

# Sound Cities Association

## 2022 Legislative Agenda



### Promote Economic Recovery

The COVID-19 public health crisis has had a devastating economic impact on Washington's businesses and workforce. Additional investments will be necessary to support long-term economic recovery. SCA urges the Legislature to:

- \* Provide tools and resources for local business recovery, particularly the small business community
- \* Be cognizant of tax implications and do no harm to individuals and businesses already hurt by the economic downturn

### Address the Fiscal Needs of Cities to Provide Local Services

Cities play an essential role in providing basic core services to residents. SCA urges the Legislature to:

- \* Ensure that state-shared revenue distributions remain whole
- \* Provide greater flexibility with existing revenue sources
- \* Replace the 1% cap on annual property tax increases with a limit tied to inflation plus population growth
- \* Support local infrastructure funding and fully fund the Public Works Assistance Account

### Law Enforcement Use of Force

Continue supporting local control over city law enforcement policies to meet the needs of each community, while recognizing the need for clarification of certain statewide reforms

### Invest in Transportation Infrastructure & Mobility

The economic recovery and vitality of our state demands that we invest in our existing transportation infrastructure and prioritize new investments that improve the mobility of people and goods. SCA urges the Legislature to:

- \* Partner with cities to develop a comprehensive transportation revenue package that provides new resources and options for local governments to address multimodal transportation and mobility needs

### Address Housing Instability

The state and cities must partner to preserve existing and increase the supply of affordable housing as well as address behavioral health needs and other root causes of homelessness. SCA urges the Legislature to:

- \* Address the instability resulting from the economic impacts of COVID-19 by increasing assistance to tenants, landlords, and homeowners as the statewide eviction moratorium ends
- \* Allocate federal funding to provide utility assistance to customers to satisfy past due accounts and avoid utility shutoffs
- \* Provide local option tools and incentives to diversify the housing supply what recognizes the diversity of our communities and maintains local decision-making authority

## Legislative Guiding Principles

SCA adopts the following guiding principles through which all legislative proposals will be measured against:

- \*Advance racial equity and social justice
- \*Do not eliminate the social safety net
- \*No unfunded mandates to cities
- \*Preserve local decision-making authority
- \*Protect shared revenues