

Letter from the Coalition Chair

East King Legislators – Thanks for all of your hard work in 2017, funding basic education, adopting a budget, avoiding a government shutdown and resisting the temptation to impose new across the board taxes on business.

We appreciate the spirit of negotiation and compromise which prevailed during a period of divided government and see no reason why it cannot continue. Similarly, we believe that whether in good economic times or bad, the public interest is best served by transparent, accountable and fiscally prudent governance.

As business owners, we believe that private sector management practices can inform the delivery of public services and that targeted tax cuts with sunset review provisions, can incentivize risk-taking and innovation by startups and mature firms alike, and create high-paying jobs.

Now that basic education has been funded, for the coming biennium, at least, we look forward to taking on new challenges.

In particular, we applaud the emerging consensus between business and labor, in favor of a renewed emphasis on career and technical education at all levels. More specifically, we want to make certain that all high school graduates have the opportunity to obtain post baccalaureate credentials, to prepare them for employment in a tight labor market.

In the I-405 suburban crescent, our employees are sometimes priced out of the housing market. We look to the Legislature to provide new tools under state law, to generate additional workforce housing, both rental and owner occupied.

And we know that no matter where our employees, vendors and customers live, they need a transportation 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, which the marketplace has already developed.

Please let us know how we can be a resource for you during the 2018 Session.

Sincerely,



Bryan Kelley

Greater Maple Valley-Black Diamond Chamber of Commerce
2017 - 2018 Chair
East King County Chambers of Commerce Legislative Coalition

COALITION EVENTS & PROGRAMS

www.eastkingchambers.org

Legislative Breakfast

January 4, 2018

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

Chamber Day in Olympia

January 24, 2018

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

Legislative Wrap Up

Post-Session 2018

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

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR COALITION SPONSORS



CONTACT US

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2018 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
Redmond • Snoqualmie Valley • Woodinville

www.eastkingchambers.org

EDUCATION

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

We urge you to:

- **Continue to fund basic education:** Ensure "basic education" results in students graduating from the K-12 system prepared to pursue higher education and attain available jobs
- **Early Childhood Education:** Increase opportunities for children to access quality early childhood education across the state
- **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. All high schools should improve their college and career readiness rates
- **Improve state support for meaningful Workforce Training (CTE):** Open alternative routes to teacher certification. Create accountability systems to monitor Workforce Training/CTE programs and ensure they are preparing students for Washington state's high wage/high demand jobs
- **Fund higher education programs:** Fully fund the State Need Grant Program and the Washington Opportunity Scholarship Fund. Fund capital facilities, including program expansion, of high demand degree programs at East King County colleges

TRANSPORTATION

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 adoption of legislation which will:

- **Eliminate statutory barriers to shared employer shuttles**
- **Create a statewide business license for transportation network companies (TNCs)**
- **Allow private shuttle providers access to publicly funded park and ride lots**
- **Incentivize use of TNCs and flexible van pools under the 1991 Commute Trip Reduction Act**

We also urge the Legislature to authorize additional funding, beyond current law levels, to complete implementation of the adopted I-405 Master Plan, as well as improvements to other highways of statewide significance such as I-90, SR-18, SR-520 and SR-169.

We encourage the Legislature to affirm as a matter of public law that all toll revenues collected be used exclusively for highway purposes.

Moreover, we strongly urge the Legislature to respond quickly, to any recommendations by the University of Minnesota, relating to the performance of express toll lanes and general purpose lanes in the Interstate 405 tolled corridor.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We urge the Legislature to consider and enact, tax incentives directed at firms in emerging sectors of our economy, which will generate innovative products and services, as well as family wage jobs, for years to come.

The Legislature should:

- **Provide tools for infrastructure funding** through tax increment financing (or value capture financing) and Public Private Partnerships
- **Enact a business and occupation tax credit** for qualified research and development expenditures, and a state and local sales tax deferral program for high-technology and life sciences R&D, pilot-scale manufacturing facilities, and purchases on certain machinery and equipment
- **The Coalition strongly supports increasing housing stock and affordability through the following:**
 - » Make changes to GMA relating to vesting and plat management
 - » Enact condominium liability reform
 - » Mandate shorter permitting processes
 - » Incentivize zoning that encourages higher density
 - » Extend the Multifamily Tax Exemption (MFTE) beyond 12 years and include existing buildings in addition to new construction
- **Extend aerospace tax incentives** to include the commercial space sector. Enact a B&O tax reduction for manufacturing, as previously adopted by the Legislature in 2017

