



City of Maple Valley 2025 Legislative Priorities

Approved by 11/12/2024 Resolution 24-1938

Local Behavioral Health Funding

With the help from a state funded pilot project, the City of Maple Valley and the Tahoma School District have created an amazing partnership to help support local behavioral health with our City and Schools. Maple Valley is asking that the state:

- Maintain funding for existing behavioral health and community resources programs. This funding is critical to continue to provide essential resources in our schools and community, such as school-based mental health therapists, care-coordination programs, community education, and financial aid/social services programs.
- Increase access to school-based mental health services at all levels, including prevention & intervention specialists. While youth mental health challenges continue to be at an all-time high, reducing barriers to mental health and substance use support is critical. Additional staffing of mental health professionals in schools will increase the number of youth and families served. Providing mental health support at all levels (K-12) allows for early intervention and a focus on prevention.
- Increase the behavioral health workforce to meet the demand for mental health support in our communities.
- Increase access to behavioral health and social services in rural communities. This includes expanding services to rural communities and ensuring services are housed in a centralized area with reliable public transportation and walkability.

Public Safety Funding

Pursue opportunities that provide more resources and tools to cities to address public safety and criminal justice challenges. The increase in costs associated with Public Safety are not sustainable. City of Maple Valley experienced nearly 19% increase in costs in 2024 and is forecasting an additional increase of nearly 8% in 2025.

Redistribution of Cannabis Tax Revenues

Maple Valley supports legislation to divert state cannabis revenue to local jurisdictions to support behavioral health and/or public safety funding.

Cities receive a small share of the state's cannabis revenue. Passed by the voters in 2012, the original initiative legalized recreational cannabis, but the initiative did not direct any of the new revenue to cities and counties. In 2015, the Legislature adopted legislation that provided some revenue sharing with cities and counties.

Maple Valley wants the 2025 Washington State Legislature to consider a new approach to enhance sharing of cannabis revenue with local governments. Local governments would receive a percentage of overall cannabis tax revenue rather than a lump sum.

Retire / Rehire for Public Safety

The difficulty of hiring police officers and firefighters has risen to a near crisis level for many cities across Washington.

The City of Maple Valley supports new employment policy to encourage police and fire personnel who could retire early to continue working. This new approach, called DROP (Deferred Retirement Option Plan) provides local governments more predictability in maintaining their public safety departments and less public safety employee turnover.

The DROP program is offered by some cities in California, including Los Angeles. DROP allows firefighters and police officers of a certain age and years of service to choose between continuing to work and receiving their salary, retiring with a pension (lump sum or income at lesser than full amount), or doing both simultaneously for up to a certain amount of years.

State Route Maintenance

Amend RCW 47.24.020 to increase population thresholds that would require cities to be responsible for maintenance of state highways. Maple Valley will exceed the July 1, 2023 population threshold of 30,000 residents by 2025 or 2026. Propose the below:

(17) The population thresholds identified in subsections (6) and (13) of this section shall be increased to as follows: (a) Thirty thousand on July 1, 2023; (b) ~~(a) Thirty two thousand five hundred on July 1, 2028; and (c) (b) Thirty-five thousand. on July 1, 2033;~~

**The financial impact is estimated at:*

- *Initial Capital Need \$1.1M*
- *Annual Operating Costs: \$516/year*

Capital Requests

\$1m Capital Request - Feasibility of Recreation Facility

The City of Maple Valley requests \$1 million in the 2025-27 capital budget for a feasibility study for an indoor recreation facility. Maple Valley would use this money to conduct a needs assessment, feasibility study and preliminary design on a facility to address the following needs/opportunities:

- Work to address the gap in indoor Recreation space in the area
- Build towards goal of enhanced community wellness & quality of life
- Considers partner opportunities with similar civic-minded providers

\$200K Capital Request - Legacy Site Master Plan Implementation

The draft Legacy Site Master Plan provides a road map for community gathering spaces and economic development in Maple Valley. The City has secured funding for the design and construction of a pedestrian bridge over SR 169 which will connect neighborhoods to the Legacy Site and Maple Valley's future Downtown. The City should leverage this momentum with additional public amenities in the Legacy Site that would aim to serve as an anchor for new development in the Downtown. The State has recently allowed cities to use Tax Increment Financing as a financial tool for economic development. The City requests \$200,000 to analyze TIF in the Legacy Site and Downtown area, and if feasible, implement the financing tool to invest in the future Downtown.

Other items to consider:

- AWC Legislative Priorities (attached)
- SKHHP Legislative Priorities:
 - Homeownership for moderate income households and below
 - Land acquisition permanent affordability
 - Infrastructure around affordable housing development
- SEAL TC – State Route 18 Funding
- Sound Cities Association Legislative Priorities (not available at this date)