

**City of Lake Stevens -- 2023 State Legislative Agenda**  
Key-Priority Issues at a Glance – Impacting Lake Stevens Directly

**Transportation Infrastructure**

- **Move Ahead Washington project construction and implementation dates – U.S. 2 Trestle, South Lake Stevens Road Multi-Use Trail, 16<sup>th</sup> Street NE/Centennial Trail:** Lake Stevens will be actively engaged in ensuring that pre-construction work on the U.S. 2 Trestle (\$210.54 million in funds) is given a high priority and that funds for Phase 2 of the South Lake Stevens Road Multi-Use Trail (\$3 million) and for the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Northeast/Centennial Trail Connector (\$2.5 million) are deployed as early as possible. The City also will team with Snohomish County, the City of Everett, and others to push for full construction funding for the Trestle as early as possible.

**Capital Budget/Quality of Life**

- **Renovation and construction at Cedarwood Clubhouse:** Lake Stevens will work with its new 39<sup>th</sup> District Legislative Delegation to seek \$1.2 million to both renovate and construct this facility, which will become a community and youth recreation center. The Cedarwood Clubhouse is within an apartment complex built in 1978 and includes a 5,000-square-foot gymnasium and separate restroom facility. It was closed years ago over security and vandalism concerns and has been dormant since. After the Cedarwood Homeowners Association and Mercy Housing transferred the facility to Lake Stevens in 2021 for public park purposes, the city began exploring ways to repair and reopen it as an indoor recreational facility for youth and for community events. Renovation and construction funds will be used to help address urgent roof repairs, ADA access, and new siding and windows along with an internal remodel to add classroom and flex spaces to rejuvenate this facility in a lower-income area.

**Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement**

- **Changes to *Blake* and vehicle pursuit laws – as part of overall public safety initiative put forth by Snohomish County Mayors:** Mayors throughout Snohomish County, led by the Mayors of Everett, Lake Stevens, and Marysville, will be seeking a package of 2023 legislative changes to address an alarming outbreak of crime in the last few years and to restore badly-needed accountability to the criminal justice system. Among the laws Mayors will seek to revise include the decriminalizing of many drug offenses under *Blake* legislation passed in 2021 (ESB 5476) and revisions to the statute governing law enforcement vehicle pursuits of offenders who commit significant crimes.
- **Civil remedies for those who are victims of malicious ‘doxing’:** In collaboration with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), Lake Stevens seeks the passage of legislation in 2023 to provide local officials with a civil damages remedy if they are the victims of malicious ‘doxing’ of their personal information and whereabouts over the Internet. A bill to address this issue in part (**SB 5881**) was introduced in 2022, and the Senate Law & Justice Committee has held an interim hearing to spotlight this vital issue.
- **Funding for Basic Law Enforcement Academy Training Slots and for formation of regional academies:** Lake Stevens will strongly support additional Operating funds for BLEA classroom slots and will additionally support a proposal by Governor Inslee to add to academy training capabilities through the formation of regional academies in areas such as Snohomish County.

## Support/Oppose and Track/Monitor Issues

### **Budget and Fiscal Matters**

- **Protect Existing Revenues, including “State-Shared” Revenues:** Lake Stevens urges lawmakers, in fine-tuning a 2022 Supplemental Operating Budget, to ‘do no harm’ and refrain from state-shared revenue reductions or other cuts to local governments that result in a *transferring* of negative impacts from the state level to the local level.
- **Additional Funds for Cities to address new public safety laws and requirements:** In the 2021-23 Operating Budget, the Legislature allocated \$20 million to help cities across the state offset the costs of a series of new criminal justice-related bills and mandates. Given additional laws and requirements that continue to come forth, Lake Stevens will strongly support an Association of Washington Cities (AWC) initiative to secure a similar type of allocation in the 2023-25 Operating Budget.

### **Criminal Justice/Public Safety/Fire/Courts**

- **988 Funding:** Lake Stevens will be prepared to support additional Operating and Capital Budget funding for the deployment of the new 988 crisis-response line that went “live” in July 2022. Prior-year legislation contemplated additional 988 hubs and facilities being put in place throughout the state.
- **Additional Blake funding for Municipal Courts:** Lake Stevens will support efforts to secure additional funding for Municipal Courts to process cases under the *Blake* legislation, particularly if initial offenses are classes as misdemeanors and/or gross misdemeanors.
- **Catalytic Converter Thefts:** Lake Stevens is prepared to support additional legislative initiatives recommended by a Task Force to help police address the rapidly growing rate of catalytic converter thefts.

### **Economic Development/Infrastructure/Housing – Including Affordable Housing/Homelessness**

- **Culverts and Fish-Barrier Removals:** Lake Stevens strongly supports additional efforts to add to the level of state investments in helping local governments address needed culvert projects and fish-barrier removals.
- **COVID-19 relief for small businesses:** Lake Stevens supports continued relief funding for those small businesses that are still trying to get back on track after severe losses incurred during the pandemic.
- **Public Works Assistance Account:** Lake Stevens *supports* efforts to rebuild the PWAA and recapture funding streams previously diverted into the Education Legacy Account.
- **Affordable Housing/Homelessness:** Lake Stevens will *support* measures to bring funding and tools to local communities to add affordable housing, permanent shelter space, and other options for those in need. This includes *support* of additional funding through the Housing Trust Fund (HTF); the notion of a third quarter-percent Real Estate Excise Tax (“REET3”) for affordable housing; and authorizing “Housing Benefit Districts” as an added tool for bringing affordable housing to Transit-Oriented-Development (TOD) projects.

## Environment

- **Use of Zero-Emission Power Equipment for maintenance work performed by Public Works and Parks crews:** Lake Stevens joins a coalition of other local governments and state agencies that urges the Legislature to take an incentive-based approach – not a mandatory approach – in bringing zero-emission equipment to the market.

## Land Use/Growth Management Act (GMA)

- **Achieving Density and “Missing Middle” Requirements:** Lake Stevens supports the right of state lawmakers to ensure local communities are accepting their share of population growth. Lake Stevens is doing that and more. The City urges legislators to *respect local discretion* on *how* to best accommodate density, to refrain from mandates that do not make sense for all communities, and to recognize local ordinances already enacted to address missing middle housing goals. The City hopes a facilitated process convened by AWC will help with the development of middle-ground proposals on this important issue.
- **Local authority over how to add Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs):** Lake Stevens supports adding ADUs into local communities and hopes to expand the number of ADUs in the local community. However, the City *opposes* legislation that would mandate specific development standards and regulations. Such decisions are best left to elected officials at the local level. Additionally, Lake Stevens’ experience is that the biggest impediment to the construction of more ADUs is the cost of impact and utility hookup fees, not regulations.
- **Statutory changes to stimulate more condominium construction in cities:** Even with recent actions by the Legislature to stimulate the condominium construction market, the preponderance of building is in cities such as Seattle and Bellevue. Lake Stevens will *support* legislation that would further incentivize condominium building and other types of fee-simple ownership.
- **Small cell development:** Lake Stevens joins other local governments in urging the Legislature to respect local authority and to avoid pre-emptions to local authority to best determine where small-cell infrastructure should be located in a given community.

## Local Government in General

- **Public Records Act Reform:** Lake Stevens will support fixes in the law to decrease the severe burden being put on cities and to enhance cost recovery. The impact of the PRA will be exacerbated with the deployment of new body-camera programs that increase law enforcement accountability and transparency but involve significant records retention and storage costs.

## Parks and Recreation/Arts and Culture

- **Funding for local parks and recreation agencies to address M&O backlogs:** Lake Stevens will strongly *support* a \$5 million Operating Budget request led by State Rep. Cindy Ryu (D-Shoreline/32<sup>nd</sup> Dist.) to assist local parks and recreation agencies in addressing significant M&O cost backlogs. The \$5 million allocation would mirror Operating funds provided in the 2022 budget for state natural resource agencies.
- **Use of one-time Stadium & Exhibition Center Account funds for youth fields and youth activities:** Washington State has now paid off all prior debt obligations on the Seahawks

Stadium (Lumen Field) following a ballot measure in the 1990s that asked voters to approve a funding-and-bonding initiative to build it. That ballot measure also set aside funding for youth field needs. Now that the bond obligations have been addressed, and a one-time, \$42 million allocation has been provided to the Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO), Lake Stevens strongly *supports* utilizing those monies for youth fields and recreational activities and granting funds to local communities and local parks-and-recreation programs.

- ***Capital Budget funding for local parks and outdoor recreation:*** Lake Stevens will strongly *support* a robust level of investment in Capital Budget programs that support parks and outdoor recreation infrastructure, including the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP), Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF), the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Act (ALEA), and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

### **Personnel, Pensions, Other Human Resources Issues**

- ***Pension rates:*** Lake Stevens asks lawmakers to proceed with caution in increasing employer and employee pension rates as the state and local governments are still not in full recovery mode from the economic impacts brought on by COVID-19.

### **Transportation**

- ***Funding for local roadway M&O needs and for granting agencies that assist in the financing of local projects:*** While Move Ahead Washington represented an incredible breakthrough in addressing some of the transportation infrastructure needs and projects at the state level, the package offered little in the way of direct funding for local M&O or for agencies such as the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) that provide key grants for local projects. Lake Stevens urges lawmakers to seek out ways to address these needs as soon as possible.

**City of Lake Stevens**  
**2023 Federal Affairs Agenda**

- **Top Priority – U.S. 2 Trestle:** Continue to seek funding opportunities for the U.S. 2 Trestle, particularly within transportation reauthorization and infrastructure legislation being considered by Congress and if Congress re-establishes any type of project earmarking process.
- **Top Priority – 20<sup>th</sup> and Main Street funding:** Lake Stevens will work closely with the office of Congresswoman Suzan DelBene, as well as offices of U.S. Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, to ensure final FFY 2023 Appropriations bills enacted by Congress include \$2.5 million in “Community Project Funding” secured by DelBene.
- **Priority – Capitalize on IJA/BIL Grant Programs:** Lake Stevens will seek to maximize its ability to secure grant funding from the array of competitive programs authorized under the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, or BIL).

Other Key Items

- **Grant Funding – FEMA, JAG Grants, Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF), Etc.:** Lake Stevens will work with its congressional delegation, community partners, and other local and regional agencies to consistently seek out and evaluate potential federal grant opportunities that could be value-added for the City. These include FEMA grants for flood stabilization; Justice Assistance Grants for law enforcement; LWCF grants for parks and trails; and more.
- **Protecting financial and bonding tools authorized at the federal level:** Lake Stevens will support legislative initiatives put forth by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), including the protection of tax-exempt and bank-qualified Municipal Bonds.
- **Brownfield Grants through the Environmental Protection Agency:** Lake Stevens is exploring, along with Snohomish County, whether brownfield funding through the U.S. EPA could be one way to expedite the cleanup of an old landfill that lies due east of the Lake. Initial funding would need to first focus on a feasibility analysis to see what total cleanup costs would be and how feasible a joint effort would be.
- **Affordable Housing:** Lake Stevens supports initiatives by U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and U.S. Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-WA/1<sup>st</sup> District) to add significant funding and eligibility for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program.