2023 State Legislative Agenda

TOP PRIORITIES

Strengthen Access to Behavioral Health Care
• Eliminate obstacles to the efficient provision of behavioral health support and treatment.
• Provide immediate crisis services and behavioral health treatment by investing in behavioral health workforce, community-based behavioral health capital facilities and operations.

Local Government Funding and Tax Reform
• Replace the arbitrary one percent property tax cap with a mechanism that accounts for inflation and population growth.
• Provide local governments with needed flexibility and tools to help implement a more progressive tax system and to preserve and maintain local roads.
• Simplify property tax exemption programs for our senior and disabled residents.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

Housing and Homelessness
• Fund additional robust capital and operating investments in low-income and supportive housing.
• Adopt policies and incentives to advance development and construction of missing middle housing.
• Adopt policies and funding to support individuals and families in recovery from substance use disorders.

Public Safety and Justice System
• Maintain the intent of previous law enforcement accountability reforms while seeking improvements for operational implementation.
• Invest in public safety staffing.
• Address gun violence through prevention and expand innovative diversion efforts that address root causes.
• Improve conditions for juveniles in detention.

Maintain and Expand Pro-Equity and Anti-Racist Policies
• Increase community-based resources that address hate and bias crimes and incidents.
• Address the expiring Blake decision response legislation and maintain resentencing funds for local governments.
• Pursue legislation that provides equity for people with disabilities.

Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change
• Emphasize outcome-based water quality benefits necessary to promote long-term resilience for Puget Sound.
• Continue to enhance and grow product stewardship programs to make products safer for people and the planet, from design to disposal.
• Invest in transit, building decarbonization, vehicle electrification, clean energy supplies, and climate-resilient infrastructure.
• Support updates to land use planning and permitting that align policies with state emission reduction goals and establish greenhouse reduction goals at the regional and county level and a framework for implementation via reasonable regional, county, and local efforts.

Ensure Access to Complete Health Care
• Ensure providers can treat patients seeking reproductive health care without repercussion and residents can access those providers despite increased demand and decreased capacity.
• Provide necessary resources for Monkeypox vaccines.
• Support policy and budget efforts that address challenges with discharging patients who no longer need acute hospital-level care to settings that provide the appropriate level of care, particularly for patients with significant medical and behavioral complexity.