



2020

Legislative Session City Priorities & Outcomes

The 2020 Legislature addressed AWC's priorities, resulting in both pros and cons for cities. Cities achieved many positive outcomes, but work remains to prepare for next session.



Adopt a comprehensive set of transportation policies that provide robust new resources and local options

PRO: Passed a supplemental transportation budget that provides funding for projects previously paused by the Governor. The Legislature balanced the budget largely through one-time measures, including reductions based on historical underspending. Although the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) appropriations were reduced by \$9 million, this was a more modest reduction than what could have occurred.

CON: Failed to pass **HB 2362** and **SB 6652** creating additional local government transportation revenue options.



Preserve city fiscal health with secure funding sources

PRO: Maintained funding in state-shared revenues for Liquor Profits, Liquor Taxes, Cannabis Taxes, Municipal Criminal Justice Assistance, Fire Insurance Premium Taxes, and City-County Assistance.

CON: Adopted a new unfunded cost-of-living increase for PERS 1 retirees that will increase city pension costs.

CON: Did not consider revising the 1% property tax cap for cities.



Continue to pursue new resources and policies to increase affordable housing at both the state and local level

PRO: Passed **HB 1590** to provide councilmanic authority for cities to raise a 1/10th of a cent sales tax to address housing affordability.

PRO: Passed **HB 2343** to expand incentives for cities to adopt voluntary housing and development streamlining policies through grants and legal support.

PRO: Passed amendments to clarify **HB 1406** from the 2019 session and extended the timeline to adopt a qualifying local tax.

PRO: Preserved local land use authority around housing.

PRO: Invested \$160 million in affordable housing and homelessness.

CON: Failed to pass a comprehensive expansion of the Multifamily Tax Exemption program.



Fully fund the Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF)

PRO: Passed supplemental budgets that did not sweep any additional funds out of the PWTF.

CON: Continued diversions and sweeps from the PWTF that were adopted in the 2019 session.

more outcomes on back 

Contact:

Candice Bock

Government Relations Director
candiceb@awcnet.org • 360.753.4137





Advance a watershed-based strategic plan to address local fish-blocking culverts along with state culverts

PRO: All three state supplemental budgets have elements that support a more expansive vision by the state to address fish passage, including strategic investment support for cities. This will inform the larger funding conversation by the state next session.



Create a tax increment financing (TIF) option for cities

CON: Failed to pass **HB 2804** reopening the Local Revitalization Financing program for new project funding.

CON: Failed to pass **HB 2778** and **HJR 4212** allowing for property tax-based TIF.



Support statewide medication assisted treatment (MAT) services in city and regional jails by providing local flexibility

PRO: Received funding for a study to develop a scalable model to implement MAT in city and regional jail facilities. Report due in November 2020.

PRO: Passed **HB 2642** prohibiting insurers from requiring prior authorization for residential substance use disorder treatment services or withdrawal management services.

PRO: Passed **SB 6086** allowing a pharmacy's license of location to be extended to a registered remote dispensing site to dispense medications for opioid use disorder.

CON: Failed to pass **HB 2438** imposing an impact fee on opioid manufacturers to fund treatment and prevention of opioid misuse and abuse.

Contact:

Candice Bock

Government Relations Director
candiceb@awcnet.org • 360.753.4137

