

## Federal Legislative Priorities

The King County Affordable Housing Committee of the Growth Management Planning Council recommends actions and assesses regional progress towards advancing affordable housing solutions. The King County Countywide Planning Policies recently established that the county needs to add approximately **195,000 net new affordable units** by 2044 to ensure that no low-income household pays more than 30 percent of its income on housing. That means countywide, the region must build or preserve an average of 9,750 affordable units every year for the next 20 years to meet the need. With current resources, about 3,700 affordable homes are built or preserved each year in King County, leaving **an annual remaining gap of 6,050 units**.

In light of this, the committee of 17 elected, nonprofit, and business leaders adopted these federal legislative priorities, which call for significantly increased federal investments in affordable housing to address the critical need for more affordable homes in King County.

### Affordable Housing Committee's Federal Legislative Priorities

1. Strengthen and expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program: LIHTC is the single largest driver of affordable housing production and preservation in the nation. The bipartisan "Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act" (S.1557/H.R.3238 of 2021), sponsored by Sen. Maria Cantwell and Rep. Suzan DelBene, among others, would expand production and help preserve affordable housing—producing an additional two million more rental homes nationwide than would otherwise be possible over the next decade. It would also provide state Housing Credit allocating agencies new tools to strengthen program administration, including rule changes to improve access for veterans, students, and victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.
2. Expand affordable housing resources in the federal budget: The federal government is a critical partner for addressing the housing crisis in King County. King County and its Consortium receive important grant funding from the federal government through the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership, and Emergency Solutions Grant. However, the grant amounts have not kept pace with the increasing need for affordable housing and are an increasingly small component of the affordable housing response in King County.
  - Federally-subsidized rental assistance administered by the King County, Seattle, and Renton Housing Authorities provides permanent affordable housing supports primarily for households earning less than 30% of AMI. Housing Choice Vouchers are a proven, flexible, and effective resource, but demand from eligible households far exceeds the supply. Congress should enact a significant expansion of general purpose Housing Choice Vouchers to bring needed relief to households in King County.
  - The Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 4 Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing Program enhances the ability for nonprofits to navigate the complex process of affordable housing development. Increasing Section 4 funding could support equitable development efforts in King County that seek to increase control and ownership of affordable housing within Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities.

- Enacting a full-year spending bill with the highest funding possible for housing and community development programs would have a meaningful impact towards meeting King County's housing needs.

Approved November 16, 2023 by the Affordable Housing Committee of the King County Growth Management Planning Council.

To learn more about the Affordable Housing Committee, please visit: [www.kingcounty.gov/AHC](http://www.kingcounty.gov/AHC).

### Committee Members

- **Councilmember Claudia Balducci (Committee Chair)**, *King County Council*
- **Alex Brennan (Committee Vice Chair)**, *Futurewise*
- **Don Billen**, *Sound Transit\**
- **Susan Boyd**, *Bellwether Housing*
- **Jane Broom**, *Microsoft Philanthropies\**
- **Kelly Coughlin**, *SnoValley Chamber of Commerce\**
- **Councilmember Amy Falcone**, *Kirkland, Sound Cities Association*
- **Veronica Shakotko**, *Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties*
- **Mayor Nigel Herbig**, *Kenmore, Sound Cities Association\**
- **Ryan Makinster**, *Washington Multi-Family Housing Association*
- **Sunaree Marshall (on behalf of King County Executive Constantine)**, *King County, Department of Community and Human Services*
- **Councilmember Ryan McIrvin**, *Renton, Sound Cities Association*
- **Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda**, *Seattle City Council\**
- **Mayor Lynne Robinson**, *Bellevue, Sound Cities Association*
- **Robin Walls**, *King County Housing Authority*
- **Maiko Winkler-Chin (on behalf of Mayor Harrell)**, *Seattle Office of Housing*

### Alternative Members

- **Councilmember Larry Brown**, *Auburn, Sound Cities Association*
- **Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo Jr.**, *Covington, Sound Cities Association\**
- **Deputy Mayor Dana Parnello**, *Maple Valley, Sound Cities Association*
- **Council President Lindsey Walsh**, *Issaquah, Sound Cities Association*
- **Councilmember Dan Strauss**, *Seattle City Council\**
- **Tim Walter**, *King County Housing Authority\**
- **Andréa Akita**, *Seattle Office of Housing\**
- **Thatcher Imboden**, *Sound Transit*

\*Absent for vote