

Letter from the Coalition Chair

East King Legislators – Thank you for all your hard work in 2018 funding basic education, supporting workforce training, and resisting the temptation to impose across the board taxation on employers and employees.

As business owners we understand the legislative process can take time to bear fruit, especially in times of divided government. We are hopeful that a spirit of negotiation and compromise will return in 2019. We believe the public interest is best served by transparent, accountable and fiscally prudent governance.

Despite strong economic growth, however, both employers and employees on the Eastside face severe challenges. We have baccalaureate graduates with high debt and low employment readiness. Workforce housing is almost non-existent in East and South King County and our transportation system offers little relief from increasingly lengthy commutes.

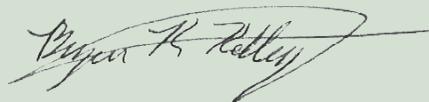
We applaud the new emphasis on vocational-technical education and believe high schools must prepare students for career pathways that require both pre and post baccalaureate credentials. The global workforce is changing, and we need to prepare job seekers for an ever-tightening employment market.

Throughout King County, housing prices continue to rise and without viable housing options, much of our workforce could be displaced. We look to the Legislature to reform the Condominium Act and take other steps to encourage creation of housing inventory across all price points.

Transportation from low-density residential areas on the Eastside to employment centers is unreliable at best. Our employees, vendors and customers need a system that will get them where they need to go, with a minimal congestion penalty. That's why we ask the Legislature to embrace emerging transportation technologies and fund infrastructure investments which will provide speed and reliability for all modes.

Please let us know how we can be a resource for you during the 2019 Session.

Sincerely,



Bryan Kelley
Greater Maple Valley-Black Diamond Chamber of Commerce
2018 - 2019 Chair
East King County Chambers of Commerce Legislative Coalition

COALITION EVENTS & PROGRAMS

www.eastkingchambers.org

Legislative Breakfast

January 8, 2019

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 27, 2019

Chamber members and Coalition delegates engage our elected officials on the legislative priorities of the Eastside.

Legislative Wrap Up

Post-Session 2019

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

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR COALITION SPONSORS



CONTACT US

Chris Johnson
Director of Government Relations
cjohnson@bellevuechamber.org
425.213.1208

2019

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

East King County
Chambers of Commerce
Legislative Coalition

The Coalition Represents
the Following Chambers of
Commerce

Bellevue • Bothell • Issaquah • Kirkland
Maple Valley-Black Diamond
OneRedmond • Renton • Sammamish
Snoqualmie Valley • Woodinville

www.eastkingchambers.org

EDUCATION

Employers in East King County and across the state 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 post-high school credentials, including college degrees, career certificates, and apprenticeships.

Our state's students need to graduate from high school with the skills needed to pursue and succeed in credentialed college and career programs to help them attain employment in high demand/high wage fields in our state.

- Ensure "basic education" is defined to result in students graduating from the K-12 system prepared to pursue credentialed college and career programs and attain available jobs
- Increase college credit opportunities and skills training in all high schools at no cost to the student
- Improve state support for meaningful Workforce Training by enhancing opportunities for students to attain college credit, career credentials, and apprenticeships during high school
- Fully fund the State Need Grant Program and the Washington Opportunity Scholarship Fund and invest in statewide workforce analysis for an integrated pathway of education from K-12 to higher education

TRANSPORTATION

Effective transportation of employees, customers and goods is essential to sustain continued health of our state's growing economy. The complete and timely implementation of the \$16 billion Connecting Washington transportation funding package will help improve our transportation network.

Additional improvements beyond this funding package are needed, particularly along the I-405, I-90 and SR 18 corridors. These improvements are essential not only for the movement of people but are also critical for free-flowing movement of goods between our ports, the rest of Washington State and our nation.

We see a tremendous opportunity with emerging transportation technologies, to increase mobility, reduce congestion, limit our carbon footprint and connect people with economic opportunities. We urge the Legislature to prepare our region to be an early beneficiary of these technologies, by enacting supportive state and local public law changes.

We encourage the Legislature to affirm as a matter of public law that all toll revenues collected be used exclusively for highway purposes and to take caution in bonding toll revenues collected along the I-405/SR 167 corridor.

For a complete list of project-specific funding requests, please visit the Coalition webpage at www.eastkingchambers.org.

HOUSING

For the Eastside and indeed the entire Seattle Metropolitan area, future economic and community success is at great risk due to lack of housing affordability. The time to act and address with appropriate policy improvements to fix this crisis is now. We at the East King County Chambers of Commerce Legislative Coalition are advocating for all stakeholder groups to join together to address this crisis, and work towards action steps to help improve housing options for all.

The East King County Chambers of Commerce Legislative Coalition strongly supports increasing housing stock and affordability through the following:

- Enact reforms to the Condominium Act that permit the creation of a missing inventory gap in type and price point in our housing supply
- Evaluate surplus state land for the opportunity to create affordable and workforce housing
- Encourage shorter entitlement processes
- Incentivize all cities and counties to allow for more density, including ADU's and multi/mixed-use near transit and commercial districts
- Encourage tax incentives to developments that provide workforce housing
- Extend the Multifamily Tax Exemption (MFTE) beyond 12 years and include existing buildings, in addition to new construction

