

90 years of advocacy: Continuing AWC's tradition of building strong city advocates

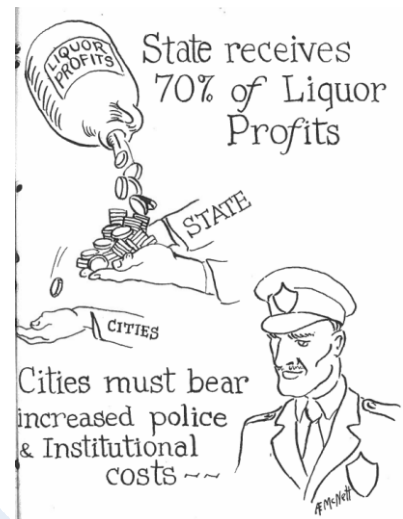


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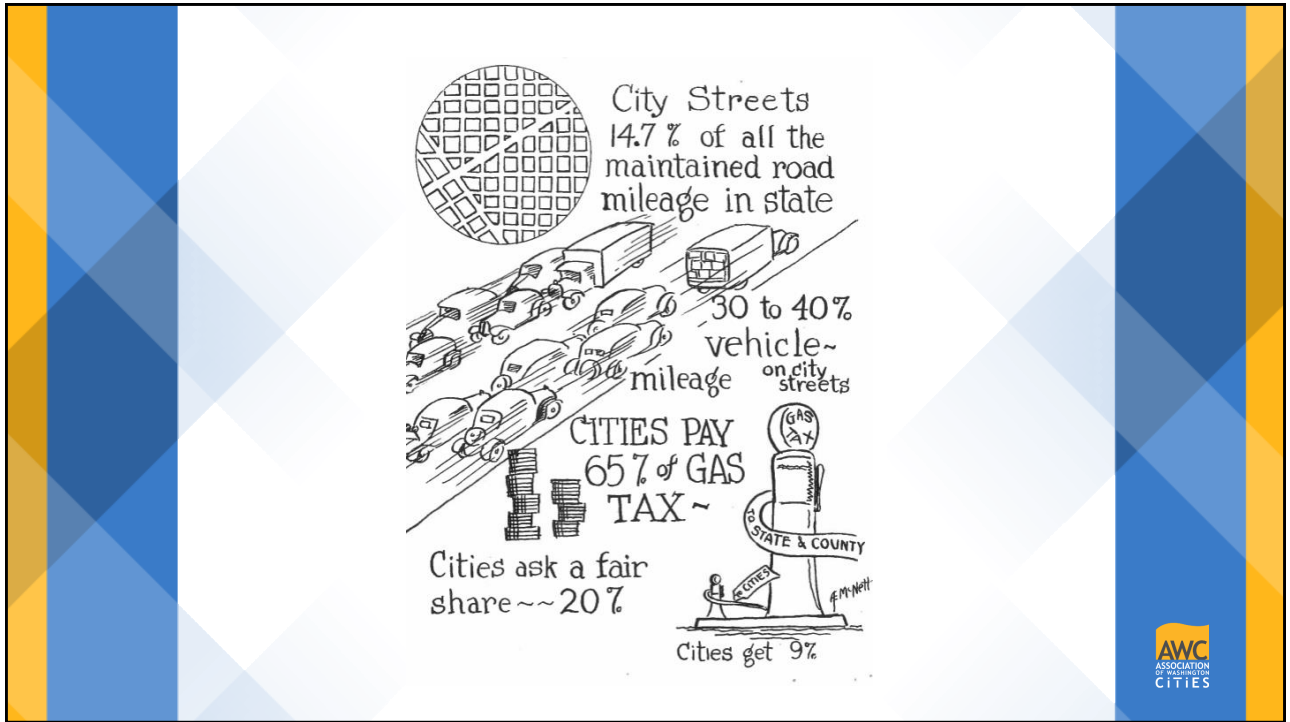
October 26, 1933

The purpose was to rally cities to present a united front on liquor control legislation. The issue was to be considered at an upcoming special legislative session called by Governor Clarence Martin.

- Bremerton
- Ellensburg
- Goldendale
- Kennewick
- Olympia
- Pasco
- Renton
- Spokane
- Seattle
- Tacoma
- Toppenish
- Walla Walla
- Yakima
- Zillah



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ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON CITIES
 300 A. CORBETT HALL
 UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

INFORMATION BULLETIN NUMBER 44 APRIL 19, 1939

A LEGISLATIVE REVIEW
 1939

In analyzing the final results, the first observation is the noteworthy consideration given Association bills. Although every measure sponsored did not reach the floor of the House or Senate, the fact that it was supported by the Cities' organization gave it an unprecedented prestige and start. From this it was evident that a position of influence had been attained by the Association and that an established place in state affairs had been taken.

With another Legislature a matter of history and its smoke of battle cleared away, Washington municipal officials are in a position to see more clearly than ever the value of their legislative work. At the session recently adjourned more than 150 bills were introduced affecting city government. Naturally many of these were either favored or sponsored by the Association to aid cities financially or to extend their sphere of local autonomy and home rule. At the same time, however, many were sponsored by special interests and would only have increased the burdens cities now bear or narrowed still further the scope of local discretion. These latter had to be strenuously opposed. Had it not been for the vigorous cooperation of all city officials through their own organization, the Association of Washington Cities, the legislative outcome might have been far different.

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The second observation is the conspicuous success of the revenue program. The revenue bills adopted will bring to Washington cities and towns an estimated additional revenue of at least two million dollars, or two dollars per capita when distributed on a population basis. In commenting on this success, Executive Committee Chairman John Carroll said at the close of the session:

AWC ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON CITIES

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1930's

- 1935 AWC secured share of the state gas tax at \$1.50/capita
- 1937 Cities were given the right to establish athletic and recreational fields and control over the planning and subdivision of land.
- 1938 AWC hires its first lobbyist
- 1939 Cities share of liquor profits and gas tax were increased and cities were allowed to share in a \$3 million state aid appropriation



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WASHINGTON MUNICIPAL BULLETIN
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Seattle, Washington

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 75

January 14, 1945

Victory
... Tax

1945
Legislative Program
of the
Association of
Washington Cities



THE ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON CITIES
Legislative Headquarters
Olympian Hotel
Olympia, Washington

ITEM B-17

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1940's

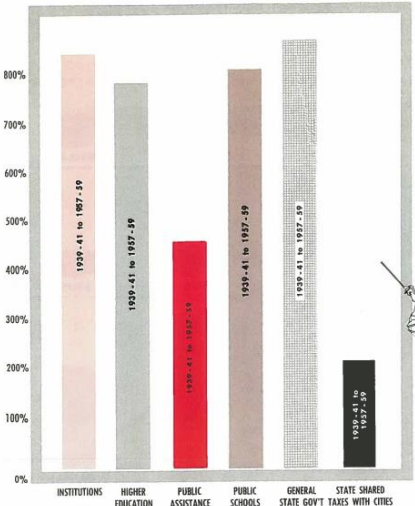
- Cities focused on the war effort
- AWC supported an effort to allocate \$.04/capita of cities MVET to BGR (MRSC)
- Cities support the Road Bill calling for the State Highway Department to maintain all state highways within corporate limits
- 1941 authorizing cities to establish sewage systems
- 1943 allows cities to collect admissions tax



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CITIES' FINANCIAL NEEDS

Have not been met, while other functions have received ever-increasing allocations



STILL ...

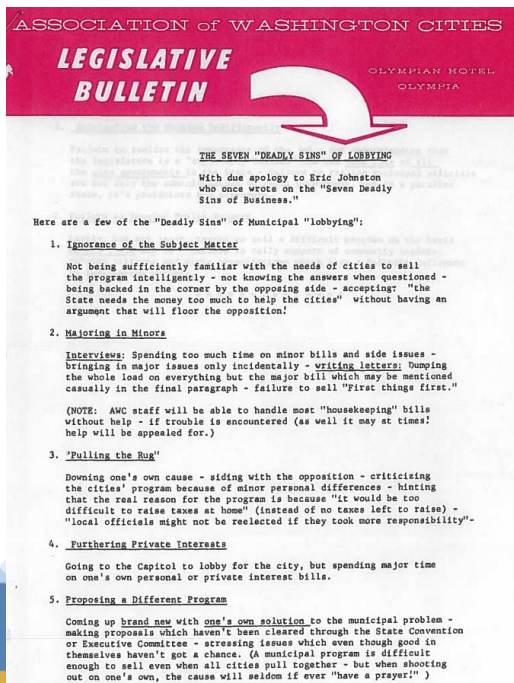
CITIES' PROBLEMS MOUNT



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1950's

- 1951 Annexation bill to provide a means of adjusting special purposed districts when annexed into a city
- 1951 Force account bill allows construction work without calling for bids up to \$2,000 from \$500.
- 1955 Liquor tax city share increased to 40%



6. Approaching the Problem Indifferently

Failure to realize the importance of the job - not understanding that the legislature is a "super City Council" and the real boss of all the city governments in the State - failure to realize municipal officials are not only the administrators of local government, but in a peculiar sense, it's protectors and defenders.

7. Failure to Develop Public Support

Lastly, but not least, trying to sell a difficult program on the basis of one's own say so - failure to rally support of community leaders, private citizens and civic organizations which have a definite influence in legislative matters.

ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON CITIES
LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN
 No. 7
 February 8, 1963
 GOVERNOR HOTEL, OLYMPIA

H.B. 3 The Financial Key for Cities & Towns
 WOULD MEAN \$8,200,000 additional from 52% SHARING OF LIQUOR REVENUES
 -- \$4.70 PER CAPITA -- PER YEAR

The Task Ahead
The Battle is Nip and Tuck!

CITY AND TOWN OFFICIALS CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE. THEY CAN MOVE THE MONEY BILL OUT OF THE VANCE AND DEANS COMMITTEE -- IF THEY:

1. Develop major citizen interest in the bill!
2. Inspire citizen letters to their legislators supporting H.B. 3!
3. Promote special letters to members of House "Jays" and Deans Committee recommending the reporting of bill out for consideration

Remember
 (40) the A.W.C. office advised on the way being done -- copies of letters, telegrams, summaries of telephone calls, etc.

When you Write, Call, Visit, or Talk to 3/4 Delegation Can you?

1. Be well versed on actual financial needs of your city -- concrete examples of things not now being accomplished.
Sell this point strongly.
2. Be aware that state revenues are available -- some \$62 millions of new revenues are estimated from economic growth. No state agency would need to receive less than it now receives -- requests for increases only would need to be slightly curtailed.
3. Emphasize priority needs of cities. Legislators must be convinced that municipal services are just as important as any services the state renders -- now services performed at the state level come first.
4. Remember that city general functions should have one turn for priority consideration -- the unfunded liability of pension systems forced on cities by the state is now over \$90,000,000 alone.

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The 1960's

- 1961 Cities receive ½ cent of a gas tax increase expected to amount to \$4,740,000 in 1962
- 1966 AWC authorized to submit Initiative 226 directly to the voters to give cities 10% of the state's sales tax
- 1967 \$22 million to help cities; \$200 million highway bond program for urban arterials; passage of the Optional Municipal Code

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LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Association of Washington Cities

4719 BROOKLYN AVE. N.E. • Call: No. C-5373 • SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98105 • TELEPHONE 206-543-9050

BULLETIN NO. 23

June 10, 1977

END IN SIGHT: MAJOR ISSUES UNRESOLVED

As this is written (June 9, 1977), the Legislature is in its 151st day of session, with "sine die" projected by some observers for the week of June 13th. On the other hand, it is entirely possible that the session will continue beyond that point because a number of major issues are still unresolved. Major issues of city concern remaining unresolved at this time include pensions, gasoline taxes, jail standards legislation and funding, parks funding and unemployment compensation compliance. Most of these measures are presently in conference committee or are being held in one house or another awaiting their turn for consideration.

As has been indicated in the past, things can move very quickly at this time of year and the speed of legislative developments make the Bulletin, as such, an impractical device for communication. Therefore, this will almost certainly be the last Legislative Bulletin of the 1977 session, and further communication with local officials regarding legislative developments will probably be by memo, Mailgram or telephone. As has been the practice at the conclusion of previous session, a summary of legislative enactments will be developed.

Pensions continued to occupy much attention during this week. However, the work is now proceeding in a House-Senate conference committee. The Senate version of HB 867, currently in conference committee was amended on the floor to include the following changes:

1. Provide for a normal retirement age for police and fire personnel of 60 years, with early retirement at age 57;
2. Eliminate the controversial "transition allowance" from the bill;
3. Increase employer and employee contributions from the 5.5 percent originally proposed to a new figure of 6.15 percent of payroll; and
4. Provide that the state would bear the local government costs for workers' compensation coverage for the 1977-79 biennium (only).



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1970's

- Cities authorized to collect the first ½ cent sales tax
- 1973 legislature began the continuing legislature concept
- 1974 all cities join AWC
- 1978 AWC moves to Olympia
- 1979 Legislature officially goes to annual sessions



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LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Association of Washington Cities

4719 BROOKLYN AVE. N.E. • Caller No. C-5373 • SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98105 • TELEPHONE 206 - 543-9050

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN NO. 1
January 9, 1981

1981 SESSION SET TO CONVENE

The Washington State Legislature convenes Monday, January 12 for its first 105-day Regular Session. As you will recall, in 1979 the public approved a ballot measure calling for 105-day sessions in odd-numbered years and 60-day sessions in even-numbered years. The sessions can be extended by 30-day increments by either the Governor or two-thirds of the legislature.

As the 1981 session convenes, Washington's cities will be seeking legislative action in a number of areas. We will be reporting legislative actions to you on a weekly basis through this bulletin. Although the legislature has accomplished much organizational work prior to convening, the first week's activity will be principally organizational in nature. We do anticipate a fast-paced session, with a very significant effort being made to complete the business of the legislature within the prescribed 105 days. Many legislative watchers are, however, pessimistic about the ability of the legislature to accomplish this goal.

Certainly 1981 will be a difficult session, with financial matters probably being the focus of much controversy. The state has its own significant financial difficulties and local governments, long plagued by inadequate tax sources and the burden of state mandates, will be seeking additional taxing authority and additional financial tools to be utilized in addressing local needs. Other areas of concern will be growth management, implementation of Initiative 62, labor and pension matters, and an array of issues in which we will be in a defensive role. Based on past experience, several thousand legislative proposals will be introduced, of which four hundred and fifty to



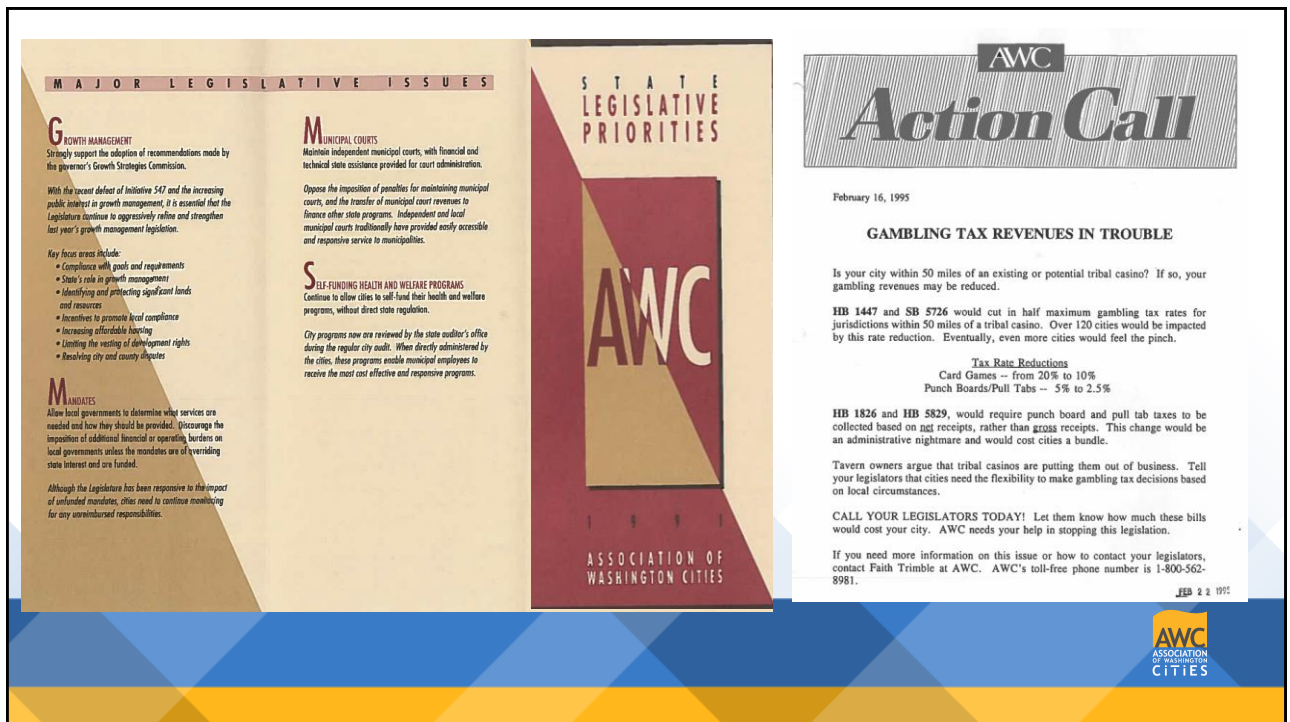
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1980's

- 1981 first 105 day regular session
- 1985 creation of the infrastructure low interest loan program is expected to generate \$42 million for loans in 1985-1987
- 1987 authorizes the creation of the transportation benefit district
- 1988 authorizes the Public Works Board to make emergency loans
- 1989 Cities push for increase gas tax but ultimately fail.



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1990's

- 1990 Adoption of the Growth Management Act
- 1998 Referendum 49 Transportation Funding passed
- 1999 I-695 passed effectively eliminating the MVET which provided significant city funding

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2000's

- 2000 I-695 declared unconstitutional, but enacted by the legislature kicking off years of work and debate around "backfill"
- 2001 I-747 limits property tax increases to 1%
- 2005 Streamlined sales tax shifted tax collections to destination based
- 2005 SB 6050 creates ongoing funding for city financial assistance
- 2005 Creation of the Transportation Benefit District funding authority
- 2007 I-747 declared unconstitutional, but reenacted by the legislature in a 1-day fall special session

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2010's

- The Great Recession fall out (followed by the *McCleary* case fall out)
- Diversions of the Public Works Assistance Account
- Special sessions
- 2011, 2017 Modest PRA updates
- 2011 Liquor privatization initiative passes
- 2012 Cannabis legalization
- 2015 Statewide transportation funding package
- 2018 behavioral health and affordable housing
- 2019 another \$30 car tab imitative passes

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Build relationships & communicate effectively

- Start before you need something
- Be familiar with legislators' focus & interest
- Get into the habit of sharing information
- Make sure they know your city's story
- Be clear about what you need & why
- Don't be shy about difficult conversations
- This is a group effort—work together

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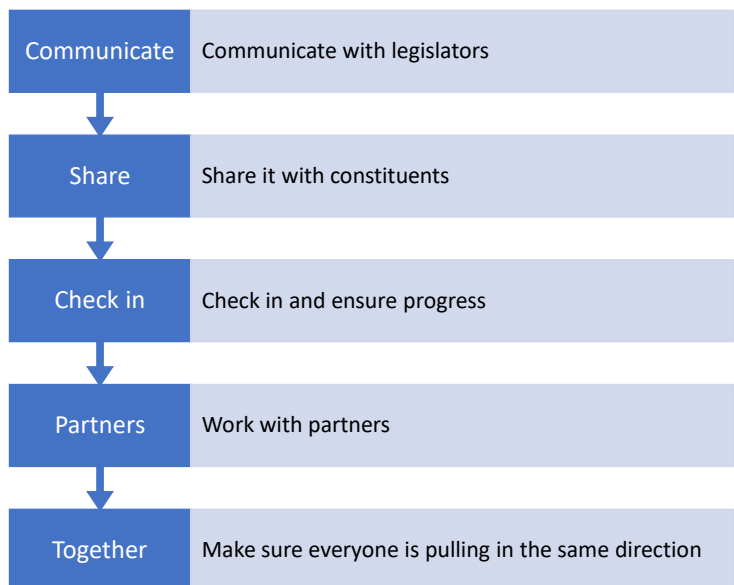
Leverage your unique role as an elected official

- You share constituents with your legislators
- Many legislators started as local elected officials
- You have power as an official chosen by the voters
- Your on-the-ground connection to the issues and residents at home can be a helpful perspective for legislators
- You both have experience and shared interest in running for elected office



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Adopt your
city's
legislative
agenda



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Reporting lobbying to the Public Disclosure Commission

Cities that lobby may need to report to the PDC:

- Cities and towns that conduct lobbying activities either through a contract lobbyist or directly with in-house staff or city council members may need to report to the PDC.
- Those who hire a contract lobbyist must file a report.
- If you have in-house staff or elected officials who spend more than four days a quarter directly lobbying the Legislature, you may need to complete a report.
- Cities and towns that fail to comply with reporting requirements on lobbying activities may be subject to penalties from the PDC.
- For more information on reporting requirements and how to file, visit the PDC [website](#) or review the [PDC's Public Agency Lobbying guide](#).

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