



Claudia Balducci

King County Councilmember, District 6

Working for District 6 Residents



With housing supporters at the 2018 Affordable Housing Week rally.



Staff and members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue receiving a "retired" King County Metro van.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It's an honor to represent you and the Eastside on the King County Council. This newsletter provides a snapshot of what we accomplished together in 2018 on behalf of District 6, as well as plans for the work to come in 2019.

I believe County government needs to take the lead to tackle the big issues of today, and prepare for the challenges of tomorrow. That's what I work to do every day. I look forward to continuing to represent you on the King County Council in 2019. Please contact me with any questions or needs you may have.

Sincerely,

Claudia Balducci
Vice Chair, King County Council
District 6

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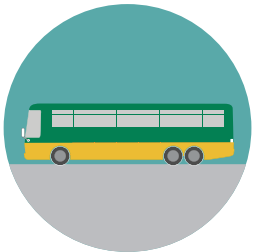
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Coming in 2019



Regional leadership for the Eastside

In 2019, I will serve as County Council Vice-Chair and Chair the Budget and Fiscal Management and Regional Transit Committees. As a member of the Sound Transit Board, I will Chair the System Expansion Committee and serve on the Executive Committee, providing critical direction and oversight to our expanding rail and bus rapid transit system across the Puget Sound region.



Planning for King County's long-term transit needs

In response to a motion I sponsored in conjunction with the County budget, the County Executive, Council, representatives from cities, and community stakeholders will come together this year to plan ways to continue implementing Metro's 25-year plan for transit.



Growing affordable housing

In just a few days, the King County Council will adopt the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force's Action Plan. I co-chaired the Task Force and am excited to start implementing its recommendations, including providing 44,000 affordable homes countywide within 5 years.



Improving educational outcomes

The County has a unique opportunity to invest \$318 million in new funds from the state to improve education for children and young adults in King County through the Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account created by the state legislature. I have been working with my Council colleagues to develop a plan to allocate the funds in a way that maximizes their impact in our community.

KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST NEWS AT KING COUNTY BY:

- Signing up for my e-newsletter on my website: kingcounty.gov/balducci
- Liking my Facebook page: facebook.com/KCCClaudia
- Following me on Twitter: @KCC_Claudia

A Look Back at 2018



photo courtesy of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Improving communities with more trails and trees

The Eastside Rail Corridor Trail keeps growing

In 2018, King County opened two more trail segments, making major strides toward realizing the vision of a 42-mile regional multiuse corridor through East King County. You can now walk or bike the Eastside Rail Corridor from Renton to Newcastle Beach Park and from the Bel-Red area of Bellevue to South Kirkland, connecting to the Cross-Kirkland Corridor.

On the Way to One Million Trees

Tree planting and preservation is a key strategy to maintain air quality and combat climate change. Last year, I was pleased to celebrate Mercer Island's first Tree City USA award and assist in meeting the King County Strategic Climate Action Plan's goal to plant 1 million trees by 2020. As of early 2019, 705,840 trees have been planted.

Better Transit Service for the Eastside

More transit service for all of King County

In the 2019/2020 budget, I worked hard to add 25,000 hours of transit service above the Executive's proposed budget. Because Seattle has high density and purchases extra bus service from Metro, new service hours often are heavily allocated within Seattle. I added a requirement that bus service funded by the new 25,000 hours must serve riders outside Seattle.

New service in District 6

New Ride2 on-demand shuttle service at Eastgate Park & Ride:

With a tap on your smartphone, Ride 2 gets people from home or work to a transit center without the hassle of driving or finding parking.

Better bus service on Mercer Island: Starting in March 2019, after effective lobbying by a District 6 resident, Metro will implement changes to the Route 204 adding Saturday service and more flexible pickups on Mercer Island.

Expedited installation of bus shelters in Clyde Hill: When bus shelters were removed as part of a fall construction project, Clyde Hill residents asked my office for help speeding up their replacement. After our intervention, and just in time for the winter weather, Metro Transit reinstalled bus shelters months ahead of schedule.

photo courtesy of King County Metro Transit





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King County Councilmember

King County Council

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Speaking at the Housing Development Consortium's annual celebration.

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King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci's 2018 Highlights



King County provides pre-paid postage for mail-in ballots

Early in 2018, the King County Council approved legislation allowing County Elections to send voters postage-paid envelopes for their ballots. The State of Washington followed the County's lead, funding pre-paid postage for ballots statewide. Prepaid postage was one reason why the November 2018 election saw the highest midterm voter turnout in 50 years.



30 years of solving crime to keep communities safe

I sponsored legislation supporting the continuation of the Automated Fingerprint Identification System Program, or AFIS, which was approved by voters in August. For over 30 years, AFIS has been an essential law enforcement tool. It is also highly-cost effective - the new AFIS levy will collect \$1.5 million less in 2019 than it did in 2018 while still providing the same high-quality, professional service to King County law enforcement agencies.



Holding the line on taxes at the King County Flood Control District

In 2018, for the second time in three years, I successfully advocated to forego the 1% property tax increase allowed by law for the King County Flood Control District. I believe that while we undertake the important work of the District, it's also important to honor our responsibility to taxpayers to collect only the revenue we need to complete the Flood Control District capital program.