

YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS

We the children and youth of King County, Washington, as contributors to an inclusive and just human society, and to secure hope and a future based in equity, respect, and combined power for all, establish these youth bill of rights.

- I. **BASIC NEEDS & WELLBEING** – *We the children and youth of King County, assert that every young individual has the right to the fulfillment of basic human needs.*
 - A. Every young individual has access to fresh, nutritious, and affordable food.
 - B. Every young individual is housed in a safe home environment, and able to live without risk of harm or unwilling displacement.
 - C. Every young individual experiences sustainable living including access to outdoor spaces and unpolluted air.
 - D. Every young individual has access to clean drinking water.
- II. **HEALTH** – *We the children and youth of King County declare the care of young peoples' mental, emotional, and physical health is a fundamental human right.*
 - A. Every young individual has access to mental health support, mental health resources, and mental health services that are affordable, responsive, and address their unique challenges.
 - B. Every young individual has respect, autonomy, and meaningful involvement in decisions about their body.
 - C. Every young individual has resources, services, and aid to combat drug and alcohol abuse.
 - D. Every young individual has affordable and easily accessible health care.
 - E. Every young individual has the power to make decisions about their reproductive health.
- III. **EDUCATION & LEARNING** – *We the children and youth of King County uphold education as a pathway to progress, economic stability, and development.*
 - A. Every young individual receives a quality education in a supportive learning environment where they feel emotionally, mentally, and physically able.
 - B. Every young individual receives unbiased education that expands their knowledge, trade, and skills, and that addresses individual learning needs.
 - C. Every young individual is supported by their community in building their educational goals.
 - D. Every young individual receives training that prepares them for the next stages of life.
- IV. **EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE** – *We the children and youth of King County believe that equity and social justice are essential for a better world, and by upholding these rights, we create a brighter future for all.*
 - A. Every young individual who experiences any form of discrimination is validated and taken seriously.
 - B. Every young individual has resources that address language barriers, and/or situations that limit their ability to communicate or understand circumstances.
- V. **SAFETY & SECURITY** – *We the children and youth of King County assert that all young people should feel safe and protected at home, at school, and in their communities.*
 - A. Every young individual has safe communities that are free from violence.
 - B. Every young individual has a learning environment that is physically and emotionally safe, free from violence, judgement, and inequity.
 - C. Every young individual has safe spaces shielded from gun violence and resources if they are impacted by gun violence.
 - D. Every young individual safely travels routes, roads, and sidewalks within their communities.
- VI. **COMMUNITY & BELONGING** – *We the children and youth of King County champion the importance of a sense of community and belonging, and creating nurturing spaces for connection, contribution, and collaboration.*
 - A. Every young individual has community supports and uplifting environments to rely on in times of need.
 - B. Every young individual is surrounded by supportive communities and systems that protect and sustain their identities.
 - C. Every young individual has spaces where they safely gather, celebrate, and collaborate with other youth.
 - D. Every young individual is protected from bullying in any form and feels safe and heard when bullying is reported.
- VII. **ENVIRONMENT** – *We the children and youth of King County recognize the urgent need to protect our planet for future generations.*
 - A. Every young individual engages in solutions to climate change and global warming.
 - B. Every young individual enjoys the natural environment and keeps it preserved for future generations.
 - C. Every young individual breathes clear air void of carbon emissions and pollution.
 - D. Every young individual enjoys clean streets, sidewalks, and highways free of garbage and dangerous waste.
- VIII. **TRANSPORTATION** – *We the children and youth of King County maintain that public and private transportation is necessary for young people to attend school, build community, and explore the world around them.*
 - A. Every young individual has adequate access to affordable public transportation.
 - B. Every young individual walks well-maintained and accessible sidewalks,
 - C. Every young individual has options for an affordable personal mode of transportation and able to travel when and where they need to in a timely manner.
- IX. **YOUTH VOICE** – *We the children and youth of King County uphold the right of youth to actively participate in civic life and contribute to decision-making processes that shape their future and present communities.*
 - A. Every young individual expresses themselves, voices their opinions, beliefs, and concerns without fear of censorship or repression.
 - B. Every young individual has a voice in local government, boards, and commissions.
 - C. Every young individual shares their thoughts and concerns about their school or learning environment and is heard.
- X. **RECREATION & SPORTS** – *We the children and youth of King County acknowledge the role recreation and sports play in the development of young people, having a positive impact on individual growth, community growth, and self-esteem.*
 - A. Every young individual freely engages with the natural environment.
 - B. Every young individual has equitable access to various affordable recreational activities and sports.

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The King County Youth Bill of Rights is dedicated to memory of Sophie Theriault (Duvall, Washington) whose light continues to shine and guide us all towards a more equitable society for children, youth, and all humankind.