

2017 Regional Legislative Agenda



seattle metropolitan chamber of commerce

The Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce is the region's largest independent business and employer association. We seek an economically vibrant and globally competitive Seattle region where businesses can flourish and everyone has the opportunity to succeed and to access a thriving quality of life.

In 2017, the Chamber will advocate to the City of Seattle, other cities in King County, and King County itself for the following policy improvements to advance economic prosperity, ensure a vital business environment, and build sustainable and healthy communities in our region.

PRIORITIES OF GOVERNMENT

- Establish outcomes and performance measures that ensure our cities and the county are spending tax dollars wisely and effectively (e.g. improved coordination on homelessness, investments and programs for affordable housing; funding for public schools and other education services)

REVENUE

- Ensure that existing or new initiatives, policies, and programs that benefit the whole city are funded across the whole tax base, not in a way that disproportionately impacts the business community
- All revenue proposals should include careful evaluation of how existing funding is being used; in addition, any new proposals should have clear metrics for how the additional revenue would achieve positive outcomes for the community.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

- Continue moving the HALA recommendations forward and keep the "Grand Bargain" intact

EDUCATION

- Make measurable progress with the Mayor's Education Advisory Group's recommendations, and include a mechanism for business input on the Summer Youth Employment Initiative
- Implement system changes required to better align students with employment opportunities through active engagement with the Seattle Region Partnership
- Continue to improve early childhood education through Best Starts for Kids and the Seattle Preschool Program

TRANSPORTATION

- Keep Move Seattle projects on schedule, ensuring that Fairview Avenue North Bridge Replacement construction begins in spring 2017, and the Lander Street Bridge Project stays on track to begin construction in early 2018
- Show measurable improvements to Metro service in Seattle based on the stated goals of the Seattle Transportation Benefit District, including reduced overcrowding, increased frequency, and increased reliability
- Continue to implement and complete Sound Transit 2 projects in alignment with or ahead of project timelines. Expedite permitting for Sound Transit 3 projects in cities and counties across the region

HOMELESSNESS

- Develop alignment between the cities and the county on a countywide system of support services, in line with the Chamber's principles and the Poppe report. This system should transition homeless individuals into housing first and, ultimately, out of homelessness, bringing the community's compassion to bear at every step of the journey.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Ensure the Seattle Police Department enacts its Micro Community Policing Plans, including addressing the top concerns laid out in the 2016 Seattle University Public Safety Survey results
- Fulfill the requirements set out in the consent decree by the end of 2017
- Take steps to ensure the city remains on track to uphold its agreement to hire 200 new officers by 2020

WORKFORCE POLICIES

- Ensure that labor policies benefit both employees and employers, are simple to implement, and seamlessly integrate with existing definitions, laws, and jurisdictions
- In order to improve compliance and achieve better outcomes for employees, increase outreach to employers about the city's current labor laws (e.g. Office of Labor Standards grant program)