

Federal and state advocacy: How your city can be part of the process

AWC 2024 Annual Conference



1

Why should you advocate at the state level?



State policies impact your city's day to day operations and your residents' lives.

State funding decisions determine the resources available to your city.



2

Quick facts about the Washington Legislature

- Bicameral (2 chamber) Legislature
 - **49 Senate** members
 - **98 House** members
 - **49 leg. districts:** 2 Reps. & 1 Senator
- Convenes the second Monday in January of each year
 - **60 days** in even-numbered years
 - **105 days** in odd-numbered years
- The Legislature passes the two-year budgets in odd-numbered years
- Representatives are elected to a two-year term
 - Elections held in even-numbered years
- Senators are elected to four-year staggered terms
 - Half of the membership stands for election in even-numbered years
- **Sine Die** is the last day of the legislative session



3

2025 Legislative Session



Long 105-day session



First year of the biennium



New Governor and many new legislators



New biennial budgets



Uncertain economy?



Outcomes of initiatives could have big impacts



4

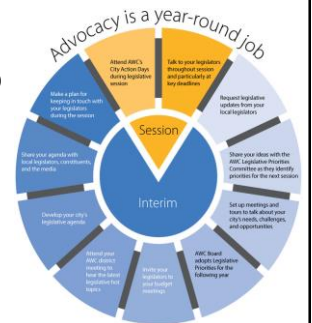
AWC advocacy tools

- AWC issue fact sheets
- *Weekly AWC Legislative Bulletin*
- Weekly AWC Bill Hot Sheet
- AWC’s new bill tracker
- Friday City Action Zoom calls
- State of the City reports
- City Conditions Survey results
- Advocacy Academy tips
- Advocacy guide
- AWC Legislator Directory
- Cities by the numbers
- Exploring Washington’s Cities & Towns
- City Action Days – Feb. 19-20, 2025



Advocacy is more than just the Session

1. Build relationships with your legislators
2. Take legislators on tours of your community & invite them to special events
3. Develop your legislative agenda & messaging
4. Communicate with stakeholders including those who don’t agree with you
5. Create coalitions – community groups, other cities
6. Brush up on your understanding of the legislative process
7. Invite legislators to your budget meetings
8. Schedule pre-session meetings this fall to review your city’s agenda
9. Campaign season considerations – endorsements?; meeting with candidates?
10. Get to know the PDC rules on lobbying



Government Relations Team

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Director

Issue areas – Economic development; federal; finance; human resources, labor relations; pensions; open government; liability

Carl Schroeder
Deputy Director

Issue areas – Environment & natural resources; housing & homelessness; land use & planning; building codes

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Issue areas – Public safety & criminal justice; emergency management; general government; human services & behavioral health; elections

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