

To our East King County Legislative Delegation:

On behalf of the East King County Chambers of Commerce Legislative Coalition, thank you for your service as our elected representatives in Olympia.

We know the top priority for the 2017 Session will be funding basic education, while ending reliance upon local school levies for teacher salaries. The Coalition has not endorsed a particular revenue solution, such as property tax levy swap or capital gains tax. However, we oppose reliance upon across the board business tax increases or a split property tax role, as the primary source of new monies for basic education.

We also encourage our elected officials to think beyond the McCleary box and consider educational outcomes in addition to funding. We believe any new resources dedicated to basic education should help prepare our students for career pathways and higher education credential attainment.

While our regional business climate remains healthy, economists predict a national economic slowdown in the near future. To keep our regional economy growing and retain high-paying jobs, we propose targeted business tax relief for the high technology, life sciences and aerospace sectors.

Once again, a survey of business leaders confirms transportation gridlock as the number one local obstacle to continued business growth. We support transportation policy proposals that will increase mobility on our Eastside corridors, including a critical review of policies governing toll pricing and HOV passenger threshold requirements.

We look forward to working with our delegation during the 2017 Session. Our chamber leaders, the members they represent and their employees are your Eastside constituents. Please consider us a resource and contact us at any time before, during or after Session. We are available to review draft legislation, testify in committee or collaborate with other business organizations on behalf of legislation consistent with our adopted legislative agenda.

Sincerely,



Jeffery H. Cole
2016 - 2017 Chair
East King County Chambers of Commerce Legislative Coalition

COALITION EVENTS & PROGRAMS

www.eastkingchambers.org

Legislative Breakfast

January 5, 2017

Our premier annual event, where members from each chamber and our legislative delegation come together to discuss the upcoming session.

Chamber Day in Olympia

February 8, 2017

Chamber members and Coalition delegates engage legislators on the legislative priorities of the Eastside.

Legislative Wrap Up

Post-Session 2017

Legislators discuss session highlights and provide insight into next year's priorities.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR COALITION SPONSORS



2017 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

East King County
Chambers of Commerce
Legislative Coalition

The Coalition Represents 10 Chambers of Commerce

Bellevue • Bothell • Issaquah • Kirkland
Maple Valley-Black Diamond
Newcastle • Redmond • Sammamish
Snoqualmie Valley • Woodinville

www.eastkingchambers.org

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EDUCATION

Employers in East King County struggle to fill available jobs with Washington state residents. Education is the key to closing this gap, beginning with early education (ages 3-4), and ending with the completion of higher education.

Our state's students need to graduate high school with the skills needed to pursue higher education and attain high demand jobs in STEM, information technology, finance, and health care industries.

Yet, too many students graduate from high school without adequate preparation for higher education or career pathways.

We urge the Legislature to:

- **Fund basic education:** Develop a transparent state system for funding basic K-12 education, accounting for differences in regional cost of living and student education needs. Ensure "basic education" is defined to result in students graduating from the K-12 system prepared to pursue higher education and attain available jobs.
- **Move the collective bargaining of salary and benefits for all K-12 employees to the state:** Given its impact on the state budget (almost half), bargaining for education employee salaries should be an open/transparent process, more efficiently accomplished at the state level.
- **Enhance accountability and improve outcomes:** Set meaningful, open, and transparent accountability measures that report by district the percentage of students who graduate college and career ready and require steady increases. All high schools should improve their college readiness rates by 10%.

TRANSPORTATION

The Coalition believes that transportation infrastructure is critical to our state's business climate and economic future. We supported the passage of a statewide comprehensive transportation package in 2015 and since the legislature made those investments the following transportation objectives are important to us: Investments should be prioritized to preserve existing transportation assets and finish incomplete projects that are critical to the state's primary economic corridors, such as I-90 and SR-18, SR-520 and I-405, and SR 169.

We urge the Legislature to:

- **Uphold commitments from the 2015 Connecting Washington** revenue package and keep projects funded and on schedule.
- **Continue support for reforms that reduce project costs** and delays, improve accountability, transparency, and efficiency on projects, budgeting, and the administration of programs and services.
- **Support incentives for emerging and growing technologies in alternative fuel use and infrastructure**, and oppose implementing stricter fuel standards and other carbon pricing schemes that increase transportation and energy costs.
- **Support data-driven transportation solutions** found in real-time traffic mobility data.
- **Oppose legislation or the use of transportation resources that adversely affect Washington businesses or create competitive disadvantages.**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development and job creation should remain a priority for Washington's legislature in 2017. A healthy and stable private sector ensures continued job growth and funding for the quality of life and public services that our citizens have come to expect. We support public policies which will preserve East King County as the economic engine of the state and promote growth in high paying job clusters such as life sciences, technology and professional services.

We urge the Legislature to:

- **Provide tools for infrastructure funding** through tax increment financing (or value capture financing).
- **Preempt municipalities from enacting ordinances** that require employers to administer human resource policies which exceed state standards.
- **Identify innovative solutions** to the state Worker Compensation program that will reduce costs on employers.
- **Create a state agency licensing and regulatory "one stop shopping" portal** for small businesses, as proposed in SB 6222.
- **Renew research and development tax incentives**, including B&O tax credits and sales tax deferrals, to retain high technology and life sciences companies in Washington state and encourage their expansion.
- **Enact additional tax incentives directed at small, innovative firms.**
- **Extend aerospace tax incentives to include the commercial space sector.**



To view our full legislative agenda, please visit www.eastkingchambers.org