



Washington State is the best place in the country to work, live, and raise a family.

King County's economy – fueled by innovation and a skilled workforce – creates jobs and helps drive economic growth throughout Washington State. Businesses in the Puget Sound region influence the global economy, provide jobs for our residents, and keep local communities thriving.

Ensuring King County remains a place where all residents have the opportunity to achieve their maximum potential is a responsibility we share with our state and federal partners, and it's our promise to serve all those who call this region home. The Washington State Congressional delegation members are vital partners in our continued prosperity.

The King County Executive and Council have constructed an agenda that includes continuing investment in infrastructure, maintaining support for critical health and human service programs, tackling the opioid crisis affecting too many Washington families, and working to protect the environment. King County has been, and will continue to be, a strong partner and a good investment for the federal government.



A Strong Investment

Investments in King County lead to positive stewardship and outcomes. We effectively leverage federal resources to drive economic growth and serve working families and vulnerable populations. We seek continued partnership and investment with King County and the 2.1 million residents who are proud to call this place home. Thanks to our federal partnership, King County:

- Achieved a 50% reduction in the overall uninsured rate, and 98% of King County children have health insurance.
- Became one of the first counties in the United States to reach the ambitious "90-90-90" goal where the County has identified 90% of people with HIV/AIDS, 90% are compliant with treatment, and 90% have successfully achieved viral suppression.
- Carried a record 122.2 million riders on King County Metro in 2017, helping to keep the region moving despite being the sixth fastest growing county in the country.



Infrastructure for a Strong Economy

From airplanes and lumber to apples and wheat, millions of dollars worth of goods grown, processed, or manufactured throughout Washington State move through King County on a daily basis. The entire state benefits from infrastructure that effectively moves people and products via roads, rails, trails, and waterways. We encourage Congress to:

- Develop an infrastructure package that includes dedicated funding to:
 - Bring county bridges into compliance with new federal standards;
 - Maintain, replace, and repair aging roads; and
 - Deliver transit projects that commuters rely on to reach job centers.



- Maximize TIGER, New Starts, and TIFIA grant programs, providing opportunities for local transportation projects including the Eastside Rail Corridor and Federal Way Triangle, which connect job centers and neighborhoods on the Eastside and South King County.
- Increase funding to improve failing Army Corps of Engineers infrastructure, including the 100 year old Ballard Locks, and the Howard Hanson and Buckley Diversion Dams.
- Invest in flood protection, multi-benefit floodplain management, and the National Flood Insurance Program to protect industry, manufacturing, farmlands, and working families.
- Preserve the ecological and environmental uniqueness of the Puget Sound region by designating the Mountains to Sound Greenway as a National Heritage Area; funding programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and investing in salmon recovery and the clean-up of the Puget Sound and the Duwamish River.
- Reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration, and maintain the FAA's Airport Improvement Program which provides critical funds for the King County International Airport.

Investing in Healthy Communities

King County must continue to work with our local and national partners to address the challenges of a regional homelessness crisis and nationwide opioid epidemic. Our approach must include strategies that resolve root causes of these issues. We seek federal partnership to:

- Treat and transition people safely off of heroin and opioids by implementing and funding the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, the 21st Century Cures Act, and recommendations made by the Commission on Combatting Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis.
- Provide permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, and reemployment services to help communities address homelessness.
- Provide resources to families, youths, and veterans to address homelessness by fully funding CDBG, Homeless Assistance Accounts, Low Income Housing Tax Credit, and HOME grant programs.
- Ensure access to affordable, quality health care for King County residents.
- Extend funding for community health centers, increase Medicare reimbursement rates, reinstate the CHIP enhanced payment structure, and preserve Medicaid access for vulnerable populations.
- Reauthorize the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program as part of the 2018 Farm Bill.

Resolving Challenges through Partnership

A number of prominent issues of concern to our shared constituents can only be solved at the federal level. We stand ready to support you and urge Congress to:

- Address immigration reform in a comprehensive manner that protects the legal status of DACA recipients, ensures that all residents feel secure to call on our public safety officers for help, and keeps King County a welcoming place for all.
- Take action to prevent a trade war. As one of the most trade dependent states in the nation, the imposition of tariffs on Washington exports will have a significant impact on our economy.
- Enact effective, common sense gun safety and violence prevention measures.
- Ensure a full and accurate census, and maintain the privacy and confidentiality of census responses. It is critical that census questions are designed to solicit high response rates from all people of any citizenship status living within King County, consistent with recent census questionnaires, to ensure equal congressional representation and distribution of federal funding.
- Develop and implement initiatives that improve gender equality; prevent sexual assault and harassment; reduce juvenile detention and disproportionality in the criminal justice system; combat human trafficking; and guarantee equal protection for all people including those in the LGBTQ community.

