



AGENDA PACKET

**CITY COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026 6:30 PM**

**EVERETT CITY HALL, 484 BROADWAY, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 3RD FLOOR
EVERETT, MA 02149**



AGENDA

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EVERETT CITY HALL, 484 BROADWAY, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 3RD FLOOR
EVERETT, MA 02149

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. C0161-26 Ordinance/s/ Councilor Katy L. Rogers

An ordinance promoting environmental sustainability by reducing single-use plastic service ware and single-use packaged condiments

ADJOURNMENT

www.cityofeverett.com

(All agendas and reports can be obtained on City of Everett Website)

Respectfully submitted:

David R. Flood

Legislative Research / Systems Analyst
Everett City Council Office



C0161-26

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Councilor Katy L. Rogers

Date: June 22, 2026

Agenda Item:

An ordinance promoting environmental sustainability by reducing single-use plastic service ware and single-use packaged condiments

Background and Explanation:

An ordinance promoting environmental sustainability by reducing single-use plastic service ware and single-use packaged condiments

Attachments:

**AN ORDINANCE PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BY
REDUCING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC SERVICE WARE AND SINGLE-USE PACKAGED
CONDIMENTS**

/s/ Katy Rogers

WHEREAS, the City of Everett is committed to environmental stewardship and the reduction of plastic pollution that impacts our local waterways, parks, and waste management systems; and

WHEREAS, billions of single-use plastic utensils, straws, and condiment packets are discarded annually in the United States, many of which are provided to customers automatically and thrown away unused; and

WHEREAS, the production and disposal of single-use plastics and condiments contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions and environmental degradation; and

WHEREAS, local food service establishments face rising operational costs, and the automatic distribution of unwanted accessories represents an unnecessary financial burden on Everett's small business community; and

WHEREAS, "Skip the Stuff" initiatives have been successfully implemented in various municipalities across the Commonwealth, proving that an "as-requested" model effectively reduces environmental waste while providing immediate cost savings to businesses; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day 2026 serves as a vital reminder of our collective responsibility to implement common-sense policies that balance convenience with conservation.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Everett City Council as follows:

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to reduce the distribution of single-use service ware and single-serving packaged condiments to promote environmental sustainability and minimize cost reduction on the City's small businesses. This ordinance advances the City's health and environmental goals by reducing plastic waste and mitigating the City's carbon footprint associated with single-use materials.

Section 2. Definitions.

- a. "Condiment" means a single-use packet containing relishes, spices, sauces, confections, or seasonings, that requires no additional preparation by the Consumer, and that is used with food or beverages, including, but not limited to, creamer, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, soy sauce, wasabi, sauerkraut, salsa, syrup, jam, jelly, salad dressings, salt, sugar, sugar substitutes, pepper, and chili pepper.
- b. "Consumer" and "Customer" means the individual purchasing Prepared Food for consumption by themselves or others, or where the Prepared Food is provided for free, the individual who will be collecting the Prepared Food for consumption by themselves or others.

- c. “ISD” means the Department of Inspectional Services for the City of Everett.
- d. “ISD Director” means the Director of the Department of Inspectional Services for the City of Everett.
- e. “Food Service Establishment” means a retail establishment that stores, prepares, packages, serves, vends, or otherwise provides food for human consumption, including, but not limited to, any establishment required by state law to be licensed by the Board of Health in accordance with the provisions of the State Sanitary Code (105 CMR 590.000), Chapter X “Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Service Establishments,” in order to prepare and serve food to the general public.
- f. “Online Food Ordering Platform” means a website or mobile application through which a Consumer can place an order for pick-up or delivery of Prepared Food. Such platforms include those operated directly by a Food Service Establishment, by companies that provide delivery of Prepared Food to Consumers from Food Service Establishments, and by online food ordering systems that connect Consumers to a Food Service Establishment directly.
- g. “Prepared Food” means food or beverages that are serviced, packaged, cooked, chopped, sliced, mixed, brewed, frozen, squeezed, poured, or otherwise prepared (collectively “prepared”) in a Food Service Establishment for individual Customers or Consumers. Prepared Food does not include raw eggs or raw, butchered meats, fish, and/or poultry sold from a butcher case, a refrigerator case, or similar retail appliance.
- h. “Single-Use” means designed to be used once and then discarded and not designed for repeated use and sanitizing.
- i. “Single-Use Articles” means all types of items provided alongside Prepared Food that are intended for a Single-Use, including, but not limited to, utensils, Condiments, napkins, straws, stirrers, splash sticks, cocktail sticks, toothpicks, cup sleeves, cup trays, and food trays
- j. “Utensil” means a food contact implement including but not limited to forks, spoons, knives, sporks, chopsticks, tongs, or other instruments used to serve food or to eat food.

Section 3. Regulated Conduct.

- a. *Selection of Single-Use Articles:*
 - i. A Food Service Establishment shall require Customers to specify which Single-Use Articles they want included with their Prepared Food when selecting or ordering Prepared Food in person or on the telephone. Food Service Establishments using an Online Food Ordering Platform shall provide the option to Customers to request Single-Use Articles with a Prepared Food order, when the Online Food Ordering Platform includes selection of Single-Use Articles as a feature.
 - ii. As an alternative to Section 3(a)(i), Food Service Establishments may have Single-Use Articles available at self-service stations or on dining tables for the Customer to select and use.

- b. *Providing of Single-Use Articles*: Food Service Establishments shall not automatically provide Single-Use Articles with Prepared Food. Such items may only be provided upon request of the Customer. If the Online Food Ordering Platform used by the Food Service Establishment does not include a feature allowing Customers to request Single-Use Articles, the Food Service Establishment shall not include such items with the order.
- c. *No Bundling Single-Use Articles*: Single-Use Articles provided by Food Service Establishments for use by Customers shall not be bundled or packaged in a manner that prohibits a Customer from taking only the type of Single-Use Article desired without also having to take additional Single-Use Articles. For purposes of this ordinance, each type of Condiment and each type of Utensil shall be considered a separate Single-Use Article, meaning that a Consumer requesting a fork shall not be provided a package containing a fork, knife and spoon.

Section 4. Enforcement. ISD and the ISD Director shall have the authority to administer and enforce this ordinance. The ISD Director or their designee, including but not limited to code enforcement employees of the City, may issue citations under the non-criminal disposition procedure set forth in M.G.L. c. 40, §21D and as specified herein. Each day on which a violation occurs shall constitute a separate offense. Violations issued pursuant to this section may be appealed in accordance with the non-criminal disposition procedures set forth in M.G.L. c. 40, §21D.

Notwithstanding Section 1-8 of the City of Everett Revised Ordinances, the following penalty schedule shall apply:

- a. First (1st) through third (3rd) offense: written warning
- b. Fourth (4th) offense: \$25.00
- c. Fifth (5th) and each subsequent offense: \$50.00

Section 5. Exemptions. Any Food Service Establishment may seek an exemption from the requirements of this ordinance by filing a request in writing to the ISD Director on the basis of undue hardship. The request must explain why compliance would cause undue hardship to the Food Service Establishment. The ISD Director has the sole authority to waive any or all requirements of this ordinance for an individual Food Service Establishment on the basis of undue hardship for one (1) year from the date of the request. A Food Service Establishment granted a waiver on the basis of undue hardship must re-apply at least 60 (sixty) days prior to the end of the one (1) year exemption period and demonstrate continued undue hardship if the Food Service Establishment wishes to have the exemption extended. The ISD Director's decision to grant or deny an exemption or to grant or deny an extension of a previously issued exemption shall be in writing and shall be final.

Section 6. Exceptions. This ordinance does not apply to items required for food safety, such as single-use beverage lids or single-use heat sleeves for hot beverages.

Section 7. Regulations. ISD may adopt and amend rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this ordinance.

Section 8. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance is declared invalid or unenforceable the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

#1- C0161-26

Legislative Affairs & Election Committee
June 22, 2026

The Committee on Legislative Affairs & Elections met on Monday, June 22, 2026 at 6:30pm in the City Council Chambers.

The meeting was recorded by ECTV and can be viewed on the City of Everett website.

Members present were Councilor Michael Marchese, presiding, Councilors Stephanie Martins, Anthony DiPierro and Katy Rogers.

The Committee considered an Ordinance offered by Councilor Katy Rogers: An Ordinance promoting environmental sustainability by reducing single-use plastic service ware and single-use packaged condiments.

City Solicitor Jacyln Munson was also present.

Councilor Rogers informed the Committee that she had worked on the Ordinance with the City Solicitor which was modeled from similar ordinances in other communities. She explained that she was trying to eliminate single-use plastic service ware and packaged condiments, but that it only be provided upon request. She noted that this would help save businesses money as well as help the environment. Councilor DiPierro inquired to enforcement and asked if a business outside of the City of Everett would be exempt from this ordinance and Ms. Munson agreed to look into. The City Solicitor cautioned that the City was limited on what it could do for enforcement. Councilor Rogers suggested that the matter be granted further time to allow the City Solicitor to look into Councilor DiPierro's inquiry.

The Committee voted: To grant further time.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees