

# CITY OF RENTON FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## City of Renton Contacts

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## Mayor Law presents balanced 2019-2020 budget to City Council

*Budget asks for more staff in economic development, community services and police support to keep pace with the needs of a growing population.*

- [Budget presentation](#)

**RENTON, WA** – Mayor Denis Law presented a balanced city budget for 2019 and 2020 to the Renton City Council at the Council Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, October 1, 2018.

“We are fortunate because Renton’s financial situation is strong,” he told the council. “This budget proposal will allow us to continue to meet the service needs of our growing community.”

The proposed budget has expenditures of \$525 million, including \$217.3 million in the General Fund budget, of which 40 percent is earmarked for public safety, including police.

“Public safety continues to be our number one priority,” said the mayor. “Council has continued to provide resources to reduce crime, make people feel safer in the community and develop stronger relationships between the police and the public.”

Mayor Law made special mention of the contributions made by the members of the Budget Advisory Committee, a group of local residents, business owners and community leaders who met over several weeks with city administrators to provide valuable input and help shape the city’s budget.

The mayor reaffirmed his priority areas established to address the goals and objectives of the Council’s Business Plan and stated that the 2019-20 budget will continue to provide resources for each of these areas:

- Providing a safe, healthy, vibrant community
- Promoting economic vitality and strategically positioning Renton for the future
- Supporting planned growth and influencing decisions that impact the city
- Building an inclusive, informed city with opportunities for all
- Meeting service demands with high, quality customer service

He also saluted the impact the city’s outreach programs have had in the community.

“Our strong relationships with leaders from every ethnic and religious group and our partnerships with Renton School District, Renton Technical College, Renton African-American Pastoral group, and local businesses have resulted in several mutually beneficial projects.” Those projects include:

- Working with Renton Housing Authority, King County Library System, private developers and the State Legislature to help transform the Sunset area into a beautiful new neighborhood teeming with investment

- Establishing strong community partnerships to develop the Family First Community Center, which will improve the quality of life for thousands of residents in the Cascade area
- Establishing the Renton African-American Pastoral Group to develop a meaningful relationship between the community and the police department
- Creating the Renton Multicultural Festival, two days of pageantry, great performances and engaged crowds to celebrate our diverse community
- Training for all city employees on diversity and implicit bias
- Launching several first-in-the-region hiring policies to provide more opportunities for all applicants
- Improving access for all to city purchasing and contracting services

Renton has seen hundreds of millions of dollars invested in new projects including the Hyatt Regency Hotel at Southport, new office developments and housing projects. The city has also seen its population reach 104,100, with another 57,237 people working in the city and utilizing city facilities and services. The budget reflects the need to fill a number of key positions in order to maintain the level of city services. In all, 21.62 new positions will be added to the General Fund budget, with the costs for some of these positions off-set by new revenues. This will also preserve a strong reserve fund for the next several years.

Among the departments receiving new positions:

- Community and Economic Development, which has seen an explosion of business over the past several years and has broken all previous records in terms of processed permits and inspections
- Community Services to meet the growing demands on parks, trails and recreation programs
- Facilities staff will be increased to a minimum level to meet the maintenance needs of 66 city owned and managed facilities
- Public Works will add several maintenance positions and a transportation design civil engineer
- Information Technology will add two critical positions
- Police will add a records specialist and convert a part-time parking enforcement officer to full-time

“These new positions will allow us to continue with our successful efforts in recruiting quality companies, new jobs and redevelopment opportunities to Renton,” the mayor said.

The budget also contains funding to assist seniors and others with housing needs as part of the Healthy Housing Initiative and an additional \$50,000 each year for arts and culture projects in support of the Renton Municipal Arts Commission.

“This budget proposal keeps us moving forward with our commitment of providing excellent service,” said Mayor Law, “and ensuring Renton remains a great place to live, work, play and learn.”

The Mayor’s budget speech and presentation can be found at [rentonwa.gov/budget1920](http://rentonwa.gov/budget1920).

### **About the City of Renton**

*The City of Renton, Washington, with a population of 104,100 (2018), is located on the southeast shore of Lake Washington, just south of Seattle. Renton's strong economic base, diverse marketplace and favorable business climate have attracted the attention of nationally recognized companies that are providing employees and their families an outstanding quality of life. Renton is the home of Boeing, PACCAR, IKEA, the Seattle Seahawks, and the eternal resting place of Jimi Hendrix. More information can be found on our [website](#), [new releases](#), or [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Nextdoor](#) pages.*

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