

St. Leo's Social Justice Page

Advocating for a Just and Sustainable Farm Bill from the 118th U. S. Congress

After the 5:00pm and 9:30am masses NEXT WEEK - March 25th & 26th we will be conducting the last postcard writing campaign for the U.S. Farm Bill 2023. The focus will be on supporting a robust Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) and solid support for a robust international food aid component. In the light of House of Representatives trying to cut spending on the "backs of the poor" and the international food crisis due to Russia aggression against Ukraine we need to act!!!

Update: Critical County Council Vote Regarding Housing for Low-Income Citizens

The Pierce County Council will vote on Ordinance 2022-81s on Tuesday, March 21, at their 3pm meeting. A positive vote will release 1/10 of 1% of sales tax revenue to create affordable housing and related services within the County. We are so close to this major victory, but need the help of everyone with the final advocacy push. Please note this tax revenue is an entirely separate issue from the recent outcry over the proposed location of a Community First Village.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION by as many of the following actions as you can:

1. Email the Pierce County Council by Monday, March 20, at PCCOUNCIL@piercecounty.gov, stating that you are in support of Ordinance 2022-81s; share any personal stories you may have as to why you are supportive of the measure.

A sample message:

Dear Pierce County Council Members,

As you undoubtedly realize, our county and greater region are suffering from an affordable housing crisis. Lack of housing is our number one economic development challenge. Our county severely lacks locally dedicated funds to help build affordable housing and related services. For our most vulnerable residents, Pierce County needs 1,200 new permanent supportive housing units over the next 10 years. Every county except Pierce and Mason on the Puget Sound has passed this valuable revenue source. These funds will leverage significant outside funds, yet only cost each of us an additional penny on a \$10 purchase. Please vote yes now so we can begin investing these valuable funds and house people in desperate need of affordable housing.

Sincerely,

Your Name

2. Public Comment (Virtual or in Person) at the final public hearing on Tuesday, March 21 at 3pm. Strong, supportive testimony is needed. Zoom link: piercecountywa.zoom.us/j/97661787423. In person is more effective, however. Go to 930 Tacoma Avenue, 10th floor. The ordinance will be first on the docket and includes a public hearing.

3. Spread the Word! Share this message with your networks via emails and social media.

Thank you for speaking on behalf of those who have no voice!

A flyer on 1/10 of 1% can be found at the back of the church or at the Kiosk.