

April 4, 2016



Colleagues,

The issues of affordable housing and homelessness have hit a crisis point in our communities. Across King County, 127,000 households are paying more than half their income for housing costs, and 4,505 individuals were found sleeping outdoors during the 2016 One Night Count. These challenges are touching every corner, every city, every school district of our County. During the 2014-15 school year, 7,260 students across King County were identified as homeless.

We know we must do more to address these needs. By increasing attention to this issue and by working together, across communities and across sectors, we can turn the tide to ensure all people have access to a safe, healthy, affordable home.

That is why, today, we are inviting you to join us in recognizing the need to preserve and increase affordable housing in our communities by pledging to declare May 16-22 Affordable Housing Week. Through Affordable Housing Week, we can elevate understanding of the need for affordable housing and take time to discuss potential solutions for our own local contexts.

When you pledge to participate in Affordable Housing Week, what you do is up to you and your city. It could be as simple as signing a proclamation on May 16 or 17 declaring May 16-22 as Affordable Housing Week. Or, you could plan activities in your city for the week of May 16 to bring awareness to this critical need. The Housing Development Consortium Seattle-King County is a valuable source of data and resources, and can help you to develop tools to bring awareness to your community.

If all 36 of the cities in the Sound Cities Association take the pledge and do our part to promote Affordable Housing Week, we can make a meaningful difference to elevate the conversation on this important issue. We hope you will join us in making this pledge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Walen".

Amy Walen  
Mayor, City of Kirkland

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Backus".

Nancy Backus  
Mayor, City of Auburn

Attachment: Sample Affordable Housing Week Proclamation