



Let's Make Seattle More Affordable in 2018

As we approach the new year we call on our newly elected mayor and city council to prioritize working families and neighborhood businesses and make Seattle more livable and affordable by focusing on ideas that are smart and fair.

It's increasingly difficult for hard working families to live and work in Seattle. The continued rise in the cost of living, particularly housing prices, is hurting communities and citizens who are most vulnerable. The price of essentials such as groceries and shelter are increasingly out of reach for people and families who live paycheck to paycheck. With studies affirming that [the state of Washington has the nation's most regressive tax system](#), any regressive city initiatives only make matters worse.

As they focus on addressing these challenges, we call on our elected officials to take the following steps to demonstrate their commitment to keeping Seattle more livable and affordable for all:

- Enact policies that address key issues such as affordable housing, cost of groceries and beverages, and transportation costs;
- Consider policies that help small businesses in our community grow – not creating barriers for local entrepreneurs; and
- Monitor trends of income disparity and assess current and future policies and programs by how effective they are reducing inequality.

Specifically, we call on our elected officials to repeal the recently passed beverage tax that unfairly targets locally owned restaurants and stores and their customers, and we urge them to refrain from imposing any new regressive taxes.

Let's make 2018 the year we buck the alarming trends for working people in Seattle and make a city that is more livable, affordable and economically viable. Eliminating regressive forms of taxation is a step in the right direction to making Seattle more livable and affordable for all.