



Progress for All

Creating a Seattle Economy Where Everyone Thrives

Our city can be a place where every community has economic security and everyone thrives, together.

With effective, progressive leadership in the Mayor's office, Seattle can do better. We will work to ensure our communities have the resources they need and that we have excellent infrastructure for our small businesses and working people to thrive. By centering the well-being of families, communities, and small businesses, and not the demands of the corporate elite, we can build a more just and democratic economy where everyone prospers.

- 1. A Bold Vision for Just Transition:** Solving the climate crisis demands—and creates an opportunity for—Seattle to lead the transition to a green economy based in local ownership, good jobs, and environmental justice. As the federal government deploys grants for infrastructure, recovery, and a Green New Deal, Seattle will be ready with capacity in community-based organizations, locally owned businesses, and a skilled workforce.
 - With our industrial lands, innovative culture, and manufacturing prowess, Seattle is poised to invent the clean manufacturing future. We must modernize our industrial infrastructure and prepare to build the technology for the green economy.
 - We will create thousands of stable, high-quality jobs by retrofitting homes, restoring the Duwamish River and the Salish Sea ecosystems, and building green infrastructure.
 - We will partner with Seattle For A Green New Deal leaders and direct resources to their community-based priorities for clean air, clean water, and environmental justice.
- 2. Thriving future for vibrant neighborhood commercial and cultural districts**

Seattle's magic lies in our vital neighborhoods and commercial districts where people of all ages, abilities, income levels, races, and cultural backgrounds can thrive together.



- Ensure land use, transit, and commercial policies support complete neighborhoods with arts, restaurants, entertainment, healthy food, pharmacies, affordable childcare, parks, and community spaces.
- End apartment bans and add affordable housing so workers can live near their work.
- Provide frequent, affordable public transit to all job centers, a full network of protected bike lanes, and safe walking/rolling facilities to make it easy to get around without a car.
- Implement municipal broadband so every community has excellent affordable internet.

3. Confront racialized wealth inequality and restore community wealth and health

Whether we're Black, white or brown, we want our families to be whole and our communities to be vibrant. Politicians who blame those who struggle to pay rent, or demean those who fight for justice, fortifying a divide between haves and have-nots. Let's stop over-policing poor, immigrant, Black, and Native neighbors and instead invest in resilience and economic security.

- Work with community-led efforts to shift funding from SPD to investments that will heal communities, from local safety to food security to culturally responsive mental health.
- Reverse displacement of low-income communities by tripling permanently affordable housing, expanding land trusts, beefing up renter protections, moving surplus public land into community-based stewardship, and funding Equitable Development projects.
- Work with a partner to help them set up a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) to offer patient, low-cost capital to community-serving enterprises.

4. Empower workers and create good jobs

Good jobs in well-run businesses sustain healthy families and strong communities. When employers don't pay living wages or take advantage of their workers, the public sector is called on to pick up the pieces. We all benefit from good union jobs, workers getting a fair return for their work, and holding the private sector to a high standard. Let's put our progressive values into action by building a culture of sharing wealth and power via innovative ownership models - so everyone benefits from success, no matter the size of their job.



- Establish incentives and provide technical assistance for worker co-ops, worker-owned collectives, profit sharing, and employee ownership.
- Expand the use of Community Workforce Agreements and Community Benefit Agreements, creating high quality jobs, increasing local community hiring, and ensuring that large development projects are responsible to community needs and impacts.
- Establish a citywide 'access to hours' policy so that current hourly employees who want to work up to 40 hours can get them before adding new part-time employees.
- Ensure workers in the caring economy know their rights and have protections & benefits.
- Raise standards in the gig economy by ending sub-minimum wages and improving access to benefits.

5. Reinvigorate Office of Economic Development to serve as an energetic community partner.

We will create a blueprint for a robust small business economy based in local ownership and reinvent and empower OED as a center for resources, tools and technical assistance.

- Create a clear action agenda for local ownership of small businesses, community ownership of assets, and targeted solutions for neighborhood economic resilience.
- Serve local businesses with tools they need to find capital and technical assistance, with attention to removing barriers for new entrepreneurs from low-income communities.
- Ensure immigrant businesses have in-language, culturally competent guidance.
- Help protect local ownership and family businesses transitioning to the next generation, whether in fragile neighborhoods like CID or unique industries like fishing and maritime.
- Partner with the Greater Seattle Business Association and other groups representing LGBTQ+ business owners to promote LGBTQ+ small businesses in Capitol Hill and other parts of the city that are struggling to stay afloat from lost revenue due to COVID-19.



6. **An equitable tax system to provide resources to fund the infrastructure we need**

Today, we know that wealthy individuals and massive corporations like Amazon take in record profits while not contributing fairly to the schools, infrastructure, and services we all use. Our state tax code has been the most upside-down in the nation, taxing poor and middle-class households at much higher rates than the wealthiest. As Mayor, I will:

- Work with the State toward a balanced tax code, where corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share through a wealth tax, estate taxes, and a progressive income tax.
- Require foundations and Donor Advised Funds to grant an annual minimum amount.
- Work with Council to explore progressive local revenue options as well as B&O tax reform to reduce the burden on smaller and low-margin businesses.

7. **Create affordable and accessible childcare**

Childcare costs place a major strain on the budgets of working families. They have also made it hard for people, especially women, to re-enter the workforce. According to the National Women's Law Center, women's participation in the workforce has dropped to its lowest level since 1988 due to the pandemic. Childcare in our city needs to be affordable and accessible for all.

- Treat childcare as essential infrastructure, not a commodity to be bought and sold. This means looking at every source of funding: city, regional, state, and federal. We finally have a President that understands the importance of these critical investments, and we need to seize this moment.
- Provide technical assistance to childcare providers to help them navigate the bureaucratic hurdles, so they can focus on what they will do best. My administration will work to cut the red tape.
- Drastically expand access to affordable and safe childcare for infants and toddlers across the city, and address "childcare deserts" by ensuring that childcare is not only affordable but accessible to people in every neighborhood.

We knew we had steep challenges in our city already, and the pandemic and 2020 racial uprising refocused our energy: we are no longer waiting for hoarded wealth to trickle down, we won't let corporate lobbyists block what we know is right, we won't turn our backs on neighbors in harm's way.



When we go all in for all of us, we can make Seattle a place we're proud to call home with the world-class public schools, affordable housing, abundant good jobs, healthy local businesses, and community services our families need. As Dr. King made clear 58 years ago, racial justice and economic justice are inseparable. Strong communities and determined public leadership are the key to remake our local economy into a dynamic force for equity, where we all thrive together.