

# Washington State **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2023**



## **State Salary Survey**

The Office of Financial Management's restrictive interpretation of state law has inhibited its ability to appropriately set wage rates for State employees. As a result, some state employee classifications, including many filled predominantly by women and people of color, are paid drastically below market standards. To remedy this, the legislature should **revise RCW 41.06.152** to explicitly encourage consideration of salary surveys, pay rates at similar employers, and other factors such as Diversity Equity and Inclusion goals, that would empower the State to increase wages for critical workers.



## **Economic Equity & Reform**

We **support the proposed Baby Bond Legislation** and believe the legislature should explore more long range policy that would economically enfranchise future Washingtonians, such as **protecting and strengthening public employee retirement benefits**; making clear, long-term economic investments in working families and communities of color, and; continuing to fix our unbalanced tax code and adopt structures in which Washingtonians with the lowest incomes carry the lowest tax burden.



## **Public Health Funding**

For the past three years our public health members have been at the front lines of the pandemic. Barriers such as unstable funding, lack of support, and inadequate coordination have negatively impacted their ability to serve our communities. PROTEC17 supports legislation that would **increase funding for our state's public health system** by \$100 million, raising it to \$324 million for the 2023-25 biennium, and provide resources to achieve safe healthcare staffing levels.



## **Infrastructure & Transportation**

It is important that adverse impacts on our climate as a result of transportation projects are mitigated without impacting the employment or working conditions of public employees. PROTEC17 supports any legislation that would: **invest in a multimodal transportation infrastructure**; utilize environmentally conscious building strategies that would not jeopardize the employment or working conditions of PROTEC17 and other union members; and take steps toward the electrification of transit fleets and other government vehicles.

*PROTEC17 is a labor union representing over 9,000 public sector workers in Washington and Oregon. Our members work for public health and city, county, state governments in a variety of professional and technical positions.*

To learn more about PROTEC17 members, visit: [protec17.org](https://protec17.org)