



# CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

## 2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The City of Mercer Island supports the following legislative priorities for 2019:

### 1. IMPROVING I-90 ACCESS

Mercer Island needs improved access to I-90 to reduce impacts to local streets, enhance traffic safety and increase mobility. We support working with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to:

- a. Implement improvements to the I-90 access ramps, and
- b. Support solutions to relieve congestion on I-90 and I-405.

### 2. PROVIDING LOCAL FUNDING OPTIONS

Stable tax revenues for local government are essential for providing quality, predictable services to the public. We support legislation to:

- a. Expand upon the options available to local governments to raise revenue including, but not limited to, replacing the annual 1% cap on property tax revenues with a growth limit whose maximum is inflation plus the rate of population growth;
- b. Remove restrictions on REET 2 to match REET 1 and remove the technology and equipment restrictions on both REET 1 and REET 2; and
- c. Retain State-shared revenues and curtail unfunded mandates.

### 3. PRESERVING AND PROTECTING REGIONAL PARKS

Aubrey Davis Park serves as an important regional pedestrian and bicycle corridor and provides a range of park and recreation amenities for the region. We request funds to implement the Aubrey Davis Master Plan improvements as identified through a comprehensive community engagement process.

### 4. PROTECTING OUR HEALTH

The health of our community is tied to our residents' individual health. We encourage legislation that:

- a. Supports mental health counseling and social emotional learning in all schools; and
- b. Raises the legal age for buying tobacco and vapor products to age 21.

### 5. PROTECTING OUR SENIORS, VETERANS AND DISABLED RESIDENTS

Rising property taxes may have a disproportionate impact on our senior, veteran, and disabled residents. We support Senate Bill 6251 that would adjust income thresholds for property tax exemptions.

### 6. PRESERVING AND PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

It is essential to preserve and protect the environment today and for future generations. We encourage legislation and partnerships that support progressive clean energy, climate protection, or other environmental health measures to achieve the following:

- a. A statewide price on carbon pollution that reinvests a substantial share of revenues into efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- b. Reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions by supporting access to public transit, fleet electrification, commute reduction programs, and cleaner fuel standards;
- c. Support an accelerated timeline to retire coal from Puget Sound Energy's portfolio, maximizing replacement with renewable energy;
- d. Expand incentives for distributed solar energy generation; and
- e. Strengthen Washington State Energy Code encouraging "net-zero" buildings.