



2026 Federal Priorities

King County: A Strong Investment. A Strong Community.

King County is the local and regional government for nearly 2.4 million residents and serves a vital role in ensuring all our residents have the opportunity to achieve their potential. King County's economy, fueled by innovation and a skilled, diverse workforce, creates jobs and helps drive economic growth throughout Washington State.

King County's primary federal objective is to ensure our ability to meet the fundamental needs of all of our residents. In these unprecedented times, when the federal administration is taking unlawful actions to actively target our residents, our programs, and our core values, we have an obligation to comply with ideals enshrined in the Constitution ensuring equal protection for all, and follow duly enacted federal, state, and local laws. We must rely on our federal delegation as never before.

We appreciate the unwavering commitment and work of our federal congressional partners on behalf of King County and our residents.

Protect the foundational rights of our residents

- Protect birthright citizenship.
- Oppose efforts that restrict or impair the ability of our residents to make their own decisions about their own bodies.
- Oppose federal efforts that seek to coerce local jurisdictions into using local resources for federal immigration enforcement.
- Support local government efforts to oppose federal actions that impose unlawful conditions on federal funding.
- Reinstate humanitarian parole programs and fight attempts to strip beneficiaries of lawful parole status or Temporary Protected Status (TPS).
- Oppose restrictions and fees on the right to seek asylum, demand the restoration of the refugee program, and ensure that asylum seekers and others with pending applications are able to work to support themselves and their families throughout the entire adjudication process.
- Ensure a clear and fair vetting process for migrants and provide a path to citizenship for undocumented community members, including DACA recipients.
- Respect and grant protection to individuals at sensitive locations by prohibiting immigration enforcement activities, allowing residents to drop off their children at school, seek medical care, attend court hearings, and attend places of worship without fear.

Protect access to health care and food security

- Restore Medicaid funding and reject cuts that will have a devastating effect on over 450,000 King County residents who rely on the program.
- Re-institute Affordable Care Act premium subsidies, preserving access to affordable health care for our shared constituents.

- Oppose efforts to eliminate gender-affirming care for our transgender residents.
- Oppose cuts to veterans' programs that provide physical and behavioral health care and housing support.
- Protect Medicaid funding for family planning clinics that perform abortions.
- Protect funding for the Prevention and Public Health Fund and the Hospital Preparedness Program as a key strategy to ensure the ability to prevent and respond to public health emergencies, including outbreaks of vaccine-preventable infections.
- Protect and enhance infrastructure improvements for Harborview Medical Center, a comprehensive healthcare facility dedicated to providing world-class medical services to the most vulnerable and those in critical need of life saving care throughout Washington, Alaska, Idaho, and Montana.
- Defend programming that lowers barriers to care for residents who have experienced discrimination in our health care system especially Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.
- Restore funding cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and ease strict and burdensome work requirements to ensure food security and access to health care and other benefits for county residents.
- Reauthorize the Farm Bill, which authorizes programs that benefit county residents, including SNAP and farm-to-foodbank funding, farm disaster assistance, conservation, and rural development.

Strengthen and ensure access to behavioral health treatment

- Expand addiction response and recovery programs to build on successful efforts to address the opioid/fentanyl crisis.
- Revise the IMD exclusion to allow Medicaid to cover short-term stays in psychiatric hospitals, increase long-term residential behavioral health care capacity, and invest in community-based responses to behavioral health crises including first responder training.

Promote public safety, education, and civic engagement

- Preserve investments in programs that address the gun violence epidemic, support community-based violence interventions, and continue to promote common-sense gun laws.
- Oppose the SAVE Act and any other proposals that eliminate or limit mail-in-voting and undermine or restrict the right to vote in local, state and federal elections.
- Support training, equipment, and recruitment and retention programs for local law enforcement agencies.
- Maintain services for survivors of violence through the Office on Violence Against Women and through the Victims of Crime Act program.
- Increase funding for pre-apprenticeship and youth job programs to empower our young residents.
- Partner with King County to expand promise scholarships covering 2-years of tuition at vocational, technical or community college to graduates of public high schools throughout King County, enabling students to become certified for a well-paying job or reduce debt for students transferring to a 4-year institution.
- Require more oversight, transparency, and accountability from federal agencies tasked with immigration enforcement.

Maintain critical transportation and environmental policies and infrastructure

- As Congress works on surface transportation reauthorization, we ask for increased transportation funding for counties that addresses critical infrastructure needs and improves mobility and access to jobs, by growing the Surface Transportation Block Grant program, which benefits state and local governments; by providing counties with direct access to federal formula funding for bridges (Bridge Formula Program) and safety infrastructure (Highway Safety Improvement Program); by growing traditional transit grant programs (Urbanized Area Formula Grants, Passenger Ferry Grants, State of Good Repair, and Bus and Bus Facility programs); and by growing the Federal Transit Administration Capital Investment Program.
- Maintain support for active transportation programs that build active transportation infrastructure, like trails and greenways to improve livability and economic vitality.
- Increase federal grant funding opportunities for wastewater treatment infrastructure, to help King County update our aging regional wastewater treatment infrastructure and meet the clean water needs of the Puget Sound region.
- Preserve tax-exempt municipal bonds as a critical infrastructure financing tool.
- Pass the Fixing Emergency Management for Americans act, to ensure a well-resourced, strong FEMA with capacity to support state and local governments and communities to manage and respond to disasters.
- Protect lives, property, and businesses through emergency preparedness, response and recovery planning by investing in flood protection, modernizing the National Flood Insurance Program, and supporting wildfire risk reduction efforts through community wildfire planning and forest restoration and vegetation management on public and private land.
- Preserve policies that protect our natural spaces, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote climate resilience to ensure the health of our planet and prevent poor health outcomes such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease.
- Oppose efforts to reorganize and dismantle the US Forest Service.
- Invest in aviation infrastructure, particularly as it relates to safety and emergency preparedness.

Safeguard essential housing investments

- Preserve federal programs that help build or maintain affordable housing, including Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Low Income Housing Tax Credits, HOME Program grants, the National Housing Trust Fund, and other programs that leverage private-sector investments in affordable housing and preservation.
- Defend Continuum of Care grant funding for homelessness response, including shelters, street-level interventions, domestic violence services, and youth programs. These programs are essential to King County's efforts to address the homelessness crisis.
- Preserve community-based housing including Medicaid-funded home services, Project-Based Rental Assistance, Homeless Assistance Grants, Housing Choice Vouchers and ensure these programs are available to individuals with developmental, behavioral and physical health disabilities.