

2021 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Federal Coronavirus Relief

Like many cities, the City of Burien and the Burien community are facing unprecedented challenges as the coronavirus pandemic continues. If another federal coronavirus relief package is needed in 2021, and the following issues have not been adequately addressed in a previous package, these concerns should be included in a 2021 federal coronavirus package:

- Help with rental payments
- Homeless shelter funding
- Small business assistance
- Childcare support
- Unemployment funding
- School meals and school nutrition services
- Food security, including culturally appropriate food (added 10.5)
- Workforce development retraining for employees who have lost jobs during the pandemic
- Help for local community banks that work with underserved communities
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for medical facilities and workplaces (added 10.5)
- City funding to avoid unnecessary layoffs and service cutbacks.
- Ensure that funding secured for transportation and infrastructure projects comply with Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs), Disadvantage Business Enterprises (DBEs), and women-owned businesses, rules and regulations. (added 10.5)

Reduce Airport Noise and Emissions

Work with our Congressional delegation, neighboring communities, the FAA, and the Port of Seattle to reduce SeaTac Airport noise and emissions by:

- Promoting and supporting a regional “Coalition of Electeds”, or other regional forum, to bring airport noise and emission issues before Congress, the FAA, and the Port;
- Work with the FAA regional ombudsperson to address issues raised by Burien and other airport cities;
- Encourage the Port to complete another Part 150 aircraft noise study;
- Support HR 2351, known as the Aviation Impacted Communities Act that creates Aviation Impacted Community Boards to help citizens to better and more productively engage with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
- Encourage the FAA to complete the studies in the 2018 FAA Reauthorization Act including:

- Measuring the ambient lead concentrations around airports, identifying mitigation measures, and identifying existing non-leaded fuel alternatives (USDOT led study);
- Evaluation of the health impacts of aircraft noise on residents around airports: Seattle is one of the cities to be studied;
- Implementing the pilot programs at six (6) “public use” airports to establish environmental mitigation projects.
- Support House Congressional efforts, including the support of Congresswoman Jayapal and Congressman Smith in their September 20, 2020 letter to the FAA, requesting the FAA to re-examine alternative metrics to the DNL 65 noise standard and include the potential for the use of such metrics in the United States. (added 10.5).

Climate Action

Encourage and support a national climate action plan. Burien is aware that in 2020, the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis released a report entitled “Solving the Climate Crisis, The Congressional Action Plan for a Clean Energy Economy and a Healthy, Resilient, and Just America.” Burien and neighboring cities are working on local climate action plans.

- Burien opposes efforts to weaken the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- Burien supports appropriate federal forest management in Washington’s and other western federal forests, to minimize large forest fires and the accompanying poor air quality that has affected our region in recent summers. (added 10.5).

Sustainable Airport Master Plan (SAMP) Mitigation Funding

Work with the federal delegation, the Port of Seattle, and neighboring cities to identify traffic, environmental, and other appropriate mitigation funding for Burien due to SAMP impacts.

Support Federal Funding for Housing and Homelessness Programs

- **CDBG:** Maintain or Increase Community Development Block Grants (CDBG): the King County Consortium (of cities) uses CDBG for housing stability/homelessness prevention, affordable housing development and many other human services. The federal government funded CDBG at \$3.365 billion in FY2019, and at \$3,425B in FY2020.
- **HOME Program:** Maintain or Increase the HOME Program: HOME funds provide funding for affordable housing. Each HOME dollar invested leverages an additional five dollars for housing. The federal government funded HOME at \$1.25 billion in FY2019, and at \$1.350B in FY 2020.
- **McKinney-Vento:** Maintain or Increase McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants: McKinney grants help provide shelter and services to homeless families and individuals. The federal government funded McKinney at \$2.636 billion in FY2019, and \$2.777B in FY2020.

- **Section 8 Vouchers:** Support Funding for Section 8 Vouchers: Support funding for Section 8 Tenant-Based and Project-Based Housing Choice Vouchers: funded at \$11,747B in and at \$12,570B in FY2020.
- **VASH:** Support Funding for VA Supportive Housing Vouchers (VASH): Support funding for the VASH program that has been a vital source of homelessness services for low-income veterans in King County; funded at \$40M in FY2019 and FY2020.
- **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program:** Support amendments to LIHTC by supporting the bipartisan Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (HR 3077/S.1703) sponsored by Senator Cantwell in the Senate (S1703) with 40 cosponsors. S.1703 increases the annual housing credit allocation authority by 50%, phased in over five years, and would target resources to families who need it most.
- **SKHHP:** Seek competitive grant funding or other federal funding for a Housing Trust Fund for the South King Housing and Homelessness Partners (SKHHP). South King Housing and Homelessness Partners (SKHHP) is a coalition formed by an interlocal agreement among the jurisdictions of Auburn, Burien, Covington, Des Moines, Federal Way, Kent, Normandy Park, Renton, Tukwila, and King County. The agreement allows South King County jurisdictions to work together and share resources in order to effectively address affordable housing and homelessness.

Federal Gang Prevention and At-Risk Youth Funding

Support federal funding for gang prevention and at-risk youth programs.

Infrastructure

- Support the following amendments included in the House-passed “Moving Forward Act” (reauthorization of the 6-year transportation funding bill):
 - Rep. Larsen’s amendment that makes grants in the “Community Transportation Investment Grant Program” to projects in urbanized areas with populations greater than 49,999 and less than 200,001. This is a long-supported grant program for smaller/mid-size cities.
 - Rep. Smith’s amendment adding a national study of the health effects of “ultrafine particles” from aircraft exhaust around airport communities,
 - Congresswoman Jayapal’s amendment increasing funds for airport emission reduction projects.
- Burien supports expediting the already funded Sound Transit study for light rail extension to Burien.
- Burien supports the as-needed federal funding to extend Sound Transit light rail to Burien.

Burien Public Works Projects

Work with potential regional partners in applying for federal grant money for two projects:

- The Burien Public Works and Parks Shared Maintenance Facility; Burien has set aside \$7.5M.
- The SR 518 Westbound On-Ramp to Des Moines Memorial Drive.

Gun Violence

Support continued federally funded studies treating gun violence as a public health issue. The federal government funded \$25 million in studies on gun violence as a public health issue in the FY 2020 federal budget.

Support the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office Crime Strategies Unit's (CSU) efforts to address gun violence through a public health approach by collecting and sharing illegal gun shooting data from throughout King County.

Research has consistently shown that firearm violence is intensely concentrated within small, identifiable social networks. Firearms violence spreads within these networks, meaning that the closer a person is to a victim of firearm violence, the more likely they are to be a victim of firearm violence themselves. Along with law enforcement partners, CSU is using data to understand the networks of firearm violence in King County and to identify those individuals who are most at risk of victimization.

The Crime Strategies Unit was initially funded by a federal grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, an office within the U.S. Department of Justice. Burien supports continued federal funding of this Unit as needed. (added 10.7)

- Support federal funding of the Crime Strategies Unit efforts.

Police Reform

Support comprehensive police reforms statewide and across the country including consideration of the following reforms:

- Bar choke holds,
- Bar no knock entrances,
- Establish a federal system to report police misconduct.

Immigration

Support comprehensive immigration reform with an emphasis on ensuring that families stay together and enhancing community and economic stability for Burien's residents and citizens.

Financial Services (added as new heading, 10.5)

"De-risking", also known as "de-banking" is a bank's termination or restriction on bank accounts that it deems "high risk" for the supposed purpose of preventing "remittances," the

payment or transfer of money, frequently by a worker to his or her family in their country of origin, to prevent the financing of terrorism.

Federal actions have discouraged large financial institutions from participating in remittances to certain countries, including Somalia, because of diminished capacity to implement financial controls in those nations that would prevent remittances from falling into the hands of terrorist organizations. State and local financial institutions have also excluded remitters from being able to open bank accounts.

Far from improving security, bank de-risking is believed to increase the risk to the U.S. financial system by driving businesses into un-regulated channels. The World Bank has declared that keeping individuals and businesses in regulated financial systems is a precondition to mitigate banking risks and combat financial crimes.

- Therefore, Burien supports Inclusion, in a financial services package, language supporting “remitters” – businesses that transfer funds to so-called “high risk” countries – to hold and maintain bank accounts in Washington. (added 10.5)

Local Broadband Enhancement

Broadband access is integral to communities, small and large, to support basic services like healthcare and education and to drive economic growth. Partnering with the National League of Cities and the Association of Washington Cities, Burien support efforts to: (added 10.5)

- build and/or upgrade broadband infrastructure,
- Fund expansion of broadband access in underserved and hard-to-serve communities, (added 10.5)
- take steps to address broadband affordability through implementation of a digital equity grant program that would support state and local efforts to increase broadband availability, and

Opportunity Zones Extension

Support of an extension of the Opportunity Zone program beyond the present end date of December 31, 2026. Currently, funds must be invested by December 31, 2019 in order to be held for the seven (7) year period required to receive the maximum capital gains tax benefits before the program ends. Burien has two opportunity zones, which would benefit from an extension of the program to encourage development in these zones.

Salmon Recovery Funding

Support funding for the Army Corps of Engineers to construct a downstream Fish Passage Facility at the Howard Hanson Dam without additional costs to local governments and regional ratepayers. Howard Hanson Dam is on the Green River in King County.

- A downstream fish passage system at Howard Hanson Dam is essential to the recovery of Puget Sound Chinook salmon, a primary food source for the endangered Puget Sound southern resident killer whales (orcas).

Support an appropriation to implement capital projects authorized by Corps of Engineers Green/Duwamish Ecosystem Restoration Project.

Burien is located in WRIA 9, the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed.

Marijuana Laws

Reform marijuana laws at the federal level so that local marijuana businesses in Burien can operate legally. (added 10.5).



CITY OF BURIEN 2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The City of Burien is a vibrant and creative community, where the residents embrace diversity, celebrate arts and culture, promote vitality, and treasure the environment. Our entire community has made tremendous sacrifices to reduce the spread of COVID-19, and our goal is to protect our community's health and help our local economy.

Health and Thriving Communities

- Support additional resources to address housing instability created by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including rent assistance and foreclosure prevention assistance.
- Support policies and funding that provides greater access and equity for broadband services.

Quality of Life and Economic Development

- Support a new transportation revenue proposal, with an emphasis on increased funding for public transportation, safe routes to school, and safety improvements along our most congested roadways that facilitate the movement of goods and services throughout our broader transportation system.
- Continue to pursue full funding for the Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) and defend against the redirection of PWTF program funds.
- Support comprehensive tax reform, such as a state income tax and capital gains tax, that leads to a more equitable and progressive tax structure and decreased reliance on flat tax sources like sales and property taxes.
- Provide greater flexibility to use funds from existing revenue sources to help Burien manage the impacts of the economic crisis.
- Support policies that preserve local control and input regarding how local elections are administered.

Public Safety

- Support a statewide standard for use of force and the creation of a database to track officers who have been fired from their employment for misconduct.
- Support the expansion of grounds for decertification to include use of force violations.
- Support policies requiring an investigation of an officer be completed, regardless of whether the officer resigns prior to an investigation being completed.
- Support responsible solutions to reduce gun violence.

Advancing Climate Progress

- Support policies that reduce climate polluting emissions and ensure equity for lower income communities and communities of color to share in the economic opportunities presented by solutions to climate change.
- Support policies for a low carbon/clean fuel standards and a price on carbon.