

2023-2024 City of Lakewood State Legislative Agenda

Amended for the 2024 Legislative Session

The City of Lakewood looks forward to continuing its partnership with its legislative delegation to improve the overall quality of life for everyone that calls Lakewood home.

Public Safety: The City supports a commonsense and meaningful approach to public safety policies that protect lives and property and foster trust in government. During the 2023 session, progress was made in this area but there is still more work to be done. In collaboration with other Pierce County municipalities, the City requests the Legislature:

- 1) Provide tools to address auto theft and property crime, including increased state funding to grant programs to support regional enforcement and prosecution efforts;
- 2) Make refinements to the restrictions on vehicular pursuits to allow for the pursuit of stolen vehicles given the number of criminals using stolen vehicles to commit other crimes;
- 3) Commit ongoing state funding for therapeutic courts to satisfy the new state drug possession law;
- 4) Supply stable state funding for co-responder programs, such as the City's Behavioral Health Contact Team; and
- 5) Amend state law to allow for a parent or guardian to provide consent for a juvenile to be interviewed by law enforcement to include consent to search property to resolve unsolved crimes and prevent future incidents.

Geographic Equity in Discharge from State

Facilities: The City appreciates the State's recent efforts to move toward a more community-based behavioral health system. This transition presents an opportunity to not only provide more accessible services to those who need it most, but also for the facilities to be more geographically disbursed. Based on the findings from the April 2023 Commerce report, requested by Rep. Dan Bronoske, the Pierce County region far exceeds its proportional share of the services and supports needed to serve individuals discharging from long term civil commitment. To address this inequity, the State needs to prioritize securing housing and treatment facilities, referred to as services and supports by the state, in the five underserved regions of the state: Olympic, North Central, Great Rivers, Greater Columbia, and King.

