

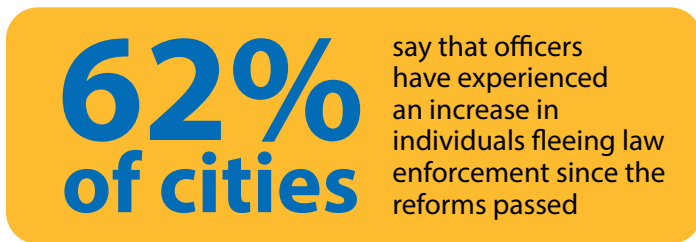


## Support effective and accountable use of vehicular pursuits in response to immediate threats to public safety.

### Background:

Cities employ the most law enforcement officers in Washington state, which is why cities are deeply involved in recent law enforcement reforms. Police departments need clarity to implement state requirements and meet the unique needs of their community.

In 2021, the Legislature adopted a package of reforms related to policing, and in 2022, it updated some of those changes to help law enforcement better respond to pressing community needs. One area still needing further refinement is the ability of law enforcement to use vehicular pursuits as a public safety tool.



2022 City Conditions Survey

Additionally, due to a variety of factors including a strong job market and high rate of retirement, cities continue to struggle to fill law enforcement positions. Hiring and maintaining police officers is a high concern for cities. Nearly 75% expect that hiring new officers will be one of their hardest challenges in 2023. To help with this challenge, cities need continued state investment in training and public safety programs.

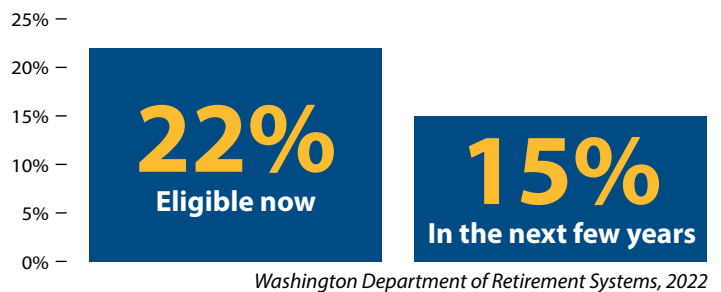


FBI's CJIS Full-Time Law Enforcement Employee Count

### Strong cities need:

- **Clarity around allowable use of police pursuits:** AWC supports clarifying the ability to conduct vehicular pursuits using a reasonable suspicion standard. This is essential to address concerns about impacts to public safety and allow for effective and safe pursuit of suspects when there is an immediate threat to public safety. Cities continue to support safety standards and training for officers who engage in vehicular pursuits.
- **Investments in the future:** Washington state is facing historic vacancies in law enforcement. AWC supports the proposal to create and fund regional campuses to train Washington police. The creation of these campuses, alongside continued investments in the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA), will help cities hire and provide timely training of new officers.
- **Ongoing public safety funding:** In the 2021-2023 biennial budget, the Legislature provided \$20 million for Washington's cities to help offset costs associated with implementing law enforcement-related legislation. Those costs are ongoing, and cities need continued state support to help with the growing costs of public safety programs.

### Many officers are eligible for retirement



Washington Department of Retirement Systems, 2022

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