



League of Women Voters® of Mason County

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March 4, 2021

Dear Mason County Commissioners,

The League of Women Voters of Mason County appreciates this opportunity to advocate for the use of funds made available by passage of HB 1590 which allows county government to raise the local sales tax by .1% and dedicate those dollars to both building new low-income housing units and providing services in those units.

Several years ago, in an effort to inform our membership and to generate citizen interest in solutions to the condition of poverty and the affordable housing crisis, our League presented a series of programs highlighting local service groups and organizations focused on longstanding economic issues. And recently, we hosted a program on Housing and Homelessness in Washington State pinpointing the indicators of where we are in providing housing to our most vulnerable populations.

As a result, we've come to these simple conclusions: a significant number of people in Mason County experience various levels of housing insecurity, the challenge of Covid-19 makes the situation more dire than ever, housing is a basic need which when met will actually lead to economic growth, we can monitor our jurisdiction's comprehensive plans to provide adequate housing, we can take action in support of policy changes at the legislative level to ensure housing for all.

But right now, we can take advantage of another source of revenue made available to local government with the passage of HB 1590. This would be a positive step toward addressing our housing needs. Please consider doing what other cities in our state have already started. Use these dollars to invest in our neighbors.

Sincerely,
Amy Davis
LWVMC Co-President