

## **City of Kenmore 2025 Policy Statements**

*This is an internal document designed to provide guidance to city staff and the city's lobbyist. The policy statements in this document allow the city to quickly take positions on legislation. It is not all-inclusive of all policy positions that the city may take throughout a session, and the following items are listed alphabetically, not in order of priority.*

### **Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship**

- **Climate Action.** The City supports statewide policies and programs that respond to climate change and protect and promote clean air, clean water, and clean energy. The City's Climate Action Plan establishes a goal of a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. A key component to meeting that goal is the enforcement of new state building and energy code requirements.
- **Climate Commitment Act.** The City also supports state sharing of Climate Commitment Act revenues, including grant funding for energy retrofits of public buildings and incentives for property owners transitioning to clean energy.
- **Culvert & Stormwater Funding for Salmon Habitat Restoration.** Kenmore encourages the State to invest in state and local culvert, floodplain, and fish habitat projects to restore habitat for salmon on a watershed basis. The city owns approximately dozens of fish blocking culverts and is committed to removing these barriers to improve fish passage but has limited resources to accomplish this task.
- **Other Environmental Efforts.** The City supports product stewardship programs to reduce waste at the source and promote a circular economy; eliminating salmon-killing rubber tire dust (i.e. 6PPD-quinone); the removal of PFAS from the environment, including food and water supplies; and increased environmental remediation funding through MTCA and other programs.

### **Economic Development**

- **The Lodge at St. Edward State Park.** The City supports policy changes and funding solutions to promote the long-term success of The Lodge at St. Edward State Park.

### **Housing**

- **Affordable Housing Near Fixed Route Transit.** Kenmore supports setting affordability goals for transit-oriented development and providing local flexibility and planning resources to help communities achieve those goals.
- **Housing Policies and Funding.** The City of Kenmore feels the urgency in addressing the housing crisis and is committed to doing what it can to increase the supply of housing, especially affordable units. The City welcomes the State's partnership via grant programs, like the Housing Trust Fund, and other funding tools to increase the number of housing units. The City supports policies and incentives that increase housing construction, including but not limited to reducing legal liability for condominium developers.
- **Mobile Home Communities.** The City supports legislation that recognizes that mobile homes represent an important affordable housing option throughout the state. Topics such as: ensuring individuals considering purchasing a mobile home are informed about laws and regulations limiting the transport of mobile homes; lease increase notice and other guidelines; tenant protections; and requiring that sellers notify purchasers if a home cannot be moved, are

examples of potential legislation that could help protect mobile homeowners' investments and provide greater predictability.

- Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) as a Funding Tool for Affordable Housing. The City of Kenmore supports new and flexible funding options for local jurisdictions to address the need for affordable housing, such as a local option Real Estate Excise Tax (REET). Such options should be progressively structured to best meet the needs of low- and moderate-income households.

### **Human Services and Behavioral Health**

- Co-Responder Support. Kenmore is a member of the Regional Crisis Response (RCR) agency, which provides person-centered and immediate crisis response, de-escalation, resource referral, and follow-up tailored to the specific needs of those experiencing behavioral health challenges. This approach has proven to be effective and is increasingly important to combat the behavioral health epidemic. Kenmore supports ongoing, stable funding for co-responder programs as well as standardized training and certification.
- Mental Health Crisis Care Facilities. The City supports state funding and legislative changes to increase the availability of 24/7 mental health crisis care facilities throughout the state.

### **Public Safety and Justice Services**

- Criminal Justice Reforms. The City supports reforms that address the disparate impacts of systems and institutions on communities of color. The City calls on the Legislature to advance criminal justice transformation policies to provide greater safety for communities that historically have not been well-served by existing systems. The City also supports state funding for increased costs resulting from police, court, and other criminal justice reforms.
- Body-Worn Police Cameras. The city supports state funding for body camera programs and resources to offset the rising cost of police services, including but not limited to liability insurance.
- Firearms. The City supports proposals that regulate firearms to curb gun violence.

### **Racial and Social Issues**

- Racial Equity. In accordance with the City's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) policy, it will continue to look for ways to break the racial caste system that still exists in our society, including but not limited to striking from the record any racial based restrictive covenants. As the city makes changes at the local level, we support and expect the state to make systemic changes to improve equity for all members of society.
- Reproductive Healthcare. The City supports amendments to the Washington State Constitution to codify an individual's right to comprehensive, safe, and accessible reproductive healthcare.

### **Tax Policies and Fiscal Sustainability**

- Lifting the 1% Cap on Property Tax. As a residential community, property tax is Kenmore's largest source of operating revenue. The city has a limited retail tax base and is constrained from generating additional revenue to maintain city services, the costs of which are increasing at a rate greater than the State-imposed property tax growth limit of 1% per year. The City of Kenmore supports lifting the 1% cap on property tax increases and other actions to create a sustainable fiscal structure for cities.

- Tax Structure Reform. Kenmore encourages the state to identify reforms to the tax system that provide progressive, equitable, stable, and reliable revenue sources for both state and local government.

### **Transportation Choices**

- Passenger Only Ferry. The City supports efforts to explore passenger only ferry service from Kenmore to Seattle and the east side of Lake Washington. The City closely monitored the legislatively directed Puget Sound Regional Council's Passenger Only Ferry Study and supports legislative action to advance findings from the study.

### **Zoning and Land Use**

- The City supports the state establishing housing goals and allowing local jurisdictions discretion in accomplishing those goals through zoning and land use decisions.