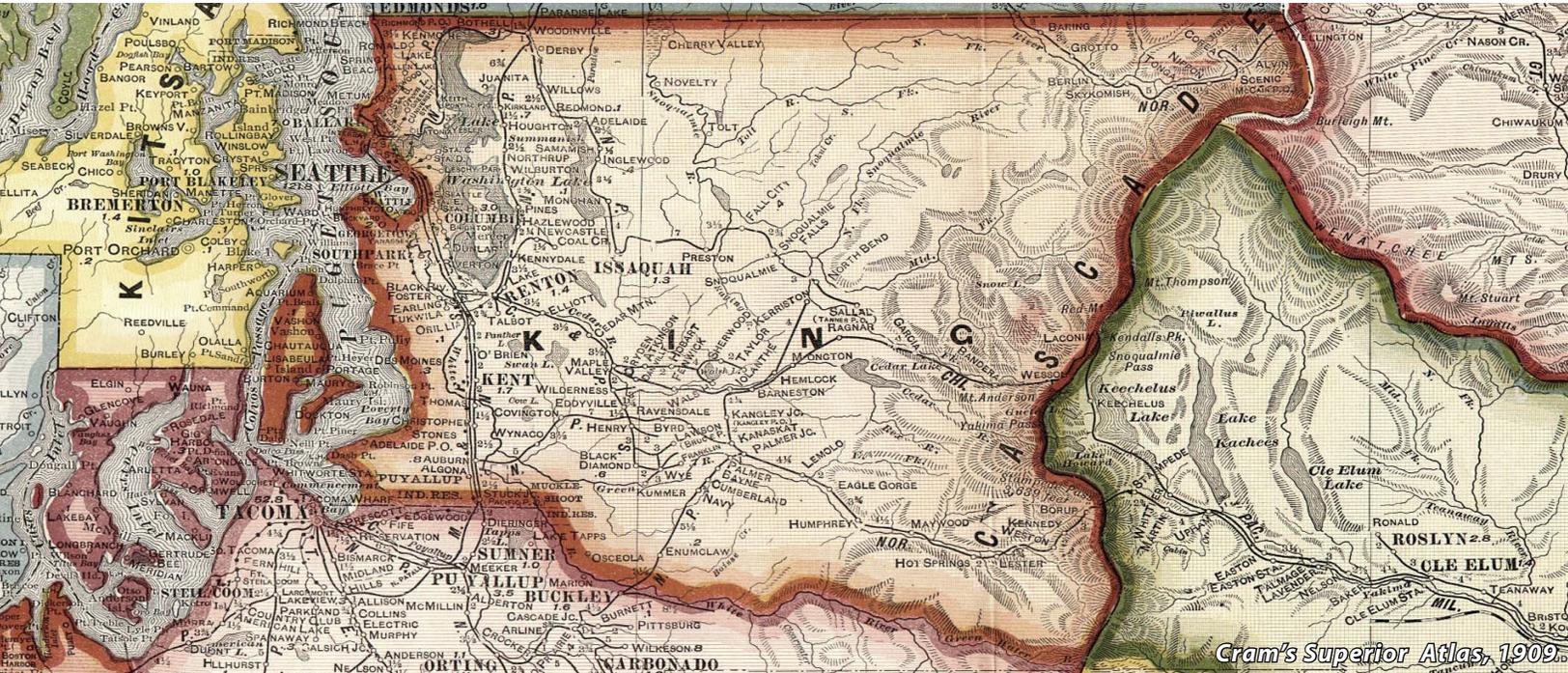




# King County 2018 State Legislative Agenda



## OUR TOP INITIATIVES

### Reform state and local tax system

The state generates almost 43% of its general fund revenues from King County taxpayers, yet invests less than 23% of state revenues back into the county. The legislature's school funding plan will dramatically increase property taxes for a majority of King County residents. Action is needed to make the state's tax system more fair, equitable, and sustainable for King County's taxpayers and local governments.

- Replace the arbitrary 1% cap with a growth limit directly tied to inflation + population growth.
- Eliminate the non-supplant restriction to allow special levies to fund existing services and programs.
- Adjust qualifying income level on senior property tax exemption to a percentage of county median income and allow extension of the exemption to local levies.

### Improve juvenile justice system

Reduce youth interaction with the juvenile justice system – especially among youth of color who are disproportionately represented.

- Authorize juvenile courts to use diversion funding pre-adjudication.
- Support efforts that focus on youth rehabilitation and reducing recidivism.

### Stabilize local public health services

Protect against the proliferation of communicable diseases by investing \$5 million in important King County public health programs.

### Roads and Bridges

- Address chronically underfunded county regional and local roads and bridges.
- Invest in long term regional and local road infrastructure where state and local roads connect.

### Provide mental health and addiction treatment on demand

Addiction and mental health treatment is most effective when people get the right treatment, at the right time, at the right place.

- Add funding to stabilize core community behavioral health rates and deliver better health outcomes while also increasing discharges and diversion from state hospitals.
- Expand the state Medicaid plan to secure additional federal funding and deliver better health outcomes.
- Increase community capacity for mental health and addiction treatment by investing at least \$65 million in capital projects.

# King County seeks to partner with Washington State in the following ways:

## Affordable Homes

- Support efforts to provide cities and counties with additional tools to preserve and expand affordable homes, behavioral health facilities, and homelessness services.
- Invest \$107 million in the Housing Trust Fund to increase affordable housing supply.
- Increase local communities' capacity to respond to homelessness and address the immediate crisis and the root causes of homelessness.

### King County Government Relations Contacts

April Putney, State Relations Director, Executive  
206-519-9766, april.putney@kingcounty.gov

Mac Nicholson, Government Relations Director, Council  
206-218-7510, mac.nicholson@kingcounty.gov

## Infrastructure

- Dedicate at least \$500,000 to help retrofit the Eastside Rail Corridor's historic 100-year-old Wilburton Trestle to create a seamless 22 mile pedestrian/bicycle trail.
- Fund the Floodplains by Design grant program for critical floodplain management projects.
- Protect public health by funding an alternative wastewater system in Fall City.
- Enhance dam safety emergency planning and preparedness.

## Law and Justice

- Strengthen state laws, and provide support to organizations and programs, that deter crime and counteract hate-motivated criminal activity.
- Empower law enforcement agencies to build departments more reflective of their communities by extending employment opportunities to legal permanent residents.
- Clarify authority to use video hearings for commitments under the Involuntary Treatment Act.

## Strong Communities

- Continue to ensure access to affordable health care coverage for low-income Washingtonians.
- Improve voting access and electoral processes to make government more representative of the public.
- Ensure homeless programs and services are data driven. Reauthorize unaccompanied minors over the age of 13 to consent to share their information with HMIS, with appropriate protections.
- Facilitate the exchange of useful, timely data on instances of safe transfer of newborns and newborn abandonment to better programs and services.
- Support state policies that reduce carbon emissions and accelerate a transition to clean energy.

## King County – Where We Live

