



# 2024 Legislative Agenda

## Funding Priorities

- Public Safety & City Services Campus. The City is working with Snohomish County Fire District No. 4 to create a public safety and city services campus that will serve as headquarters for both the Fire District and the Snohomish Police Department, as well as other City services. The City requests increased capital appropriations to support construction of this multi-agency campus that will improve service and save taxpayer dollars.
- Infrastructure Investments. The City appreciates the Legislature's commitment to ongoing investments and requests:
  - Continuing strong state investments in infrastructure funding to support operations and maintenance of infrastructure like water, wastewater, stormwater, and broadband, as well as ongoing robust investments in the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA).
  - Expanding funding options that support local multi-modal transportation needs with an emphasis on preservation and maintenance to prevent costly replacement and repairs.
  - Improving access to Climate Commitment Act funding, including direct distributions to cities that promote innovative public works infrastructure that support carbon reduction, climate resiliency, and infrastructure in disadvantaged areas.
  - Replacing the fuel tax with a new revenue source, such as a road usage charge, to support the maintenance and operation of the state and local transportation network, provided funds from new sources are shared between state and local governments.
- Public Safety. The health and safety of our residents is a top priority and the City requests:
  - Updating the existing local option Public Safety Sales Tax to allow implementation by councilmanic authority and greater flexibility for using the funds to cover increased officer wages and related programs like co-response teams.
  - Additional funding tools and resources for officer recruitment and retention, including expanding access to state-mandated training.
  - Increasing funding and tools for alternative response teams, greater access to behavioral health services and treatment for adults and juveniles, and treatment in jails.

## Policy Priorities

- Housing Availability and Affordability. Cities need resources to encourage development of housing at all income levels—especially for our lowest-income residents. The City supports a proactive approach that creates new tools, incentives, and revenue that cities can use to help increase housing supply and affordability.
- Public Works. The City supports prevailing wages for the workforce and apprenticeship programs but opposes mandates that create uncertainty about price at the point of contracting. The City also supports tools to limit joint and separate liability for city infrastructure and public rights-of-way.
- Emergency Preparedness and Community Resilience. We need to safeguard our businesses and communities by protecting people's health, wellbeing and quality of life from climate change impacts and disasters. The number of issues involving disease outbreaks, water quality and flooding, climate and excessive heat, wildfires, and poor air quality are increasing every year. The City supports efforts that address community recovery and construct systems to develop resiliency, as well as funding for cities to establish extreme weather protection for our most vulnerable populations.

## Policy Statements

- Environmental Resiliency and Sustainability. The well-being of the environment directly impacts our community's health, economy, food system, and overall quality of life. The City supports:
  - state investments in local culvert and stormwater projects to improve fish passage and water quality, as well as strategies that improve the health of the rivers, forests, shorelines, and estuaries that make up Puget Sound.
  - policies and investments that reduce the carbon intensity of new and existing buildings, including expanding energy efficiency, green building standards, upgrades to public buildings, and other measures.
  - additional funding for zero-emission transportation infrastructure and policies that advance the development and production of clean fuels.
  - proposals that decarbonize the economy at reasonable costs to customers.
  - legislation that will develop green jobs and green technology development.
  - funding to make improvements to its wastewater treatment plant and sensible legislative proposals impacting wastewater treatment plant operations.
- Equitable Fiscal Structure. Encourage efforts to reform the tax code and identify revenue sources that are fair, adequate, and stable to meet the needs of state with direct distributions to local governments.
- Equity. Support efforts to ensure equitable access to municipal and community resources in alignment with the governmental system's moral and legal responsibilities.
- Behavioral Health. Support increased and equitable resources for behavioral health service access, interventions, and treatment, as well as establishing behavioral health network adequacy standards to ensure that state-contracted mental health providers serve all clients, particularly those at the highest level of need.
- Digital Equity. Broadband access must be treated as a form of essential infrastructure. The City supports additional investments to help close the digital divide, especially after years in which connectivity has become more important than ever.
- Advancing Workforce Readiness. Investing in the workforce and ensuring that all people have opportunities to thrive by supporting workforce development, training, and retention, which includes workforce housing, childcare, transportation, equipment upgrades, and more.