

# Claudia Balducci

King County Council Chair  
District 6

Working for District 6 Residents

## Named Puget Sound Business Journal Transportation Executive of the Year.

My work as a leader on the Sound Transit Board and at King County Metro, was recognized in 2019 by Puget Sound Business Journal. The publication noted my leadership to keep Sound Transit's light rail expansion on schedule, as well as working with agencies, municipalities, businesses and residents to connect our region with great transit.



## Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As I do each year, I am sending this newsletter to report on accomplishments at the King County Council in 2019 and to preview major issues coming up in 2020. As Chair of the Council this year, I am committed to regional collaboration, quality government services for our residents, and fiscal stewardship.

Thank you for re-electing me as your representative. It is an honor to serve the residents of King County District 6 and I look forward to our work together in 2020.

As always, contact me with any questions or needs you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Claudia M. Balducci".

King County Councilmember  
District 6

### CORONAVIRUS IN KING COUNTY:

As of this mailing there are now multiple cases of novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, in King County, including in East King County and we have sadly experienced a number of deaths.

Information to stay updated can be found at:  
[kingcounty.gov/COVID](https://kingcounty.gov/COVID).

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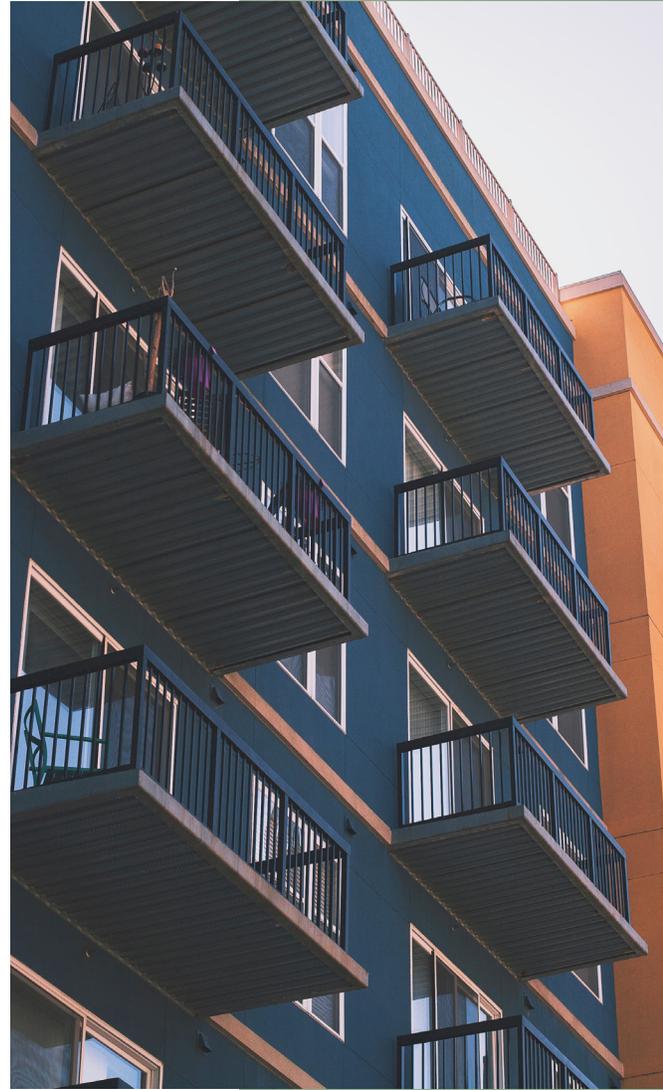
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## Addressing our Housing Crisis

With the rapid growth in our region, thousands of our neighbors struggle to have safe, healthy and affordable places to call home. This disproportionately affects our young people, seniors, working people and diverse communities. In 2020, I will continue to chair the Affordable Housing Committee of the County's Growth Management Planning Council, where we convene elected leaders, housing providers, service providers, private sector and other stakeholders to advocate for policies and investments that will start to bend the curve on affordability. Some exciting developments from 2019:

- **New investments.** I sponsored legislation to unlock a new funding source provided by the Washington State Legislature which will allow King County to access about \$100 million in funding for affordable housing over the next 20 years – without raising taxes.
- **Emergency shelter for people without homes on the Eastside.** Dating back to my time as Mayor of Bellevue, I was proud to join other Eastside cities in a plan to provide basic emergency shelter on the Eastside. The City of Redmond continues to host a shelter for young adults, and a new shelter for women and families is under construction in Kirkland and ready to open this year. In 2019, King County worked with Congregations for the Homeless on a purchase and sale agreement to use surplus County property as a permanent location for a men's emergency shelter in Bellevue.
- **Preventing homelessness.** In the 2019 supplemental budget I'm proud to have supported Attain Housing and Bellevue LifeSpring to continue providing emergency rental assistance to prevent evictions, as well as transitional housing for women through the Muslim Community Resource Center.



## More Transportation Options Coming Soon



- **Sound Transit Eastlink is over halfway complete!** In April we marked the 50% construction milestone for East Link Light Rail, which will connect the Eastside with fast, reliable transit in 2023.
- **Transit changes coming to the Eastside in March 2020.** Metro is making some significant changes to bus service across the north end of the Eastside. These service changes are intended to make transit faster, more convenient, and reliable. Make sure you are aware of the changes coming in March to Bothell, Kirkland, Kenmore, Woodinville and Redmond and reach out to me with your feedback and experiences.
- **Building a transportation system that puts people first.** As ride-hailing, bike-share, scooters, and autonomous vehicle technologies come online, our transportation system could change in ways that

increase opportunity, but also worsen inequities. That's why I asked King County Metro how we can harness these changes to create a more accessible and useful transportation system that puts people first. The resulting "Mobility Framework" is an innovative proposal to rethink how our transportation system works. Learn more about it at:

<https://bit.ly/2Sq02Ud>

## A Look Back at 2019 Accomplishments

### THANK YOU voters!

As Chair of the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee, I led Council's work on the 2020-2025 King County Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Levy, which 70% of voters approved in August. The renewed levy will make investments across the county, including almost \$50 million to build out much of the 42-mile Eastrail, connecting from Renton to Woodinville, along with additional investments for open space, pools and playfields across the Eastside.



### Expanding Outdoors for All's reach and depth of services as it serves people with disabilities across our region.

The \$1 million in funding I secured will support Outdoors for All's plan to significantly expand life-enriching recreation programs for individuals with disabilities.



Photo Credit: Outdoors for All Foundation

### Improving water quality and environmental education in District 6.

Nearly \$317,000 in WaterWorks grants were awarded in District 6 to critical projects and organizations, like the West Sammamish River Trail Riparian Restoration and the Pacific Science Center's Field Studies Program at Mercer Slough. These grants do double duty to both educate our youth about the importance of environmental stewardship while also repairing the harm of decades of degradation. I can't wait to see the results of their work.

### Investing in community organizations to provide opportunities to get outdoors, move and be healthy.

A healthy community means people have access to things that contribute to their well-being, like arts, culture, nature, and physical activity. In June I awarded \$200,000 in Get Active Stay Active grants to 19 youth and amateur sports organizations in District 6, including organizations like Rainier Athletes, Upower and Lake Washington Youth Soccer Association.

### Giving retired vans a new home with non-profits serving the Eastside.

In 2019, I donated retired, but still useable, vanpool vans to Congregations for the Homeless, Stroum Jewish Community Center, and Asian Counseling and Referral Service.

### Empowering communitywide response to the climate crisis.

Many District 6 residents are speaking out on climate change and are urging action. In 2019 I worked with constituents and passed legislation that directs resources to building Climate Action Toolkits that all jurisdictions can use to create locally-tailored climate action plans.





## Claudia Balducci

Chair, King County Council

King County Council

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Speaking at the Women Who Lead Forum.

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## What to Watch for in 2020

Our challenges and opportunities don't start and end at the borders of any one city or town. As your representative, I have always worked to bring regional interests together to tackle our biggest challenges. I've been honored to have this approach recognized with regional leadership positions, such as Vice President of the Puget Sound Regional Council, Chair of the Sound Transit board's System Expansion Committee and Chair of the King County Council. I will work hard and use these positions to tackle some of the major issues in 2020, including:

- Addressing homelessness with a unified regional strategy
- Maintaining and expanding transit options
- Maintaining and expanding Harborview Medical Center
- Addressing housing and affordability
- Adopting the King County Budget

