

# Washington State **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2024**



## **Fund Critical Services**

**Please support SB 5770.** The legislature should take action to revise the 1% property tax cap. The 1% cap has created a structural deficit in local government budgets and drastically limits their ability to fully fund critical services. Your support of SB5770 would tie the cap to inflation and population growth factors with the new cap not exceeding 3%. This change would support local elected officials in better serving their communities by providing basic services like public health, police, fire response, and numerous other critical, and often life saving services. If the legislature does not act during the 2024 session, counties across the state will not be able to sustain these services to keep up with community needs leading to negative health outcomes, degradation of infrastructure, thousands of layoffs, and numerous other adverse impacts.



## **State Salary Survey**

**Please support SB 5694.** 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.



## **Electronic Union Recognition Cards**

**Please support SB 6060.** The legislature should act to ensure that public employees governed by the Washington Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) can use digital signatures for the purposes of establishing union recognition by supporting SB6060. Under the current RCW, PERC only accepts an employee's physical signature on an union membership authorization card. Since 2015, the National Labor Relations Board has accepted electronic signatures for showing of interest for private sector union drives and California, Oregon, and Minnesota accept the same for public employees. Action would drastically improve access to good union jobs for Washingtonians.



## **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 10,000 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)