

# 2023 State Legislative Priorities

The King County [Affordable Housing Committee](#) of the Growth Management Planning Council is charged with recommending actions and assessing regional progress to advance affordable housing solutions recommended by Regional Affordable Housing Task Force in December 2018. The Task Force estimated that by 2040 King County will need to add a total of 244,000 affordable units to ensure that no low-income household pays more than 30 percent of its income on housing. In 2019 and 2020, the region added 8,415 affordable units. That means King County needs to build or preserve, on average, 11,579 affordable units every year for the remaining 20 years to meet the need. In light of this, the committee of 18 elected, nonprofit, and business leaders adopted these state legislative priorities, which call for additional resources and legislation to build and preserve affordable housing, support housing planning and community engagement, ensure that people remain stably housed, increase housing access, and support populations experiencing chronic homelessness.

## Affordable Housing Committee's 2023 State Legislative Priorities

- 1. Increase capital and operating resources for affordable housing**
  - a. Increase existing funding sources like the Housing Trust Fund, including creating a permanent funding source and authorizing new, progressive sources that do not disproportionately burden low-income households, to the greatest extent possible.
  - b. Ensure new housing revenue tools retain local flexibility to support uses including:
    - i. Capital investments and ongoing operating and services support for new and existing projects serving 0-50% area median income (AMI) households. This includes support for permanent supportive housing and workforce 0-30% AMI housing.
    - ii. Projects that promote access to opportunity, anti-displacement, and wealth building opportunities for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities most disproportionately impacted by housing cost burden.
- 2. Support local jurisdictions planning for increasing affordable housing**
  - a. Fund community-based organizations from impacted communities to engage in the comprehensive plan process and shape local strategies that prevent displacement and undo racially biased exclusionary policies. This funding would support implementation of Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1220 (2021).
- 3. Support housing stability through increased financial support to low-income households, tenant protections, and civil legal assistance**
  - a. Maintain or expand the Housing and Essential Needs program to keep up with rising rents for the lowest income community members.
  - b. Support legislation that increases equitable opportunities for tenants to learn about and enforce their rights.
  - c. Increase legal assistance funding to fully implement Right to Counsel created by Senate Bill 5160 (2021).
  - d. Pass the Housing Justice Act to ban discrimination against renters based on a prior criminal record.
- 4. Preserve the supply of affordable housing**
  - a. Preserve manufactured housing communities through state policies that provide tenants and nonprofit organizations the opportunity to purchase manufactured housing communities and require longer notices for closures of manufactured housing communities. Over 8,600 households live in manufactured housing communities, a vital affordable housing resource for low-income people in King County, and many communities are at risk of closure, redevelopment, or substantial pad rent increases.

Approved November 3, 2022 by the Affordable Housing Committee of the King County Growth Management Planning Council.

To learn more about the Affordable Housing Committee, please visit: [www.kingcounty.gov/AHC](http://www.kingcounty.gov/AHC).

### Committee Members

- **Council Chair Claudia Balducci (Committee Chair)**, *King County Council*
- **Susan Boyd (Committee Vice Chair)**, *Bellwether Housing*
- **Don Billen**, *Sound Transit\**
- **Alex Brennan**, *Futurewise*
- **Jane Broom**, *Microsoft Philanthropies*
- **Kelly Coughlin**, *SnoValley Chamber of Commerce*
- **Russell Joe**, *Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties*
- **Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles**, *King County Council*
- **Mayor Nigel Herbig**, *Kenmore, Sound Cities Association\**
- **Councilmember Marli Larimer**, *Kent, Sound Cities Association\**
- **Ryan Makinster**, *Washington Multi-Family Housing Association*
- **Councilmember Ryan McIrvine**, *Renton, Sound Cities Association*
- **Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda**, *Seattle City Council*
- **Michael Ramos**, *Church Council of Greater Seattle*
- **Kelly Rider (on behalf of King County Executive Constantine)**, *King County, Department of Community and Human Services*
- **Mayor Lynne Robinson**, *Bellevue, Sound Cities Association*
- **Tim Walter**, *King County Housing Authority\**
- **Maiko Winkler-Chin (on behalf of Mayor Harrell)**, *Seattle Office of Housing*

### Alternate Members

- **Councilmember Amy Falcone**, *Kirkland, Sound Cities Association*
- **Deputy Mayor Dana Parnello**, *Maple Valley, Sound Cities Association\**
- **Councilmember Chris Stearns**, *Auburn, Sound Cities Association*
- **Council President Lindsey Walsh**, *Issaquah, Sound Cities Association*
- **Councilmember Dan Strauss**, *Seattle City Council\**
- **Thatcher Imboden**, *Sound Transit\**
- **Robin Walls**, *King County Housing Authority*

\*Absent for vote