



Our State, Our Future

Fighting for the Places We Live and Love

www.futurewise.org | 206-343-0681 | 1201 3rd Ave, Ste 2200, Seattle, WA 98101

Land use is a foundational building block of an economy that works for everybody. We have to get it right.

Here in Washington we have a once-in-a-decade chance to lead the nation in building inclusive, affordable, opportunity-rich, and climate-friendly communities.

Right now, bad land use policy is at the core of our nation's cost of living crisis. Exclusionary policies have long created neighborhoods of haves and have-nots based on race. Now zoning and permitting rules that have restricted housing supply and increased construction costs are leading to record high housing prices for everybody.

People are forced to move farther from jobs, family, and childcare, just to afford a home. Neighborhoods designed for cars instead of walking and transit lead to traffic, pollution, and high gas prices. Rents and mortgages have far outpaced wages in recent years, making it harder and harder to support a family.



Rising temperatures



Increased housing costs



Higher prices

The intersection of our cost of living crisis with the climate crisis is our chance to choose a different future that reduces costs for working people without abandoning our values.

Together we can build affordable and sustainable communities that undo patterns of segregation, reduce our carbon footprints, connect people to jobs and services, and protect public health, our local food systems, and the environment.



Washington State Has a Unique Opportunity

Washington has led the nation in forward-thinking land use thanks to our state's Growth Management Act (GMA). In the last several years, Futurewise led the push to overhaul the GMA with an increased focus on housing affordability and reducing auto-dependence and greenhouse gas emissions.

Over the next 4 years, every city and county will respond to this new state framework with updated comprehensive plans, zoning and other development regulations. These plans and policies are our chance to welcome new neighbors, promote racial justice, reinforce Washington's role as a national climate leader, and create greater opportunity for working people.

Futurewise Can Lead The Way

Futurewise is the only organization in Washington with the breadth and depth of expertise to steward these plans and regulatory changes, but right now we don't have adequate capacity to take advantage of this historic opportunity.

We need to raise \$1.5 million by fall 2025 to staff up. Your gift will fund three new positions to expand our staff from 8 to 11. These roles will ensure that we have the staffing levels and systems needed to lead on comprehensive plan updates across Washington.



A Place of Refuge

Our state was already expecting to welcome two million more neighbors over the next two decades. With policy changes at the federal level combined with those seeking refuge from the climate crisis, we can expect even more people to look to Washington as a beacon as reproductive freedom, LGBTQ rights, clean air and water, and the social safety net are eroded across the nation. Our comprehensive plan updates are our opportunity to welcome those looking for sanctuary in uncertain times, while making sure we continue to meet the needs of current residents, prevent displacement, and protect our environment.

Fighting for Racial Justice

The foundational injustices of our country are baked into our land use: for more than a century our national government forcibly removed native peoples from their land and perpetuated the legacy of slavery through racist housing practices like redlining and blockbusting. Washington can lead the nation in proactively redressing these injustices and promoting inclusive communities that uplift opportunity for everybody. Washington cities are now required to adopt housing plans that begin to undo the legacy of racist segregation and Futurewise will be holding them legally accountable to that mandate. Futurewise is also working with tribes across the state to uphold treaty rights in local comprehensive plans.

Creating Opportunity for Working People

Washington is leading on the pocketbook issues that matter to working and middle class voters: paid sick leave, paid family leave, one of the highest minimum wages in the nation, and lots of new jobs across economic sectors and occupations. But if we want to continue to build an economy that works for everybody, we have to get our housing costs under control. Futurewise is working in communities across Washington to change zoning and development regulations to increase housing options and lower housing costs near job centers, so everyone who wants can come to Washington State to build a better life for their family, regardless of race, class, income, or immigration status.

Leading on Climate

After the 2024 presidential election, national climate policy has not just come to a standstill: it's going in reverse. We know that we can continue to reduce emissions here in Washington State by combining our best-in-the-nation clean energy regulations with climate-friendly land use policies. Every person that moves to a transit-oriented community in Washington reduces our national emissions, and shows that climate action goes hand and hand with growth and prosperity. Futurewise is working across our state to redesign our communities for proximity, walkability, and good transit, reducing our carbon emissions from transportation, and protecting our natural carbon sinks in rural areas.



How can we do it? \$1.5 Million in Capacity Funding

Make an investment in Washington's future with a gift to the Our State, Our Future campaign

Futurewise has built a remarkable reputation across Washington State due to the talent of our small but mighty team. However, the urgent scope and scale of work to ensure that comprehensive plans all across Washington reflect our values and vision is FAR beyond our current capacity, right when we need to take on the increased work of statewide comprehensive plan updates.

Without additional funding, we risk jeopardizing the quality of our work precisely at the moment when we need to be doing our best. Futurewise is at a crucial juncture to invest in the backbone staffing (communications, operations and fundraising) that makes our program staff successful, and frees up their time to focus on what they do best: advocating with you.

Without additional support at this time, we risk:

- Failure to intervene with decision makers on time-sensitive issues
- Missed deadlines to comment on and appeal updates
- Lack of community engagement that can make the difference in a tight vote
- Shortchanging support of our local partners who are critical to success
- Losing talented staff to burnout at the time when we need them most

With your investment, Futurewise can:

- Expand our reach, with a focus on advocating in more cities
- Deepen our engagement in areas that need extra community organizing
- Set precedent in early updates that influence decisions across the state
- Improve communications with the public about these updates
- Invest in staff roles that will grow our annual operating budget for the long-term

Make your gift:

www.futurewise.org/our-state-our-future