



Note: The following is an excerpt from [the Durkan Digest](#).

In my last nine months as mayor, I have had the awesome opportunity to go all over our City, to meet with community members, and to listen to the people of Seattle.

After all, that's what I was elected to do.

This week was no exception. From Sand Point to Mt. Baker to the Rainier Valley to Uptown and beyond, I attended over a dozen events in the community to hear about what's working, and where we need to do better and do more.



Earlier this week, we broke ground on 95 new affordable homes for low-income families and families experiencing homelessness next to Mt. Baker light rail station. With affordability, housing, and homelessness the central challenge we face, we know we must build more affordable housing in our region as quickly as possible, and we're on track to build 2,500 new City-funded affordable rental homes by 2021. With this strong and innovative public-private partnership, we're showing what we can do when we work together to address these critical challenges and build shared solutions.



Another highlight was the chance to attend a meeting of the Washington Student Achievement Council for a discussion on how we build true economic opportunity for all – and why that starts with education and preparing our young people so they can get the jobs of the future.

I discussed the Families, Education, Preschool and Promise plan that will, if passed this November, fund education from preschool through college. Its investments would include:

- Preschool and early learning services
- The Seattle Promise College Tuition Program
- K-12 school health services
- K-12 school and community-based investments

Next week, I'll present my first budget as mayor, and lay out the investments I'm proposing to focus on the basics like water, sidewalks, and public safety; addressing our affordability, housing, and homelessness crisis; and invest in a more just and vibrant city of the future. More on my budget proposal soon!

As always, please continue to write me at Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov, reach out via Twitter and Facebook, and stay up-to-date on the work we're doing for the people of Seattle on my blog.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jenny Durkan