

PIERCE COUNTY NEEDS AFFORDABLE HOUSING



"I lost my job and our family ended up homeless, living in the woods and then in a shelter until a great nonprofit helped find us a home, getting our lives back on track. I am filled with joy every time I come home from work and see my kids in our yard playing with the kids from the neighborhood - just the way it is supposed to be. "

A sales tax increase of 1/10 of 1% will only cost the average resident \$16/year and will generate ~\$20 million annually for affordable housing



For more information email:
readcarolyn@comcast.net

THE PROBLEM...

- About 1/3 of all households in Pierce County are housing cost-burdened totaling over 100,000 households. **Of these, more than 43,000 households spend over half of their income on housing.**
- Housing costs are rising fast because supply is not keeping pace with demand. **Pierce County needs to build 137,000 housing units by 2044 to keep up with demand.**
- Of those 137,000 housing units, **the county needs to produce 2,300 units/year** affordable at or below 50% of area median income (AMI). Over half of these units are needed at 30% of AMI or below.
 - **50% AMI** for a family of 4 is **~\$50,000.**
 - **30% AMI** for a family of 4 is **~\$30,000.**
- **The County severely lacks locally dedicated funds to help build affordable housing and related services.** Pierce County needs 1,200 new permanent supportive housing units.
- **State and federal grants and federal tax credits require local equity and match funds to be competitive.**

...A PATH FORWARD

- The Pierce County Council is considering passage of a local housing revenue dedicated for affordable housing (2022-81s). A 1/10 of 1% sales tax in Pierce County is estimated to raise **\$20 million annually, but only cost the average resident \$16/year.**
- This revenue will provide **a reliable stream of income for low-income housing and support services.**
- Additionally, the **\$20 million** in annual revenue for affordable housing will provide:
 - More competitive applications for **State Housing Trust Fund investments**, federal tax credits and other financing such as **federal HOME funds.**
 - **Capacity development** for existing and new non-profit housing developers to build housing.
 - Fund support for **innovative homeless services** such as the Pierce County Community First Village as well as other **permanent supportive housing projects.**
 - **Support homeownership programs** with funding for down payment and technical assistance for first time homebuyers and low-income families.

WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN BUILD MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN PIERCE COUNTY!

- Do you want more affordable housing in Pierce County? Contact the Pierce County Council today by emailing pccouncil@piercecountywa.gov in support of **2022-81s**
- Add your name or organization to our **community sign on letter** urging the council to adopt the 1/10 of 1% sales tax for affordable housing today!
 - Use this link: tinyurl.com/nf84b386

1/10 1% FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING ALREADY ADOPTED IN:

- Skagit County
- Jefferson County
- King County
- Whatcom County
- Snohomish County
- Thurston County
- Clallam County
- Island County
- Kitsap County
- Ellensburg
- Spokane
- Tacoma
- Vancouver
- Wenatchee/East Wenatchee

ACTIVIST CHECK LIST:

- Email the Pierce County Council in support of **2022-81s**
- Add your name to the **community sign on letter**
- Attend the Pierce County Council public hearing on **3/21/23** to testify in support

COUNCIL ZOOM INFO:

3/21 @ 3PM, Full Council*

piercecountywa.zoom.us/j/97661787423

***Final vote by council.**

