

# Exploring the path to creating a housing levy

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# What has worked:

## 35 years of the Seattle Housing Levy



# History of the Seattle Housing Levy

The Seattle Housing Levy and other local funding sources have helped produce and preserve over 12,500 affordable rental units, assisted 800 lower-income families in purchasing their first home, and provided emergency rental assistance to 6,500 households.



# 2016 Seattle Housing Levy

- \$290 Million Over 7 Years
- Cost to Median Homeowner: \$122/year
- Passed by 70% vote

## **Rental Production and Preservation Program**

Create rent- and income-restricted affordable housing for low-income households in Seattle.

## **Homelessness Prevention & Housing Stability Services**

Rent assistance and services to prevent eviction and address homelessness.

## **Homeownership Program**

Emergency home repair grants, foreclosure prevention, home buyer assistance, and more.

## **Acquisition and Preservation Program**

Short-term acquisition loans for property or buildings.



# Our process:

## Doing the early work

- Gathering input
- Research
- Data gathering and analysis
- Policy framework



# Listening and learning: Talking to stakeholders and industry professionals

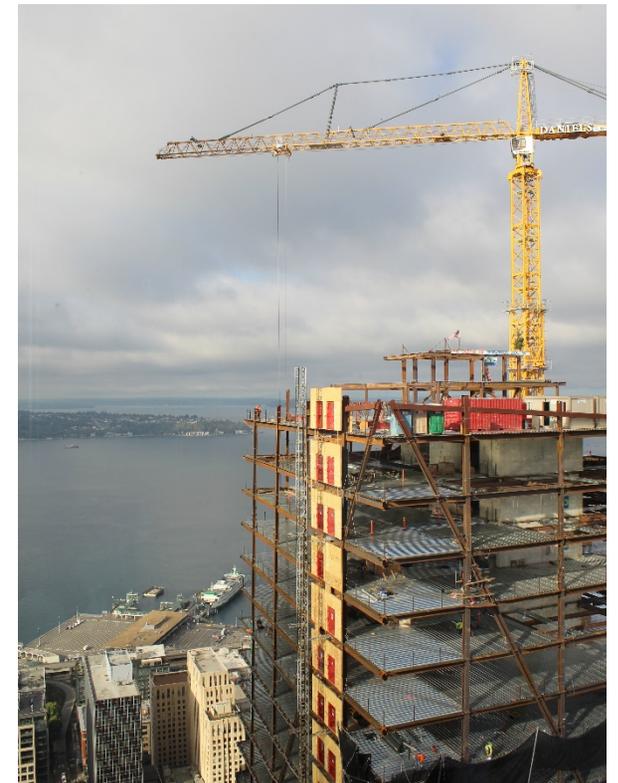
- Share findings
- Stress test assumptions
- Press for consensus opinions



# Creating the package:

## Putting it all together

- Refine modeling and policy
- Assess comprehensiveness
- Translate for clear messaging



# Taking it to the people:

## Going on a road show

- Educating
- Listening tour
- Building support



# Making the final proposal:

## The last pieces

- Reading and adjusting to the politics
- City Counsel support
- Pass final ordinance



# The campaign:

## Advocating for success

- Politics and endorsements
- Fundraising
- Coalition building
- Get out the vote



# Other Efforts Across the State:

Lessons from Seattle, Bellingham, & (soon) Vancouver



- Have a clear plan for use of funds
- Get buy-in from housing and homelessness community



# Other efforts across the state:

## First steps



- Gather your team
- Identify your preferred vehicle
- Seek advice from people with experience
- Go to your authorizing body to determine support



# Questions?



**Seattle**  
Office of Housing



HOUSING  
DEVELOPMENT  
*consortium*



WASHINGTON LOW INCOME  
**Housing Alliance**

