



City of Seattle

2026 State Legislative Agenda

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

Federal Response

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

Affordability & Workspace

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

- Support efforts to simplify and create a universal application for income-qualified benefits and relief.
- Explore a revenue neutral swap for sales tax.
- Allow collective bargaining over matters related to adoption of artificial intelligence in the workplace, including impacts on employee wages and performance evaluations.
- Further investments in workforce development in the state maritime industry.
- Provide local municipalities with more revenue options.

Housing & Homelessness

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

Public Safety

- Address the State Patrol's toxicology lab backlog and allow for federally accredited labs to conduct testing of blood samples in presumed DUI cases.
- Increase funding to help local governments hire more police officers and reinstate the state's coverage of the 25% local costs to send officers to the Basic Law Enforcement Academy.
- Allow local jurisdictions to restrict firearms in city buildings, parks, and community centers, and require secure storage for firearms in vehicles and residences; and lower threshold for early intervention for minors who unlawfully possess firearms.
- Advocate for a Public Safety element to be added to Comprehensive Plans for all jurisdictions to ensure consideration of emergency services and first response as a part of growth management.

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

Capital Budget

- Provide funding for shovel-ready improvements at Red Barn Ranch and the historic Camp Long Lodge to enable youth programming and regional outdoor learning access.
- Foster a strong regional green economy by securing funding for a demonstration project at Seattle Center that will help lead to a fully decarbonized eco-district.
- Authorize transfer of WSDOT's Montlake surplus property to the City for the purpose of affordable homeownership development.

Transportation

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

Climate & Environment

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

Native Communities & Tribal Governments

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

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