

CITY OF SEATTLE

2014 State Legislative Agenda

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SESSION PRIORITIES – 2014

Areas of Primary Focus

Protecting the most vulnerable: The City of Seattle will work to protect and restore funding for human services, public health, mental health services and other critical areas such as the Housing Trust Fund; and we support efforts to raise new revenue in order to preserve and restore funding for these essential programs and services.

Education: We support efforts to reform education on a statewide basis and to comply with the McCleary decision by fully funding basic education through new revenues, without cutting funding for human services or other important state services and programs.

Transportation, economic development and infrastructure: We support new local and regional transportation funding options to preserve and expand transit including bus service and a statewide transportation package, as described below. We also support funding for infrastructure investments that leads to job creation, continued investments in job training.

Public safety: We support funding for programs that help women and men previously incarcerated successfully transition back into society. We support legislation that provides increased employment opportunities for ex-offenders to reduce recidivism and increase public safety. We seek legislation to clarify and strengthen the process for evaluating and considering civil commitment petitions for defendants charged with misdemeanors in Seattle whose cases are dismissed for incompetency to stand trial.

We support gun safety laws and regulations that reduce violence and result in safe, responsible gun ownership, including: a ban on all assault weapons and a ban on large capacity ammunition magazines;.

City fiscal health and operations: The City of Seattle will work to protect existing state and local shared revenues, including the restoration of liquor revenues; to preserve all existing local revenue authorities; and to support new local revenue opportunities, including local revenue from the sale of marijuana. We support a coordinated state-regulated marijuana system that includes specific provisions to ensure legitimate medical cannabis patients have adequate access to the products they need.

Areas of Significant Interest

Human Services and Health

Even as the economy improves, many in our city continue to struggle. To the greatest extent possible, we ask the State to preserve and restore programs that protect the most vulnerable people and families and reduce future social costs by providing those who are able the tools needed for self-sufficiency. As such, we support continued funding for Maternity Support Services, public health, Community Health Clinics, mental health treatment services, Apple Health for Kids, Housing and Essential Needs, the Senior Services Act programs, immigrant services, State Food Assistance, the WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, Working Connections Childcare, family planning, and Nurse Family Partnerships, and the Kinship Navigator Program. Additionally, we support increased flexibility for local tools to help fund this safety net.

We support maintaining Washington's strong payday lending protections for consumers and oppose the creation of new, high-interest lending products.

Housing and Homelessness

Seattle believes that housing—its availability and affordability—is critical to the quality of life of our residents and neighborhoods. In addition, Seattle supports State efforts to assist with the implementation of the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. Therefore, we support legislation that will create and preserve financing tools and land accessibility to expand affordable housing and will help ensure affordability for tenants. We also support aligning state and federal law to ensure housing access for disabled residents with service animals.

Transportation

We support an environmentally sustainable transportation system with stable funding for transit and options to expand transit service in the future. To address long-term funding needs, Seattle supports efforts to craft a statewide transportation package for voter approval that prioritizes safety, transit and maintenance over expansion. Specifically:

- Includes a significant share of funding for cities to help pay for local maintenance backlogs;
- Includes sustainable funding for transit operations;
- Results in expanded transit service in areas with the greatest demand;
- Significantly improves pedestrian and bicycle safety and mobility;
- Prioritizes safety and maintenance projects; and
- Meets both the City's and the State's greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets.

We support new local and regional options for transportation funding that could be used to help expand transit, including light rail; modifying the City's parking tax authority to allow for a more equitable application of the tax; and more progressive options regarding MVET.

To help better manage on-street parking and improve access to local businesses for all drivers (including those with disabled parking placards), we seek improvements to the disabled parking placard administration process and enforcement such that disabled parking placards are distributed to and used only for the benefit of those who need them.

We support the development of a full funding package for the SR 520 Replacement Project (SR 520 Project) that improves safety, improves the movement of transit, bikes, and pedestrians throughout the corridor and is consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding between WSDOT and the City of Seattle. We urge the State Legislature to fund continuing efforts in 2014 to advance the design of the West Side of the SR 520 Project and build upon the successful outreach and engagement efforts completed as part of the Seattle Community Design Process (SCDP) in 2012. Substantial progress has been made in refining project design near Seattle's neighborhoods and the Arboretum through collaboration with members of the community and the City of Seattle. Continued funding in 2014 is necessary to maintain the momentum, build upon the progress being made with the community and implement recommendations identified in the SCDP Final Report. We support the completion of analysis of tolling I-90. We also support establishing the authorization for tolling I-90.

We support additional resources for commercial vehicle safety enforcement and policies that equitably share the burden of responsibility for safety violations between drivers and equipment owners.

Public Safety

In addition to the issues identified in our highest priorities, we also support the continued use of automated traffic safety cameras and legislation that improves transparency and accountability. We seek legislation to remove barriers that currently limit the City's ability to release Digital In Car Video footage to the public. We also support a waiver of the two party consent rule pertaining to police video cameras (body-cams), identical to the exemption for Digital In Car Video.

We believe that local governments should have the ability to regulate firearms or weapons in public places to ensure the safety of their communities and local circumstances.

We support funding for WIN 211, which helps the public access important information and government programs and services, including after disasters.

Education

In addition to supporting efforts to reform education, the City supports maximum possible funding for Early Learning and Basic Education and seeks state support and recognition of Seattle's work to be an Innovation City offering universal preschool. During challenging economic times, it is also critically important to support community colleges, technical colleges, and state universities as they provide access to retraining

and workforce development opportunities. Seattle supports access to the state need grant and scholarship programs for all Washington students, regardless of citizenship status.

Sustainability and Environmental Protection:

We support legislation that will reduce climate pollution emissions as articulated in the City's formal comments to the Climate Legislative Executive Workgroup including economy-wide policies and investments in transit, clean energy, and energy efficiency. It's essential that the state craft these policies so that they are socially equitable and provide opportunities for lower-income communities to share equitably in the economic opportunities presented by solutions to climate change.

Seattle values the Clean Water Act mission of making our waterways safe for fishing and recreation. We understand that Washington's current fish consumption rates are inadequate, and we support efforts to bring the human health criteria up to date, including development of the implementation tools to make compliance possible.

We also support a new, long-term state funding source for local stormwater management programs to help improve water quality, and to ensure cleanup of local toxic sites. We support full funding for the Local Toxics Account and use of the funds for their statutory purpose.

Areas of On-going Concern

Economic Development and Infrastructure

Seattle supports tax increment financing, including new value capture concepts, as a tool to encourage economic development and community improvement projects, and supports a set aside for low-income housing. We also support investments in global health and life sciences research which promote Washington's continued leadership in these fields. We support increased capital funding for Seattle's cultural institutions. The City also supports considering the creation of a state investment trust to provide financing for housing development, public works infrastructure, educational infrastructure, student loans, and community quality of life projects.

Sustainability and Environmental Protection

Seattle supports the Energy Independence Act (RCW 19.285) which was passed by the voters as I-937 in 2006. Seattle City Light has met its renewable and conservation targets and anticipates continuing to in the future. We support changes to the Act that would provide greater flexibility for utilities to meet their targets, such as the ability to roll over excess conservation into the next biennium but without undermining the initiative. We support policies to promote renewable energy development, net-metering and energy efficiency. We believe the State should adopt a goal of doubling its energy productivity by 2030 as part of the State's Energy Strategy.

We support legislation that will reduce toxic chemicals in children's toys. We support development of common industry standards for recycled products, funding for recycling facilities, promotion of product stewardship, and legislative initiatives to reduce waste and increase recycling. We support product stewardship for surplus pharmaceuticals, carpet, paint, mercury-containing lighting and additions to the products covered by E-Cycle Washington. To help promote waste reduction, we seek elimination of the requirement that phone companies publish and distribute telephone directories and support efforts to create a statewide opt out system for commercial telephone directories.

General Government

Seattle seeks the ability to recover costs associated with egregious public records requests, clarification that the Public Records Act does not require ongoing or continuing responses and an automatic exemption for witnesses. Seattle requests the ability for municipalities to sustain international diplomacy through the maintenance of a bank account for nonpublic funds.

Race & Social Justice

Every person has the right to live, work, and learn free from discrimination. We support efforts to achieve equity and advance opportunity, including actions that promote racial equity in education, community development, criminal justice, health, housing, jobs and the environment. We support strong civil rights protections for all and efforts to protect the rights of and services provided to immigrants. We support gender equity and family-friendly workplace policies, such as parental leave and affordable childcare, so that all people across gender lines thrive economically and are safe and healthy. We support tools that strengthen government policies, programs and procedures by removing barriers and creating opportunities for greater civic engagement, and that assess for impacts on racial and gender equity.

Law & Criminal Justice

We support the amending civil forfeiture laws to effectively deter those who engage in the commercial sexual abuse of minors. We support legislation that clarifies and strengthens state DUI laws, including clarifying the law regarding the number of violations that would trigger mandatory probation revocation, strengthening laws regarding alcohol breath tests, and clarifying elements of lane-weaving violations. We support safeguards for protected groups from harassment and violence through misuse of the Public Records Act. We seek legislation to fund and strengthen limousine regulations and enforcement. Finally, Seattle supports limiting immigration detainer requests in local detention facilities to circumstances where individuals have been convicted of serious offenses.

Planning & Development

Seattle believes in the right to impose fees to fund necessary facilities and services related to the impacts of development and to require appropriate infrastructure such as open space and sidewalks associated with new development. We support the

expansion of incentive zoning to include provisions that encourage new open space, preserving current open space, creating multi-modal transportation infrastructure, and preserving landmark structures.