

# Top Three 2023 State Legislative Agendas of the Highline Forum Members

**Highline College**

**Highline Public Schools**

**City of Tukwila**

**City of SeaTac**

**City of Normandy Park**

**City of Federal Way**

**City of Des Moines**

**City of Burien**

**Port of Seattle**

*January 25, 2023*



# Highline College

- **Provide Fully-Funded, Competitive Compensation**
  - Colleges are losing outstanding employees and job applicants to better paying K-12 schools, private employers, and other colleges and universities. Seeking a 13% increase (6.5% per each year of the biennium) on top of any COLA.
- **Support Workforce Development Programs**
  - Many industries in Washington — such as healthcare, advanced manufacturing, transportation, and aerospace — were struggling to find skilled employees even before the pandemic. These programs are the only pipeline into specialized fields. Investments would help colleges sustain workforce programs and update equipment to ensure students learn in classrooms that mirror today's work environments.
- **Advocate for Capital Investments across the Community and Technical College System**
  - For the 2023-25 capital budget, our system requests \$1.7 billion in capital investments to maintain and modernize our aging campuses and ensure we provide effective teaching and learning environments for the next generation of students.

# Highline Public Schools

- **Fully Funding Special Education**

- The Legislature has made much appreciated, critical investments in Special Education over the last four years, yet these investments continue to fall short of fully funding Special Education. Highline services 2,669 students with disabilities and expends \$55,470,889 to provide the services out students require in order to be successful at school. Fully 30% of the district's expenditures in special education (\$15,879,372) come from the district's local levies to provide the necessary and mandated supports for our students. More state funding is needed.

- **Capital Facilities Designed for Educational Strategies**

- To address escalating capital demands, we urge the Legislature to advance a constitutional amendment to change the bond validation rate from a 60 percent supermajority to a 50 percent plus one majority of ballots cast. In addition, we seek an enhancement to the funding formulas for the K-12 Student Space Allocation and Construction Cost Allowance to align education spaces with research-based teaching strategies and actual construction costs.

- **Regionalization**

- Housing and the cost of living within the District service area continue to rise, making paying our employees a living wage increasingly unsustainable. Regionalization was provided as an answer to this predicament as part of the new allocation model. The reduction of the levy lid and failure to align regionalization with the labor market constricts the district's ability to continue to attract a strong workforce and pay a living wage to those who serve our students. If regionalization is to continue, then it must recognize the impact of geographic differences as well as district-specific local costs and needs.

# City of Tukwila

- **Create stable, reliable Infrastructure Assistance Funding**
  - To help cities with repair of roads, bridges and other public infrastructure that support economic development.
- **Address the Housing Stability Crisis**
  - Provide additional tools for rental assistance, foreclosure/eviction prevention, and capital construction of affordable housing (including starter homes and options for people aging.)
- **Respond to the Blake decision**
  - Revise the current system so that it can be more effectively administered within and across jurisdictions, including funding for cities affected by changes resulting from the Blake decision.
- **Funding Authority and Flexibility**
  - Allow cities the authority and flexibility to address the fact that growth in the cost of services continue to outstrip revenues.

# City of SeaTac

- **Increase Workforce Development Opportunities**
  - The city is strongly invested in expanding workforce opportunities for residents, and ensuring youth and young adults may access local, family-wage jobs, including careers within the technical and trades industry. The city will seek state resources to expand pre-apprenticeship opportunities for residents.
- **Centralized SeaTac Community Park and Protecting Parkland from Development**
  - The city lacks a central park. Recognizing the unique challenges of situating a park near an airport, the city is seeking \$300,000 in funding for a study of where a centralized park could be sited.
- **Behavioral Health**
  - The behavioral health system in south King County, like much of Washington state, is under considerable strain. The city supports enhancements to the behavioral health system for the benefit of our residents, including: support for additional 988 crisis response teams; crisis triage; detox facilities; and additional school counselors.
- **Defend Local Control**
  - The best government decisions are those that are made closest to the people represented. Cities possess strong local authority to provide for the safety and welfare of their residents, and the Legislature much abstain from restricting, mandating, or otherwise interfering with local decisions.

# City of Normandy Park

- **Public Safety**
  - Respond to the Blake decision by providing clarification, and address vehicle pursuits based on a reasonable suspicion standard in specific.
- **Support the Fiscal Needs of All Cities**
  - Replace the 1% property tax cap with one that takes into consideration inflation and population growth.
- **Address Housing Issues**
  - Normandy Park supports the development of local option tools and incentives to diversify the housing supply, that recognizes the diversity of our communities and maintains local decision-making authority.
- **Behavioral Health Resources**
  - Normandy Park supports increasing access to community-based behavior health services through options.
- **Environmental**
  - Support core salmon recovery programs in the state Capital Budget. State funds are needed to leverage local and federal investments to advance salmon recovery.
- **Transportation**
  - As the SR 509 extension project advances, funded improvements are needed to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South prior to the transition to a safe and effective local multi-modal roadway.

# City of Federal Way

- Police Vehicular Pursuits
- Restore the Role of the Courts in Enforcing Drug Possession Laws
- Maintain the Ability of Local Government to Plan for Growth
- Condominium Liability and Housing Affordability
- Capital Budget Request
- Transportation Budget Request
- Behavioral and Mental Health Resources

# City of Des Moines

- **Funding Requests**

- A \$2 million Capital Budget request for funding the Marina Steps, connecting the Marina with downtown Des Moines, a \$1 million request for work on the Redondo Fishing Pier, and a \$1.6 million request for the Redondo Bathroom project. Also requesting clarification on the timing of funding from the 2022 Move Ahead Washington transportation for the Barnes Creek Trail South segment.

- **Public Safety**

- Support legislation clarifying both the Blake decision and the use of vehicle pursuits. Support legislation to address combatting catalytic converter theft, and after-market mufflers to address noise concerns.

- **Airport Issues**

- With Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission recommendations on a new airport expected in mid-2023, the city encourages appropriate planning and appropriations to continue momentum for locating alternatives to SEA Airport for future air travel.



# City of Burien

- **Healthy and Thriving Communities**

- Housing issues (rent assistance, tenant protections, fund Housing Trust Fund, GMA reform, new tools/incentives)
- Parks and recreation funding, and opportunities for youth
- Efforts to address the impacts of SEA Airport operations, including school air filters

- **Quality of Life and Economic Development**

- Revise the property tax cap and tie it to population growth and inflation
- Advocate for minority-owned businesses, apprenticeship programs, and childcare
- Request \$3.8 million to fund design of westbound SR 518 on-ramp from Des Moines Memorial Drive

- **Advancing Climate Progress**

- Support policies that reduce climate polluting emissions, and ensure equity for lower income communities and communities of color to share economic opportunities presented by solutions to climate change.

- **Behavioral Health**

- Support creating greater access to behavioral services, and state funding of community-based alternative response programs
- Support clarification regarding the crime of possession of a controlled substance, so that everyone can respond appropriately.
- Support responsible solutions to reduce gun violence

# Port of Seattle

- Sustainable Aviation Fuels

- As part of a coalition of aviation and clean fuel production entities, the Port is supporting legislation that requires Dept. of Ecology to elevate SAF to a Tier 1 pathway, helping to incentivize SAF production.

- Revising the Current Matching Requirement for Port Grants

- Supporting legislation to reduce the matching requirement under state law so that more organizations and community groups are able to take advantage of the South King County Community Impact Fund.

- Puget Sound Gateway SR 509 Extension

- In partnership with our cities, continue to advocate for the schedule and funding to complete the SR509 extension.

- Funding for Anti-Human Trafficking Centers

- Advocate for the creation of a network of hearing, support, and transition services for adults 18+ with lived experience of being sex trafficked.

- Tourism Promotion

- Support legislation that strengthens the Washington State Tourism Marketing Authority, reduces “matching” requirements for non-state funds that help support its programming, and provides for additional funding.

*Questions?*