



# CITY OF MERCER ISLAND CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday  
November 28, 2017  
6:00 PM

**Mayor Bruce Bassett**

**Deputy Mayor Debbie Bertlin**

**Councilmembers Dan Grausz, Salim Nice,**

**Wendy Weiker, David Wisenteiner, and Benson Wong**

Contact: 206.275.7793, [council@mercergov.org](mailto:council@mercergov.org)  
[www.mercergov.org/council](http://www.mercergov.org/council)

This meeting will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers  
at 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, WA.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring  
accommodation for Council meetings should notify the City Clerk's Office  
at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 206.275.7793.

## SPECIAL MEETING

### CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

### SPECIAL BUSINESS

#### Legislative Priorities Discussion with 41st Legislative District Delegation

1. Recap of 2017 Legislative Session - Representative Judy Clibborn and Representative Tana Senn
  - a. McCleary Decision
  - b. Capital Budget
  - c. What to Expect in 2018
  - d. How Can the City Council Support You?
2. Discuss 2017 Legislative Priorities Results and Actions
3. Begin Discussion of New 2018 Legislative Priorities
  - a. WSDOT
    - Managing I-90 On-/Off-Ramps
    - Island Crest Way Access Via:
      - HOV Timed
      - HOT
  - b. Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan
4. Keep/Drop/Change Discussion of 2017 Legislative Priorities

### ADJOURNMENT





**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WA**

**AB 5364  
November 28, 2017  
Regular Business**

**LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES DISCUSSION WITH  
41<sup>ST</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DELEGATION**

**Proposed Council Action:**

Discuss 2018 Legislative Priorities.

**DEPARTMENT OF**

City Manager (Kirsten Taylor)

**COUNCIL LIAISON**

n/a

**EXHIBITS**

1. 2017 City of Mercer Island Legislative Priorities
2. 2017 City of Mercer Island Legislative Priorities - End of Year Update
3. Association of Washington Cities (AWC) 2018 Legislative Priorities
4. DRAFT Sound Cities Association (SCA) 2018 Legislative Agenda
5. Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) 2018 Legislative Priorities
6. Youth and Family Services Memo on King County Behavioral Health Legislative Priorities for 2018

**2017-2018 CITY COUNCIL GOAL**

n/a

**APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER**

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$	n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$	n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$	n/a

**SUMMARY**

On November 28, 2017, the City will host a Special Meeting with the 41<sup>st</sup> Legislative District Delegation (“Delegation”). The purpose of the meeting is for the Delegation to provide a recap of the 2017 Legislative Session and a look forward to the 2018 Legislative Session. The City Council will review the 2017 City of Mercer Island Legislative Priorities (Exhibit 1) and the results and actions accomplished regarding these priorities in 2017 (Exhibit 2), as well as begin discussion of potential 2018 Legislative Priorities.

**CURRENT 2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

The 2017 Legislative Session adjourned sine die on July 20, 2017 after one regular session and three special sessions. A discussion of the results and outcomes for each of the City’s 2017 Legislative Priorities is included in the End of Year Update. (Exhibit 2) Council will discuss 2017 priorities and determine which priorities to carry forward into the 2018 Legislative Session.

## **POTENTIAL 2018 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

In addition to priorities specific to Mercer Island (such as I-90 mobility issues), the Council should consider those adopted by regional organizations and whether unfulfilled 2017 City priorities should be carried forward. To assist in discussion of priorities for 2018, the following are topics for Council consideration:

### Proposed New Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Priorities

Three new 2018 Legislative Priorities that require WSDOT participation and approval will be discussed. These include:

1. **Managing I-90 on- and off-ramps**

On-ramps are currently backing up onto Mercer Island streets and off-ramps are backing up onto I-90 general purpose lanes. Both situations create potential hazards for drivers and inefficiencies in using the ramps.

2. **Improving Island Crest Way access** via:

- a. High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) timed ramps and/or
- b. High Occupancy Toll (HOT) ramps

Two possible solutions to current I-90 access issues at Island Crest Way HOV ramps include: 1) adding SOV time-of-day access to the ramps, and 2) the addition of HOT ramps to allow Single Occupancy Vehicles (SOVs) to access I-90 at Island Crest Way.

3. The **Aubrey Davis Master Plan** project will require the cooperation and support of WSDOT staff. The City is requesting that WSDOT staff fully engage in this project, and that WSDOT is an active partner in this work as WSDOT has significant ownership and responsibility in the Aubrey Davis Park bicycle and pedestrian corridor. The City requested \$100,000 funding for the Aubrey Davis Park Master Planning in the 2017 WSDOT budget, but was not successful in this request. In addition to renewing the funding request, the City requests that WSDOT staff provide in-kind services at no charge to the City to replace consultant work if the full funding is not provided.

### Development of Additional 2018 Legislative Priorities

To further the 2018 Legislative Priorities discussion, several resource documents from regional organizations that the City has supported in past years and a Youth and Family Services memo are included for reference. These include:

1. **Association of Washington Cities (AWC) 2018 Legislative Priorities (Exhibit 3)**

The AWC has four 2018 Legislative Priorities:

- Strengthen city tools to address housing conditions in our communities
- Direct funds to mental health, chemical dependency, and social safety new programs
- Enhance economic development tools and programs that foster business development in cities
- Preserve state-shared revenues with cities and increase law enforcement training funds

2. **DRAFT Sound Cities Association (SCA) 2018 Legislative Agenda (Exhibit 4)**

The (tentative) SCA Legislative Agenda includes:

- Adjust the Property Tax Cap
- Invest in Public Health Services
- Address the Housing and Homelessness Crisis

*SCA is expected to formally adopt their Agenda in December 2018.*

**3. Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) 2018 Legislative Priorities (Exhibit 5)**

The Mercer Island School Board has discussed and supported the Legislative Priorities as set by the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA):

- Transitioning to a new funding model
- Supporting every student
- Investing in public schools facilities

**4. Youth and Family Services Memo on King County Behavioral Health Legislative Priorities (Exhibit 6)**

The Youth and Family Services Department supports the following two King County Behavioral Health Legislative Priorities:

- Expand Mental Health Prevention
- Raise the purchase age for tobacco/vapor products from 18 to 21 via SHB 1054 or its equivalent

The City Council may choose to support all, some, or none of the priorities that have been put forth by these organizations.

Keep/Drop/Change Discussion of City of Mercer Island 2017 Legislative Priorities

The City Council approved nine 2017 legislative priorities (Exhibit 1). Council will discuss which priorities to keep, drop or change for the 2018 legislative session. These priorities include:

1. Maintain full access to I-90 R8A lanes
2. Fully fund education
3. Allocate recreation/transportation funding for Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan
4. Adjust the property tax cap
5. Enhance health and human services
6. Preserve the environment
7. Address the housing and homelessness crisis
8. Provide cost recovery for long range planning and code enforcement
9. Support AWC/SCA legislative priorities

Following discussion and direction from Council, staff will return at the December 5, 2017 Council meeting with draft 2018 Legislative Priorities for Council to consider. Final approval is scheduled for the January 9, 2018 City Council meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION**

*Assistant City Manager*

Engage the 41st Legislative District Delegation in discussion and provide early direction to staff regarding potential 2018 Legislative Priorities.

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# City of Mercer Island

## 2017 State Legislative Priorities

As the Mercer Island City Council affirmed in a November 21, 2016 Proclamation, Mercer Island values civil discourse, non-discriminatory provision of community services, environmental sustainability, and respectful and careful listening to any person or group of people in all conduct of government business, thus the City Council encourages the State Legislators to also adhere to the values referenced there-in (attached).

The City of Mercer Island supports the following legislative priorities for 2017:

1. **MAINTAIN FULL ACCESS TO I-90 R8A LANES:** Request State Legislature to honor historic agreements as well as long-standing Environmental Impact Statement assumptions (conducted by Sound Transit) and require that the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) maintain Mercer Island traffic mobility in reconfigured R8A lanes of the I-90 roadway as light rail construction across Lake Washington commences.
2. **FULLY FUND EDUCATION:** Request State Legislature to: 1) comply with the McCleary ruling and fully fund basic education, 2) ensure that all school districts either maintain the same or increased per-student public funding from all local and state sources, 3) address school funding gap without reducing revenue to other, critical social services, and 4) support mental health counselling and social emotional learning in all schools.
3. **ALLOCATE RECREATION/TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR AUBREY DAVIS PARK MASTER PLAN:** Include state funding of at least \$200,000 for Aubrey Davis Park Master Planning project to ensure the completion of master planning work for this important regional pedestrian and bicycle corridor.
4. **ADJUST THE PROPERTY TAX CAP:** Give local governments the option to replace the annual 1% cap on property tax revenues with a growth limit whose maximum is inflation plus the rate of population growth.
5. **ENHANCE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:** Support legislation to increase the purchase age for tobacco and vapor products from 18 to 21, and to expand access to treatment for opiate use disorder and overdose education and prevention.
6. **PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT:** Support legislation, and partner with other organizations to support the following: 1) work with Puget Sound Energy and the K4C to phase out coal-fired electricity sources by a date certain, 2) maintain growth in rooftop solar adoption by fixing state incentive program, 3) set a statewide price on carbon pollution, 4) reduce transportation-related carbon emissions, 5) support green building and energy efficiency, and 6) endorse sign-on letters to State regulatory bodies that advocate for progressive clean energy measures.
7. **ADDRESS THE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS CRISIS:** Support legislation in favor of providing dedicated sources for the construction of affordable housing.
8. **PROVIDE COST RECOVERY FOR LONG RANGE PLANNING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Support legislation allowing the collection of reasonable fees or alternative methods of financing for long-range planning and code enforcement costs.
9. **SUPPORT AWC/SCA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:** Support legislative priorities of the following organizations: Association of Washington Cities and Sound Cities Association.

*Adopted January 3, 2017*



City of Mercer Island, Washington

# Proclamation

In the wake of a contentious and discordant national election, we take this moment to pause and reaffirm our principles and values.

As your City government, our role is to bring people together and not divide them. Our job is to be welcoming of all people and all ideas in recognition that we truly are stronger and smarter together. We need to recognize certain essential principles and conduct our government and hopefully our lives consistent with those principles.

Consequently, as your City Council, we pledge:

1. To do all we can to foster civil discourse.
2. To ensure that City services are always provided in a manner that does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.
3. To foster a community that always encourages people to achieve their potential and help others to do similarly.
4. To protect our air, water and other parts of our natural environment to protect the health and futures of our families and future generations.
5. To welcome without reservation new people from all parts of our world, with an abiding faith in their potential to be part of and strengthen our community.
6. To never marginalize or demonize any person or group of people.
7. To respect and listen to people and their ideas.
8. To understand that we have a responsibility not just to ourselves but to others in our region including many who are not as fortunate.
9. To do all we can to ensure that our children will inherit a world that includes all of the good that the world our parents brought us into had.
10. To demand that our national, state and regional leaders uphold these same values.

We commit to regularly remind ourselves of these principles and to judge ourselves and our City by our adherence to them.

Proclaimed, this 21st day of November, 2016.


  
Bruce Bassett, Mayor

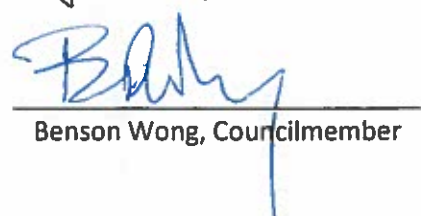
  
Debbie Bertlin, Deputy Mayor

  
Dan Grausz, Councilmember

  
Jeff Sanderson, Councilmember

  
Wendy Weiker, Councilmember

  
Dave Wisenteiner, Councilmember

  
Benson Wong, Councilmember





# City of Mercer Island

## 2017 State Legislative Priorities

### End of Year Update 11/28/2017

The 2017 Legislative Session adjourned on July 20, 2017. This update includes a brief discussion of actions and outcomes for each 2017 priority.

1. **MAINTAIN FULL ACCESS TO I-90 R8A LANES:** Request State Legislature to honor historic agreements as well as long-standing Environmental Impact Statement assumptions (conducted by Sound Transit) and require that the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) maintain Mercer Island traffic mobility in reconfigured R8A lanes of the I-90 roadway as light rail construction across Lake Washington commences.

*Discussion: Protecting Mercer Island's access to I-90 is a top and critical priority. During 2017, the City engaged in an intense, multi-pronged effort to press all parties to honor commitments to protect MI's mobility and access to I-90. Mercer Island's federal delegation, Washington state, WSDOT, Sound Transit, King County and other local partners joined Mercer Island in encouraging the United States Department of Transportation to protect Mercer Island's access rights to the R8A lanes via Island Crest Way. The federal government, however, does not have the authority to grant exceptions to current law regarding HOV lanes access, even for on-ramps.*

*Additionally, the City and Sound Transit successfully negotiated a Settlement Agreement resulting in \$10.1 million in mitigation funds and increased parking for Mercer Island commuters. Mercer Island continues to look for opportunities to improve mobility and access in 2018. As the City and its Congressional delegation continue to await opportunities that may arise at the federal level, the focus will be on pursuing actions at the state and local level. The City requests the support and assistance of the state legislature in exploring further alternatives (e.g. time-of-day HOV, HOT lanes, etc.) and funding, that will improve mobility for Mercer Island residents and others dependent on I-90.*

2. **FULLY FUND EDUCATION:** Request State Legislature to: 1) comply with the McCleary ruling and fully fund basic education, 2) ensure that all school districts either maintain the same or increased per-student public funding from all local and state sources, 3) address school funding gap without reducing revenue to other, critical social services, and 4) support mental health counselling and social emotional learning in all schools.

*Discussion: 1-3) McCleary decision continues unresolved. Gov. Inslee approved a \$7.3B four-year plan, but skepticism remains as to its adequacy among such groups as the WA Education Association. The State remains in contempt of court for not fully funding public education per Supreme Court Order on 11/15. 4) E2SHB 1713 "Implementing recommendations from the children's mental health work group" passed and supports better access to mental health for youth, mandates depression screenings in certain cases, creates pilot sites for "mental health leads" in educational service districts, and provides consultation to childcare providers on mental health prevention/promotion. This bill supports school-based social emotional learning and support for expansion of pilot programs may be indicated moving forward.*

3. **ALLOCATE RECREATION/TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR AUBREY DAVIS PARK MASTER PLAN:** Include state funding of at least \$200,000 for Aubrey Davis Park Master Planning project to ensure the completion of master planning work for this important regional pedestrian and bicycle corridor.

*Discussion: Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan capital funding was introduced by Rep. Clibborn's office in winter 2017, and City and other supporters lobbied for its inclusion in the capital budget. It did not make*

*the first cut into the capital budget. Rep. Clibborn's office suggested that it would support another proposal for inclusion into the Transportation budget in 2018.*

4. **ADJUST THE PROPERTY TAX CAP:** Give local governments the option to replace the annual 1% cap on property tax revenues with a growth limit whose maximum is inflation plus the rate of population growth.  
*Discussion: Two bills were introduced but were not passed. HB 1764 passed out of Committee but was not considered by the House. SB 5772 was the subject of a public hearing in Committee but was not passed out of Committee.*
  
5. **ENHANCE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:** Support legislation to increase the purchase age for tobacco and vapor products from 18 to 21, and to expand access to treatment for opiate use disorder and overdose education and prevention.  
*Discussion: HB1054 (companion SB 5025) "Concerning the age of individuals at which sale or distribution of tobacco and vapor products may be made" was requested by the Attorney General and the Department of Health but did not make it out of committee. A similar bill is expected in 2018 as fiscal concerns (loss of income from 18-21 smokers) may have decreased support. ESHB 1427 was passed that enhanced opiate treatment including addressing Opioid Prescribing, the Prescription Monitoring Program, and Opioid Treatment Programs. Future legislation might make certain aspects required, not voluntary.*
  
6. **PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT:** Support legislation, and partner with other organizations to support the following: 1) work with Puget Sound Energy and the K4C to phase out coal-fired electricity sources by a date certain, 2) maintain growth in rooftop solar adoption by fixing state incentive program, 3) set a statewide price on carbon pollution, 4) reduce transportation-related carbon emissions, 5) support green building and energy efficiency, and 6) endorse sign-on letters to State regulatory bodies that advocate for progressive clean energy measures.  
*Discussion: 1) In close partnership with the K4C, the City continued to work on an early phase out of PSE's coal-fired electricity: in Sept 2017, a tentative settlement was announced which proposes to retire half of the Colstrip, Montana, coal-fired powerplant in 2027 (Units 1 and 2), and accelerates the collection of funds to close the remainder (i.e. Units 3 and 4). 2) On July 1, the Legislature passed SB 5939 which finally revised and extended an incentive for renewable electricity generated from wind and solar. Although it added much-needed certainty to the existing program and should attract some additional residential customers, the repayment rates are far less generous to prospective hosts, and are low enough to essentially spell the end of investor-funded community solar installations for all but the most philanthropic investors. 3) Thanks to the unreceptive State Legislature, Governor Inslee's effort to establish a tax of \$15/metric ton of carbon emissions (HB 1646) failed to advance from committee despite major turn out from labor, environmental, and communities of color supporters. It is expected that the Governor and a pro-environment alliance will introduce related legislation in 2018. 4) The City joined an April 2017 sign on letter to the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) regarding Electric Vehicle charging equipment, electricity rates, and network planning. 5) No significant action on this item in the State Legislature in 2017. 6) The City joined an August 2017 sign-on letter to the UTC, asking PSE to ensure equitable distribution of closure costs for Colstrip Power Plant, and to accelerate the closure of Units 3 and 4 to a date earlier than 2035.*
  
7. **ADDRESS THE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS CRISIS:** Support legislation in favor of providing dedicated sources for the construction of affordable housing.  
*Discussion: The passage of E2SSB 5254 extended the \$40 surcharge on recording documents for local homeless housing and assistance to 6/30/23 (it was to expire 6/30/19). Other bills that did not pass would have allowed funding of affordable housing through a portion of the State's share of sales and use taxes, imposition of a new local sales tax, and use of a portion of the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET).*

8. **PROVIDE COST RECOVERY FOR LONG RANGE PLANNING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Support legislation allowing the collection of reasonable fees or alternative methods of financing for long-range planning and code enforcement costs.

*Discussion: There was no action on this priority in 2017.*

9. **SUPPORT AWC/SCA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:** Support legislative priorities of the following organizations: Association of Washington Cities and Sound Cities Association.

*Discussion: See attached summary sheets of AWC City Priorities and Outcomes.*



### Public Records

**Modernize the Public Records Act (PRA) so that cities can continue to provide open and transparent government services to our residents**

**Pro** – Legislature passed **HB 1595** which amends the PRA to allow cities to charge a small fee for providing copies of electronic records, creates the ability to deny overwhelming computer generated “bot” requests, prohibits overly-broad requests for all records, and creates a way to apply a service charge to exceptionally complex requests.

**Pro** – Legislature passed **HB 1594** which updates training requirements for records officers, creates a grant program to improve their public record management systems, establishes a program to consult on public records best practices, and updates the process for asking a requestor to clarify a request. The bill also requires some new data collection processes.



### Homelessness, Housing & Human Services

**Enhance efforts to increase affordable housing, decrease homelessness, and improve a strained behavioral health system**

**Pro** – The document recording fee was extended for four additional years, which is the single biggest source of state and local resources. New authority to use REET dollars for homeless housing was created for two years.

**Pro** – Funding was maintained for the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program, funding for implementation of the Sec. 1115 Medicaid waiver, and TANF funding.

**Con** – There was no increase in the document recording fee and only limited new tools.

**Con** – The Legislature’s failure to adopt a capital budget postpones planned critical investments in mental health facilities around the state.



### City-State Partnership

**Maintain critical funding of key services and programs**

**Pro** – State operating budget fully funded traditional state shared revenues at \$210 million for 2017-19, including liquor and municipal criminal justice funds.

**Pro** – Passed **EHB 2163** implementing state Marketplace Fairness Act sales tax collection or customer reporting for use tax by out of state internet retailers, effective January 1, 2018, increasing city sales tax revenues by \$40.9 million for 2017-19.

**Pro** – The budget provided necessary funding to the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) to meet the immediate training needs for the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA). However, the budget only provided for 16 classes per year when the likely need is for 18 classes in order to meet the expected demand for training new officers.

**Pro** – The Legislature fully funded its commitment to the LEOFF 2 pension system. An earlier proposal would have shifted \$70 million of the state’s commitment to cities.

**Pro** – The final budget provided additional funding for cities from the Office of Public Defense competitive grant program.

**Pro** – Fully funded Municipal Research Services Center (MRSC).

**Con** – **EHB 2163** phases out Streamlined Sales Tax (SST) mitigation for cities and counties by October 1, 2019.

**Con** – The final budget for 2017-19 reneged on the agreement from 2015 by reducing the amount of marijuana mitigation revenue sharing from \$15 million per year to \$6 million per year. However, there is a caveat that the money may be restored if the February 2018 revenue forecast meets a certain threshold.

**Con** – Did not pass **SHB 1113/SB 5240** to restore growth in the local government share of liquor revenues.

more outcomes on back 

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 Exhibit 2  
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## Local Authority

Respect city local authority to respond to local needs

**Pro** – **EHB 2005** passed requiring all cities to join the state Business Licensing Service (BLS) by 2022 or FileLocal by 2020 to administer business licenses, but protected local authority to impose rates and enforce regulations. Established workgroups on a business license threshold and local B&O tax service income apportionment.

**Pro** – Successfully defended against proposals to limit cities' authority to regulate and zone marijuana businesses.

**Con** – Did not pass **HB 1764** replacing the one percent property tax revenue limit with a limit tied to population growth and inflation.



## Local Infrastructure

Revitalize key infrastructure assistance programs that support job creation, community health and safety, and quality of life

**Pro** – If the Legislature can resolve other disputes and pass a capital budget, legislators are poised to fund a Public Works Trust Fund (P WTF) loan list for the first time since the 2011-13 budget. They did show their support for continuing the program with the passage of **HB 1677**, the P WTF reform bill.

**Con** – The diversion of tax revenues that would go into the Public Works Trust Fund was extended for another four years. The cash in the account was swept into the education budget, and partially replaced with bond funds (if they pass a capital budget) undermining the structure of this revolving loan fund.

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AB 5364  
Exhibit 2  
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The key to growing strong cities and towns in Washington starts with addressing housing shortages and affordability, helping individuals with mental health and drug addiction issues, and providing tools to enhance local economic vitality.

The 2017 legislative session was the longest in history and yielded numerous helpful policy and budget actions for Washington's 281 cities and towns. However, critical issues remain unresolved and need to be addressed in the 2018 legislative session. The Legislature needs to swiftly adopt a capital budget so that critical community projects can move forward, and take action on the following city priorities to help our communities and state thrive.



### **Strengthen city tools to address housing conditions in our communities**

Cities large and small are experiencing challenges with housing in their community—from shortages of affordable housing, to a lack of workforce housing, to neighborhood impacts of abandoned foreclosed properties. Cities need a variety of local option tools to address the problems of their specific local circumstances. AWC urges the Legislature to adopt:

- 1) A new construction sales tax reimbursement pilot program to attract new multi-family housing in cities outside of our urban core;
- 2) A means for cities to mitigate the impacts of abandoned and bank-owned foreclosed homes; and
- 3) Additional flexibility with existing tools such as making the optional sales tax authority for affordable housing a council decision.



### **Direct funds to mental health, chemical dependency, and social safety net programs**

Although cities are not frontline service providers, many of the problems associated with mental health and chemical dependency show up in our communities and on our streets. Increasingly, local public safety personnel play an expanding role in addressing these impacts. AWC actively supports and will engage with those seeking to direct resources to address these challenges and will collaborate with the state, counties, and providers to find ways to deliver support services in the most effective manner.



### **Enhance economic development tools and programs that foster business development in cities**

Economic development opportunities vary greatly across the state. Some communities have commercial or industrial areas that have deteriorated or lack the needed infrastructure for critical development, and others lack access to adequate broadband services. AWC supports expansion of current programs and funding, and will engage key legislators and stakeholders to identify tools that can help foster vital economies in all corners of our state.



### **Preserve state-shared revenues with cities and increase law enforcement training funds**

The 2017-19 state operating budget continued to fund traditional shared revenues such as liquor revenues and municipal criminal justice assistance at the levels provided in recent years. As the Legislature considers a supplemental budget, AWC will encourage the provision of additional funding for four additional Basic Law Enforcement Academy classes during the biennium to ensure that new recruits receive training as quickly as possible.

Contact:

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Exhibit 3  
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SOUND CITIES ASSOCIATION

38 Cities. A Million People. One Voice.

To provide leadership through advocacy, education, mutual support and networking to cities in King County as they act locally and partner regionally to create livable vital communities.

## **DRAFT SCA 2018 Legislative Agenda**

### **Adjust the Property Tax Cap**

Property taxes are the largest revenue source for Washington's cities, supporting critical services like justice, health, and safety. However, property taxes are capped at a level that creates an ever-widening gap between the cost of serving a growing population and the revenue available to pay for those services. A new property tax limit should correspond to what it actually costs local governments to continue providing services and keep up with increased public demand.

- *The Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to give local governments the option to replace the arbitrary annual 1% cap on property tax increases with a limit tied to inflation plus population growth.*

### **Invest in Public Health Services**

The most basic services for keeping communities safe and healthy are at risk due to declining state investment in public health—down 40% per capita since 2000 when adjusted for inflation. The Legislature made an initial investment of \$12 million in 2017 toward the roughly \$400 million statewide funding gap, but core public health needs remain unmet. For Public Health – Seattle & King County, there's a \$7 million gap in the next county budget cycle that jeopardizes the tracking, response, and prevention of disease outbreaks and other crucial services.

- *The Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to fund the core public health services provided by local health jurisdictions.*

### **Address the Housing and Homelessness Crisis**

Our communities face an affordable housing and homelessness crisis. More than 11,600 people experience homelessness on a given night in King County, and others, including older adults and moderate and low-wage workers of all ages, are struggling to find affordable, quality housing in our region. Partnerships between state and local governments are critical to create new units of affordable housing. To that end, a renewed state commitment to help Washingtonians transition out of homelessness is now needed, as are expanded investments to address behavioral health needs and other root causes of homelessness.

- *The Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to partner with us to address homelessness and increase the supply of affordable housing in the following ways:*
  - *Expand and make permanent the Document Recording Fee*
  - *Invest \$200 million in the Housing Trust Fund*
  - *Allow local governments to create and preserve affordable housing through optional local tools*
- *The Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to address other underlying causes of homelessness by making investments in our state's behavioral health system and enacting legislation to prohibit Source of Income Discrimination.*



# WSSDA 2018 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

WSSDA applauds the progress made by the 2017 Legislature, toward full funding of basic education, addressing the statewide teacher shortage, and providing much-needed clarifications to the Growth Management Act and Public Records Act. In 2018, as 295 school districts move forward to implement new legislation, school directors will remain steady partners with the Legislature to provide insight and potential solutions to the challenges remaining. WSSDA urges the Legislature to adopt policies and a budget that address:

## **Transitioning to a new funding model**

The new structures and funding outlined by EHB 2242/SSB 5883 come with both short- and long-term opportunities and challenges:

- **Hold harmless.** Additional state funds may be required to meet the intent of the bill's hold harmless provisions.
- **Levy and Local Effort Assistance (LEA) formulas.** Existing disparities between districts will be exacerbated if new levy and LEA formulas are implemented prior to the full transition to state funding for basic education.
- **Salary schedule and staff mix factor.** With a one-size-fits-all salary allocation, many districts will struggle to compensate their existing workforce at current levels. Reinstating a statewide salary schedule and staff mix factor to avoid reductions in workforce and salaries.
- **Regionalization.** The new regionalization factor intensifies inequities among districts and should be reconsidered.
- **Support in bargaining and negotiations.** While it is important to maintain local control for bargaining education enhancements, state assistance is critical to ensure districts are able to enter into sustainable agreements.

## **Supporting every student**

Achievement and opportunity gaps among students are not acceptable. Action must be taken to:

- **Fully fund special education as part of basic education.** Despite progress under EHB 2242, a funding gap remains. Districts have no alternative but to continue relying on local levies.
- **Attract and retain high-quality staff.** Student success depends on having a diverse, high-quality educator workforce. Continued efforts must entice new teachers to our state, eliminate redundancies in certification and evaluation systems, and provide incentives to work in hard-to-staff districts.
- **Offer relevant, balanced, and supportive educational pathways and assessment requirements.** Educators will be better able to meet student needs if assessments are delinked from graduation.
- **Support social-emotional and behavioral needs of students.** Dedicated programs and staff are needed.
- **Advocate for the protection of the undocumented immigrant children.** WSSDA supports the federal DREAM Act as a vital tool in providing safe and supportive learning environments.
- **Help schools support homeless students.** School districts are hampered by constraints on transportation funding for homeless students, a shortage of basic social services, and other factors.

## **Investing in public schools facilities**

Funding school construction is a joint effort between the state and local districts. State law stipulates that the state will pay an average of half the cost of construction. Therefore, future policy must:

- **Improve the school construction formula.** Recognize the real costs of building and modernizing schools that support high-quality teaching and learning.
- **Fund legislative mandates.** Enhance funding for costs that result from legislative directives, such as mandated class-size reductions and more rigorous graduation requirements.
- **Address bond passage requirements.** Advance a constitutional amendment that would empower voters to approve school bonds by a simple majority.







# Memo

To: Kirsten Taylor, Assistant City Manager  
From: Derek Franklin, YFS Programs Manager  
Cc: Cynthia Goodwin, YFS Director  
Date: 11/20/17  
Re: 2018 Legislative Priorities

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YFS supports the following issues for inclusion on the City Council's 2018 legislative priorities list (see attachment: King County Proposed State Legislative Priorities for 2018):

- I. **“Expand mental health prevention”**: The YFS HYI Coalition has expanded efforts to add Mental Health Promotion, Early Childhood Learning, and Parenting Support to existing Drug/Alcohol Prevention efforts. Federal Drug Free Communities grant funds ended 9/17, so additional county support for these efforts will have a larger proportional impact on MI residents moving forward. “Expanding mental health curricula in schools” also aligns with YFS’s strategic plan. Rep. Senn’s 2017 efforts to expand social-emotional learning in schools is something YFS has been targeting for years. While we’ve made great progress locally, more is needed as MI youth face additional pressures to succeed, as evidenced by rates of anxiety and depression. YFS helped fund the Second Step curricula training that is now in all MISD schools (limited in HS). Support for this legislative measure can also add to the growing tide of support for early, evidence-based prevention and social-emotional education in our schools and those county-wide.
  
- II. **“Raise the purchase age for tobacco/vapor products from 18-21 via SHB 1054 or its equivalent.”** YFS and the HYI Coalition are in support of this effort as raising the minimum smoking age is shown to reduce underage tobacco use. On MI, middle school students are beginning to use vape devices with concerning frequency—a behavior that is a precursor to nicotine use. MI youth involved with HYI and the MIHS SAFE Club testified with the AG and Sect. of Health (on own time) in support of T21 in 2017. This kind of policy change can also support marijuana prevention as nicotine and MJ use tends to be co-morbid among youth.

## Developing Community Treatment on Demand

### **1. Stabilize behavioral health treatment to improve access and quality in the community.**

Strengthen the community behavioral health treatment system to deliver key outcomes including hospital diversion and discharge, community outreach, and care coordination. Invest non-Medicaid state funds, adjust actuarial assumptions, reopen the Medicaid state plan, and pursue federal incentive funding tied to implementation of a quality strategy.

### **2. Create community-based capacity to prevent and/or shorten hospitalization.**

Support state hospital access and discharge by increasing community capacity. Build on proposed investments in the negotiated capital budget for supportive housing, psychiatric residential treatment, and crisis facilities by funding more no- or low-barrier beds.

### **3. Expand medication-assisted treatment via low-barrier buprenorphine access.**

Provide \$1.6 million in state funds per site to supplement federal and local policy investments to increase treatment for people with opioid use disorder. State dollars would expand upon federal and local investments to provide expedited low-barrier access to buprenorphine, via a “hub-and-spoke” model including care management and linkage to physical health care and other services.

#### **King County also supports these issues:**

- **Expand mental health prevention.**  
Include mental health prevention and early intervention as an identified part of continuing education and/or training for health-, justice-, or education-related professions who come into contact with youth or vulnerable people, and expand the use of mental health curricula in schools.
- **Clarify behavioral health providers’ duty to warn, via ESB 5800 or its equivalent.**  
The recent *Volk* Supreme Court decision appeared to broaden in significant ways behavioral health care providers’ “duty to warn” in instances of risk or potential threat. Clarification is needed resolve legal uncertainty, and prevent the adoption of overly defensive approaches that undermine confidentiality.
- **Allow the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) to fund recovery support services.**  
Allow the use of CJTA to prevent relapse and promote long-term recovery via flexible supports before, during, and after formal substance use disorder treatment.
- **Raise the purchase age for tobacco/vapor products from 18 to 21, via SHB 1054 or its equivalent.**  
Improve health, reduce youth access, and align with emerging science regarding young adult brain development.

For additional information, please contact

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AB 5364  
Exhibit 6  
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