption provisions relating to new and rehabilitated multiple-unit dwellings in urban centers to encourage more affordable housing. This measure provides for a longer tax exemption if a portion of the project is for affordable housing. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

SHB 2014 and **SSB 5031** address the regulation of conversion condominiums. The proposal was to increase rental assistance and provide other protections for renters in apartment building that are converting to condominiums. The bills did not pass out of the house of origin. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

HB 1187 creates a new chapter regarding affordable housing, which was a technical bill to reorganize the statutes. The bill was amended in the Senate Committee on Consumer Protection & Housing to include condominium conversion. The amendment was ruled out of scope and was not included in the final bill. The bill was passed and signed by the Governor.

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Human Services

We strongly support maintaining and enhancing state funding for critical programs, and preserving the human services safety net to support our vulnerable populations and maintain healthy communities. We support opportunities for self-sufficiency, poverty relief and upward mobility.

HB 1365 increases funding for home visiting services for newborn children and parents did not pass out of the House. **Seattle supports this bill.**

The Operating Budget includes \$3.5 million for home visiting services.

The Operating Budget includes funding for a 2% vendor rate increase in 2007-08 and 2% in 2008-09 for community based providers for senior home based services. Some funds are included for Caregiver Support services.

Libraries

We support the current governance structure of libraries that provides for an independent library board. We also support open access to library materials and information on paper and in electronic form.

HB 2058 and **SB 5911** relate to administering the Washington talking book and Braille library. This measure would transfer the title of the library from the City of Seattle to the state. Neither bill moved out of the original committee. **Seattle opposes these bills.**

Parks

We support changes to the Conservation Futures statute to ensure cities receive an appropriate share of the revenues. We support efforts to increase funding for parks, recreation and open space programs.

SSB 5217 allowing counties to increase funding for properties acquired through conservation futures would have increased the amount a county to levy from 6.25 to 12.5. The bill did not make it out of Ways & Means.

Public Safety

We strive to ensure all people, including undocumented immigrants, feel safe and protected in their homes, businesses and on our streets. We support holding offenders accountable while striving to relieve demands on the adult and juvenile justice systems through prevention and early intervention programs, day reporting programs and increased access to alcohol, substance abuse and mental health treatment.

We support state requirements imposed on nightclubs serving alcohol and providing live music to install sprinkler systems as a matter of public safety. We support implementation of this state requirement by December of 2009 in order to enable business owners to renovate their establishments. We encourage the State Legislature to consider making financial resources available in the form of loans to assist small businesses. We also

support extending a state tax exemption to those that incur the cost of installing sprinkler systems.

We support examining the enhancement of auto theft sentencing including a review of penalties for juveniles and adults, creating a statewide penalty for possession of auto theft tools, funding for auto theft enforcement and investigation and raising sufficient revenue to cover enforcement costs.

We support review and implementation of measures to better protect and assist minors accused of engaging in the act of prostitution. We encourage the state to explore enhanced strategies to prosecute those charged with patronizing a juvenile prostitute.

E3SHB 1001 combating auto theft increases penalties and creates a new fund to help prevent auto theft. The fund will be administered by a newly created Auto Theft Prevention Authority. Members appointed by the Governor will include the police chiefs and sheriffs, the state patrol and a prosecuting attorney. The bill was signed by the Governor and is effective July 22. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

2SHB 1811 changes the date when requiring automatic sprinkler systems be installed in nightclubs to December 2009. The Governor signed the bill which is effective July 22. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

SSB 5718 imposes penalties for engaging in the commercial sexual abuse of minors. The bill was signed by the Governor and is effective July 22. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

ESHB 1030 enhances the penalty for eluding a police vehicle. This bill passed out of the House, but did not make it out of the Senate. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Revenue

We strongly support maintaining and enhancing local taxing and fee authority and local revenue options. This includes support for exploring an increase in local utility business taxing authority. We are opposed to unfunded mandates. Seattle also supports enactment of comprehensive reform of the Washington State tax system to provide revenue stability for cities and counties and a more progressive state tax structure.

HB 2309 would allow property tax to increase based on the implicit price deflator (IPD) as opposed to the current flat 1% growth rate. **HB 2334** would allow the growth rate to increase based on the IPD with new revenue dedicated to infrastructure improvements. Neither bill moved out of the House Finance Committee.

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Telecommunications and Cable

Seattle is committed to ensuring all our residents are provided affordable, equitable access to advanced telecom and cable services, through competition and consumer protection. Seattle supports local franchising authority to assure local control of our rights of way, ability to guarantee the highest consumer protection standards, protection of local revenue, build-out requirements in all communities and sufficient public, educational and government access channels. We oppose legislation that diminishes these priorities. We also oppose legislation that would diminish cities existing authority to construct and operate a municipal broadband network serving the public.

HB 1983 would impose a statewide franchise on cable services, thus eliminating the franchises individual local jurisdictions have with cable companies. This bill did not make it out of the House. **Seattle opposes this legislation.**

SB 6003 provides statewide authorization for private entities to provide cable service or video service in competition with incumbent cable television operators. This bill would establish a statewide franchise and restrict cities from collecting franchise fees and utility taxes. This bill did not make it out of the Senate. **Seattle opposes this legislation.**

Transportation

We support efforts to reduce the ongoing transportation problems throughout the city, region and state, particularly when there is a safety risk. We support legislative efforts to improve pedestrian safety and examine strategies to enhance local enforcement of traffic laws. In addition, we support state funding for a regionally administered driver education program to heighten awareness about traffic safety. We support efforts to maintain the effectiveness of HOV lanes and oppose measures that would degrade the passenger-carrying capacity of these lanes. We support program funding for Safe Routes to School, bicycle, pedestrian and transit-friendly development investments.

SSB 5412 clarifying goals and objectives of various transportation agencies was amended to include the dissolution of a city transportation authority (specifically the Seattle Monorail). The bill was signed by the Governor and is effective July 22. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

SSB 5207 directs the Joint Transportation Committee to study funding mechanisms as a means to fund freight infrastructure improvements. A report is due prior to the 2008 legislative session. This bill was signed by the Governor.

SHB 1588 provides mobility education to students in driver training programs (titled the "*Matthew "Tatsuo" Nakata Act*"). Councilmember David Della testified in support of this bill in the Senate Transportation Committee. The bill passed out of the House and Senate committee, but did not make it out of the Senate Rules Committee. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

HB 1812 creates a transportation contingency account for projects over \$1 billion. This bill did not make it out of the House.

Tribal Governments

We respect and uphold the unique sovereign status of tribes. We understand their treaty rights, the importance of their efforts to create a sufficient tax base and their reliance on specific sources of revenue to operate programs for the benefit of their people.

Water Stewardship

We support the efficient use of water and environmental stewardship, including funding for salmon recovery. We support legislative efforts to address a variety of water issues, including in-stream flows, protection of municipal water rights, disputes over water rights and implementation of watershed planning. We support improvements in water quality through effective storm water management programs that set goals which are achievable and not cost-prohibitive. We support maintaining current funding for priority environmental programs related to water quality.

E2SSB 6117 attempts to promote the use of reclaimed water, in part by requiring local jurisdictions to consider reclaimed water as a potential source when non-potable water could be used. The Department of Ecology will also name a task force to review what might be barriers to the use of reclaimed water. This bill was signed by the Governor with a partial veto.