



**Habitat**  
for Humanity®  
Seattle–King & Kittitas Counties

# 2023 LEGISLATIVE POLICY AGENDA

Now more than ever,  
**affordable housing**  
is crucially important.

Habitat for Humanity Seattle–King & Kittitas Counties proudly advocates on behalf of deserving families through its Cost of Home campaign — supporting more affordable housing across the state.

## **We build strength, stability, self-reliance and shelter.**

*Home is more than just a place to rest your head. A home is a sense of stability. A sense of safety. A sense of accomplishment. It's a place where people connect with family, friends, and their community. Now more than ever, a home is crucially important.*

*We are about building a world where everyone has a place to call their home.*

### **Habitat for Humanity Seattle–King & Kittitas Counties**

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## **End Exclusionary Zoning**

Washington State has a long and sordid history with exclusionary zoning. From the use of racial covenants and redlining maps to keep Black, Indigenous, and people of color out of neighborhoods that were predominantly White to the use of modern-day exclusionary zoning methods, keeping high-value homes and neighborhoods unreachable through so-called single-family zoning and not allowing any tools that could bring housing affordability to these desirable neighborhoods. This is not something that a city-by-city approach can solve. It is a statewide crisis which requires a statewide solution. **Habitat for Humanity Seattle–King & Kittitas Counties calls on the State of Washington to look to the examples of Oregon, Minneapolis, California, and Walla Walla to end the practice of exclusionary zoning in every jurisdiction in Washington State.**

## **Invest in the Entire Housing Continuum**

The lack of affordable housing and affordable homeownership opportunities continues to be one of the biggest challenges facing Washington today. While we have continued to invest in housing through the Washington State Housing Trust Fund, much more needs to be done. **Habitat for Humanity Seattle–King & Kittitas Counties urges the State of Washington to significantly invest in affordable housing in all its types, including homeownership, ensure that new and existing affordable housing programs are able to be used by affordable homeownership programs, and work to pass policies that will help to keep people in their homes** — such as property tax exemptions and funding for home repair programs for low income families.

## **Support Black Homeownership Opportunities**

In the Seattle metro region, the average homeowner has over 25 times higher of a net worth than a renter. Additionally, the average Black family in the Seattle region is 33% less likely to own their own home. This clear disparity has resulted in a significant racial wealth gap where the average Black family in Seattle has \$433,000 less than the average white family. We need to take concrete steps to actively remedy this. **Habitat for Humanity Seattle–King & Kittitas Counties calls on the State of Washington to make concrete investments in preserving and expanding Black homeownership, specifically implementing the recommendations for the Homeownership Disparities Workgroup and The Black Home Initiative's policy recommendations.** This includes increased down payment assistance, opportunities for property tax relief, and support for production of new affordable homeownership options in communities of opportunity among many other tools.