



YES ON I-135

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For Immediate Release

It is official! As of today, Seattle's ballot initiative 135, to create the Seattle Social Housing Developer, has officially won with a nearly 14% lead.

This vote, and the margin by which it is winning, shows that Seattle is ready for something bold and new. We are tired of living in this affordable housing crisis with no end in sight. We are tired of our neighbors entering homelessness. We are tired of our neighbors being priced out of the city. We are tired of being asked to wait for solutions, while more and more of us become rent burdened. We want high quality, union built, passive house homes where a wide range of incomes can live together in solidarity, and we want them now.

We are deeply grateful to Seattle voters for believing in our vision. Young people, workers, renters, and so many with lived experience and/or housing insecurity believed in this vision, because who knows better what is needed than those most directly impacted.

This is a win for Seattle, and for the country. This is a major win for the social housing movement. With many other cities and states working on their own efforts to create social housing, we now look to California and Hawaii to be the next to establish social housing developers.

What's Next?

We have received several questions about what's next. Below, you will find verbatim from the initiative text what follows the certification of the election.

Board Appointments

From the day the election results are certified by King County Elections, as per Charter Article VII, Section 2, the entities charged with board appointments will have 60 days to make said appointments to the board. The following entities will be responsible for appointing board members with specific qualifications, including the demonstrated commitment to the vision of social housing.

- Seattle Renters' Commission: 7 renters
 - 3 at 0-50% AMI
 - 2 at 50-80% AMI
 - 2 at 80-100% AMI
- MLK Labor: 1 rank-and-file union member
- El Centro de la Raza: 1 representative from an organization that provides housing to historically marginalized communities
- Green New Deal Oversight Board: 1 green development professional
- Seattle City Council (2) / Mayor (1)
 - 1 non-profit development professional
 - 1 public housing finance professional
 - 1 urban planning professional

Once appointed, the board will meet at a minimum once a month, and create committees for hiring, finances, and other oversight tasks of the developer.

Staff Hiring

The city start-up support will include salaries for a chief executive officer and chief financial officer, which the board will be tasked with hiring upon their appointments.

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