

**2023
Legislative
Agenda
January 2023**



Water Infrastructure:

Moses Lake's deep-water aquifer, its primary water source, has a limited life. Water conservation efforts and identification of alternative sources are underway. The Columbia Basin Project currently irrigates approximately 65 percent of the authorized acreage. To ensure an adequate supply of residential, potable water, the City of Moses Lake urges our state and federal Legislators to support the completion of the Columbia Basin Project and the Moses Lake Wellfield Superfund site cleanup. The City also urges our state Legislators to support the 2023-2025 Capital Budget requests of the Department of Ecology's (DOE) Office of Columbia River, the work of DOE to help transition water rights for municipal purposes, and potential budget requests related to water treatment.

Police Reform:

The City of Moses Lake urges our state Legislators to address vehicular pursuits, invest in the recruitment and retention of police officers, and respond to the decision in *State v. Blake*. Needed legislation will: enact a balancing test where the risk of pursuit cannot exceed the risk of the reason(s) for the pursuit; address Washington's status as 51st in the nation in the per capita number of officers through enactment of a 1/10th of 1% sales tax credit to recruit and retain officers and provide additional access to the Basic Law Enforcement Academy; revise the current system of two referrals prior to criminal charges; and invest in treatment programs and alternative response teams.

Infrastructure Funding:

Moses Lake has been identified as the place in the state to develop technology, as evidenced by Group 14, Sila Nanotechnologies, and STOKÉ Space. This requires that the City quickly ramp up infrastructure to support the new, green economy. The City will be partnering on funding requests and asks for priority consideration.

Maintain and Expand Flexibility of Funding Sources:

State programs such as the Public Works Assistance Account have been subject to elimination. These programs invest in communities and support local priorities. The City supports maintaining State funding sources while providing cities with flexibility. Examples include extending the ability to have a voter-approved Transportation Benefit District and legislation that provides for fire benefit charges.

Community Services Center Construction:

The City will work with the 13th District legislative delegation to support a Capital Budget appropriation for construction of the new Community Services Center. The primary purpose of this new building will be as the City's new police station, and it will include a community services area, building on the City's success working with imbedded health providers and recovery navigators. The facility will provide space to convene and organize outreach, and to launch regional drug enforcement tactical responses.

City of Moses Lake | www.cityofml.com

Allison Williams, City Manager
awilliams@cityofml.com | (509) 764-3702

Rich Huebner, Assistant City Manager
rhuebner@cityofml.com | (509) 764-3724