

CITY OF PORT ANGELES 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

321 E. FIFTH STREET



PORT ANGELES, WA

John Guzman
CITY MANAGER

PROGRESSIVE TAX STRUCTURE

- The City of Port Angeles endorses the Tax Structure Work Group's efforts toward a progressive tax system, the creation of a new tax study commission, and request our legislators to address the issues of fair taxation.
- Build a more just and equitable tax code for Washington state that creates a strong future where all our communities have the resources they need to thrive.
- The current tax code is upside down. We ask our legislators to make this right for the citizens of Port Angeles and the state of Washington by balancing our tax system.
- COVID-19 has caused a collapse of economic activity. This means a collapse in state revenue from sales and business taxes. We need the legislature to raise taxes on those at the top which will preserve needed programs, help people who need it, keep workers employed, and ensure that money continues to circulate in Washington communities.
- We need to work together across our racial differences to ensure all of us have access to world-class schools, affordable health care, and community services our families need by the passage of state level progressive revenue to address the inequality embedded in our tax code.

CHILD CARE

- Prioritize a review of Washington Department of Children, Youth and Families requirements to minimize and reduce regulatory barriers to the opening of new childcare facilities that do not reduce life/safety protections. This should include streamlining entry processes for new providers.
- Incentivize through tax credits or other means, the ability of local businesses to provide flexible schedules and work from home opportunities for families impacted by physical school closures and hybrid schedules.
- Establish capital grant opportunities or other incentives for businesses willing to provide on-site childcare. Even if these were made available for only governmental or quasi-governmental organizations, pressure could be removed from the existing community childcare system.
- Provide entrepreneurial grant opportunities for small in-home daycare creation that include best practices by State and local Health officials.
- Continue to push for work from home options in phased in recovery plan.

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS

The City of Port Angeles supports the WA Low Income Housing Alliance legislative agenda as mentioned in the following bullets:

- Increase and Preserve Affordable Housing: Invest \$240 million for the Housing Trust Fund and an additional \$10 million from the Capital Budget for preservation of affordable housing (USDA and other properties at risk of loss).
- Keep people in their homes and prevent an increase in homelessness: Pass statewide protections against discriminatory and arbitrary evictions (good cause termination requirements) and prevent evictions based on nonpayment of rent with improved legal protections and rental assistance.
- Increase state resources to prevent and end homelessness by significantly increasing the state's document recording fee.
- Protect against any cuts to affordable housing, homelessness and human services programs by passing significant new progressive revenue funds.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS - We appreciate your continued attention to:

- Protect Municipalities' Shared Revenues
- Port Angeles' \$76 Million Transportation Need
- AWC Legislative Priorities
- Broadband Expansion, Enhancement, and Competition

Thank you Legislators, for your continued engagement and support during the pandemic.

We know you are working hard for us.

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