

City of Spokane

2024 Legislative Priorities

FUNDING FOR HOMELESSNESS, PUBLIC SAFETY AND OTHER CRITICAL NEEDS

Raise the arbitrary local property tax limit from 1 to 3 percent to account for inflation and population growth. This will help the City keep up with the rising costs of essential public services such as police, fire, streets, and utilities. Adjusting this cap could generate an additional \$1.5 million to serve Spokane better.

Expand the real estate excise tax (REET) with a local option to help fund affordable housing and behavioral health services for people experiencing homelessness and provide seed money for a regional homeless authority. If fully utilized, REET could generate an additional \$4.5-\$5 million for these vital City services.



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ADDRESSING THE GROWING THREAT OF WILDFIRES

Invest in a Latah Valley firefighting facility to serve the rapidly growing wildland-urban interface zone west of Hwy 195. This underserved area of Spokane adjoins heavily wooded state DNR and County lands that are highly susceptible to wildfire but hard to reach with emergency-response services. The City has committed significant resources, including land, design, and water delivery infrastructure. An additional \$8 million is needed to speed up the construction of this project aimed at preventing a repeat of the deadly Gray and Oregon Road fires last summer.



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2024 Legislative Priorities

TOUGHER CONSEQUENCES ON HATE CRIMES

Modify the state's hate-crime law to include the damage or destruction of public property motivated by race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or mental, physical, or sensory disability.

Create a hate-crime hotline in the State Attorney General's Office to connect victims with crisis intervention, information, and referrals to community service providers.



~~HATE!~~



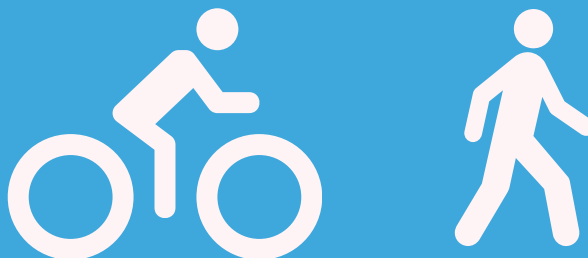
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2024 Legislative Priorities

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES TO WALK, BIKE AND PLAY

\$1 million to improve safety and install new play equipment, restrooms, and sports facilities at Minnehaha Park in Spokane's historically under-resourced Hillyard neighborhood. Spokane Parks will secure the remaining funds for this \$8.5 million upgrade through their upcoming parks levy and \$1-\$1.5 million state Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) grant.

\$1 million toward connecting Spokane's Fish Lake Trail with the 130-mile Columbia Plateau Trail that runs through the heart of eastern Washington to Pasco. Since 1991, the City has paved approximately 9 miles of this trail, but a one-mile gap requires a grade-separated bridge over two active rail lines. Spokane Parks will use this funding to complete detailed engineering plans, secure easement agreements with State Parks and BNSF, and engage community partners to finance construction completely.



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EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES TO WALK, BIKE AND PLAY

\$750,000 to install new playground equipment and restrooms at Coeur d'Alene Park in historic Browne's Addition, where 50 percent of residents are renters. Spokane Parks will secure the remaining funds for the \$3.5 million upgrade through the upcoming parks levy and annual capital funding. Spokane Transit Authority is exploring improved walking infrastructure to access the newly opened STA City Line, which starts in Coeur d'Alene Park.



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SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

\$2.5 million to build a childcare center in northeast Spokane dedicated to serving workers with nontraditional hours, including swing shifts and weekends. State programs and local employers will support operating costs by offering childcare benefits to their employees. This public-private partnership, spearheaded by Northeast Community Center/The Zone and Northeast Public Development Authority, has widespread community support.

