



2025 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.

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. Our primary federal objective is to ensure King County's ability to **meet the fundamental needs of all of our residents**. 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 governments opposing administration efforts to 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).
- Reject attempts to eliminate access to health care, food, and other benefits by adding new work requirements, increasing individual cost, and restricting eligibility based on immigration status.
- Oppose restrictions and fees on the right to seek asylum, demand the restoration of the refugee program, and allow asylum seekers to work to support themselves and their families.
- 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 sensitive locations, 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

- Oppose proposed reductions in Medicaid which will have a devastating effect on over 450,000 King County residents who rely on it.
- Oppose efforts to weaken the Affordable Care Act marketplaces.
- 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.
- Oppose provisions that would penalize states that provide health care access to residents who do not qualify for federal Medicaid coverage because of their immigration status.
- 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 live 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.
- Oppose reductions and eligibility restrictions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program which helps ensure food security for county residents.

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

- Preserve investments in programs that address the gun violence epidemic, support community-based violence interventions, and continue to promote common-sense gun laws.
- 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.

Maintain critical transportation and environmental policies and infrastructure

- Invest in bridge safety and complete critical repairs to bridges that are integral to the regional transportation network.
- Invest in updates to the aging regional wastewater treatment infrastructure to ensure it can continue to meet the health and clean water needs of the Puget Sound region.
- Preserve tax-exempt municipal bonds as a critical infrastructure financing tool.
- Protect lives, property, and business through emergency preparedness, response and recovery planning; invest in flood protection and modernize the National Flood Insurance Program; and support wildfire risk reduction efforts, including community wildfire planning and support for forest restoration and vegetation management on public and private land.
- Preserve investments made in transit and other multi-modal solutions that improve mobility, livability and economic vitality through proven, evidence-based strategies.
- Preserve policies that protect our natural spaces and advance our climate change goals, which are vital to ensuring the health of our planet and preventing poor health outcomes such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease.
- Invest in aviation infrastructure, particularly as it relates to safety and emergency preparedness.

Safeguard essential housing investments

- Preserve federal programs that help build or conserve 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.
- 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.
- Defend 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.