



CITY OF SEATTLE
2016
LEGISLATIVE
AGENDA

OUR PRIORITIES ARE:

HOUSING & SAFETY NET

- Additional funding to assist local governments in addressing the homelessness crisis and in protecting our most vulnerable populations, including those with mental illness, the elderly and children
- Financing tools to expand affordable housing and help ensure affordability for tenants
- Funding to preserve and enhance essential human services, including chemical abuse and dependency services

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Gun safety laws that reduce violence, protect children, and result in safe, responsible gun ownership
- Policies that clarify marijuana penalty provisions and underage use, and provide flexible options for locals in regulating recreational marijuana markets
- Reforms to the Public Records Act that maintain transparency, promote public safety, protect privacy, and advance government efficiency and effectiveness

EDUCATION

- New revenue to provide quality education for early learning through K-12
- Increased school construction capacity to develop proper facilities for current and future students

TRANSPORTATION

- Policies that improve traffic, transit, and freight mobility; reduce congestion; and increase safety

ENVIRONMENT

- Legislation that will reduce climate polluting emissions and encourage investments in clean energy, including solar energy incentives and energy efficiency
- Legislation that supports municipalities to expand their current service areas in accordance with the goals of the GMA

PHOTO: DANIEL SCHWEN

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HOUSING AFFORDABILITY, PUBLIC SAFETY & HUMAN SERVICES RESOURCES

BACKGROUND

- Over 45,000 Seattle Households are severely cost burdened and pay more than half of their income for housing.
- Rents are rising rapidly in Seattle, making housing unaffordable to people in critical occupations like pre-school teachers, healthcare workers, and service industry employees.
- 3,000 homeless children are currently attending Seattle Public Schools. On average, that's more than 1 student per Seattle classroom.
- Last winter's One Night Count found 2,800 men, women, and children without shelter in Seattle.
- Everyday police officers encounter individuals in crisis dealing with mental health issues and drug addiction. Many of these individuals cycle through the criminal justice system without receiving adequate services.

CITY SOLUTIONS

- The \$145 million 2009 voter approved Seattle Housing Levy has constructed 1,971 apartments, renovated 410 apartments, provided 1,882 households with rent assistance and provided 148 home loans for low-income buyers. Overall, since the 1980's the Levy has **created 12,000 affordable apartments and helped assist 800 buyers to purchase their first home.**
- The Incentive Zoning program, authorized by state legislation, has generated \$73 million for affordable housing.
- **Seattle invests \$129 million annually for human services, including \$40 million annually** to assist people at-risk of or experiencing homelessness, including single adults, youth, families, domestic violence survivors, older adults, Native Americans, and veterans.
- In 2016, Seattle has committed to investing an **additional \$7.3 million in emergency funding** to assist in responding to the homelessness crisis and the growing demand for services.
- Seattle has made assessable one community center and seven pool facilities to provide homeless students and their families with hygiene services.
- Seattle has **added 288 shelter beds** since November 2015.
- Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection and Seattle Fire Department are working to reduce barriers in the shelter permitting process.

STATE REQUESTS

- Local option property tax exemption to preserve and create affordability in existing housing.
- Increase funding for the Housing Trust Fund (HTF) by \$10 million; in addition, adequate operating and service dollars should be available for HTF capital investments to ensure our most vulnerable populations are served, including those experiencing homelessness, seniors, youth and families.
- Additional tools for locals to construct and maintain housing affordability for owners and renters.
- Increase funding for mental health and substance abuse services.
- Support for supportive housing services that serve the chronically homeless with serious behavioral or physical health disabilities, and maintain HEN, ABD and SSI Facilitation Services at their current funding levels.
- Expand access to life-saving opiate overdose prevention drug naloxone and provide capital funding for new community clinics to meet the need for medication-assisted treatment.