



OUR TOP INITIATIVES

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Reform state and local tax system

The state generates almost 43% of its general fund revenues from King County tax payers, 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 local 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 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 youth of color who are disproportionately represented.

- Authorize juvenile courts to use diversion funding pre-adjudication.
- Support efforts that focus on youth rehabilitation and reduce 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 at least \$65 million.

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.

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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 for an alternative wastewater system in Fall City.
- Enhance dam safety emergency planning and preparedness.

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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

