



2025 Legislative Agenda

Behavioral Health

Renton supports expanded funding for grants to establish and support ongoing funding for local behavioral health co-responder programs, including FD Cares and Project Be Free, in addition to expanding training opportunities and resources for co-responders. Renton appreciates the investments the legislature has made into human services in the 2023-25 biannual budget, but additional resources are needed to meet the growing needs of our communities. The city supports budgetary initiatives that increase available funding opportunities for these crucial programs, ensuring greater access to alternative response programs for individuals in crisis.



Human Services

The city supports increased funding of \$61.5 million for the Washington State Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA) to ensure it can effectively coordinate statewide efforts to support the economic and social integration and basic needs of refugees and asylees arriving and resettling in Washington. While Renton is appreciative of the legislature's investments into providing services and care for the state's refugee and asylee population, the city supports additional budgetary and legislative initiatives that optimize ORIA's abilities to implement a "hub and spoke" model for refugee and asylee assistance, ensuring statewide coordination of resources and programming with Washington's local governments to provide long-term supports most effectively to these vulnerable populations.



Transportation and Regional Connectivity

Renton requests that funding already committed by the Legislature to WSDOT projects benefiting the Renton community are not further delayed due to funding shortfalls on other I-405 related projects. While Renton greatly appreciates the investments made through the last Move Ahead Washington package, the cost of construction has increased substantially in the last few years in addition to the other financial impacts affecting projects across the state. In order to maintain momentum on these crucial projects, the city supports the timely advancement of the Renton to Bellevue Phase 3 projects approved in 2022 by exploring funding options and conducting a collaborative Practical Solutions process with city involvement.

Public Safety

The city supports comprehensive resources and responses to address public safety and increasing juvenile crime with a prioritization of prevention, accountability, and rehabilitation. Renton strongly supports initiatives aimed at addressing this critical issue through upstream investments, early intervention, and community-based programs, alongside other legislative efforts to positively impact accountability and outcomes within the juvenile justice system, including for juvenile victims of crime.



Issues to Support/Oppose or Track/Monitor

Budget and Fiscal Sustainability

Support efforts to address the state’s arbitrary one percent property tax cap that leaves local governments unable to keep pace with inflationary cost increases. Renton supports legislation to instead institute a cap that can be based on inflationary indexes and population growth, up to three percent.

Work to protect and identify new opportunities for “state-shared” and other revenue streams for local governments.

Strongly oppose initiatives which would undermine local B&O tax revenues and authorities, including strong concerns over efforts to redefine B&O tax treatment of royalties.

Strongly support the direct funding of cities to help offset costs of new police reform and public safety bills enacted by the Legislature. These costs continue to be a major factor for local governments. Renton also supports technical fixes to address implementation issues related to these reforms.

Support additional local option revenue sources, such the proposed public safety sales tax for the recruitment and retention of law enforcement personnel, to support local needs of the community.

Homelessness and Behavioral Health

Support new funding opportunities for programs that integrate behavioral health services with housing assistance for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Advocate for increased investments into programs for vulnerable persons and individuals experiencing homelessness, such as emergency and transitional housing, permanent shelter space, and outreach/triage teams.

Strongly oppose efforts that limit local flexibility in responding to the unique needs of our local community.

Strongly support enhanced funding for community-based behavioral health facilities.

Housing and Economic Development

Continue to seek outside funding and tools by strongly supporting legislative initiatives and funding proposals that assist the City’s programs in advancing racial justice and equity and to deploy additional resources for affordable housing and human needs. The City is poised to support legislative initiatives to enable the establishment of “Housing Benefit Districts,” to enhance funding through the Housing Trust Fund, and to amend state statutes to better allow surplus property to be provided to those financing affordable homeownership projects.

Continue to support the creation of new fiscal tools that enhance housing development and growth, including proposals such as Housing Benefit Districts (HBDs) and enhanced funding for the Connecting Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP).

Advocate for new resources and tools that support local communities’ efforts to increase affordable housing supply and provide housing stability for vulnerable residents.

Strongly oppose efforts to preempt local authority over housing development, zoning, and other related aspects.

Promote Transit-Oriented-Development (TOD) policies while retaining local zoning discretion for station areas served by non-fixed Bus Rapid Transit service (i.e., Sound Transit Stride and King County RapidRide) and advocate for a reduction, instead of the elimination, of off-street parking regulations in TOD areas to support EV charging, rideshare vehicles, and unique local conditions.

Support efforts to provide new tools to local governments for community development, including for specific efforts related to small businesses and local economic development programs.

Human Services

Strongly support upstream investments, funding, and increased access for youth services supporting mental and physical health, including funding to expand the School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) program.

Support increased investments into programs and infrastructure for vulnerable youth experiencing complex mental health challenges and crises.

Promote efforts to expand and enhance community programs focused on youth mental and physical health, including after-school programs, mentorship opportunities, recreation activities, and mental health workshops.

Public Safety and Criminal Justice

Strongly support the creation of programs to support the recruitment and retention of law enforcement offices, including programs focused on officer wellness, mental wellness, and injury prevention.

Advocate for additional resources for the training of law enforcement officers to ensure community police forces are well-trained and equipped to respond to the unique needs of their respective communities.

Support efforts to prevent and address juvenile crime, including expanding the statewide capacity of juvenile behavioral health treatment facilities, correctional facilities, and community facilities.

Maintain 100 percent state funding for Basic Law Enforcement Academy costs, expansion of existing regional academies and the establishment of new regional academies, and the replacement of the outdated Criminal Justice Training Center (CJTC) main facility.

Support efforts to enhance prosecutorial and law enforcement resources to address the increase in retail theft.

Strongly oppose legislation to rollback police powers in addressing issues affecting local communities.



Issues to Support/Oppose or Track/Monitor

Environmental Sustainability

Support coalition initiatives, like the proposed WRAP Act, that establish a product stewardship program for packaging that reduces impacts on local solid waste programs and enhances recycling and safe-packaging practices.

Strongly support additional funding, with broader eligibility criteria, for the state Fish Barriers Removal Board grant program and additional resources for local governments to restore fish passages.

Monitor legislation which incentivizes the use of zero-emission equipment for maintenance needs, such as mowing, weeding, etc. The City of Renton would prefer to see incentive-based solutions rather than hard mandates on future purchases.

Advocate for additional state investments into the Ecology Stormwater Financial Assistance Program and the Washington State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund to support local initiatives for water quality – both surface and groundwater – protection programs and projects.

Support additional funding for reclaimed water studies and infrastructure to prepare for drought conditions and protect instream flows for environmental resources and recreational uses.

Support the efforts of a broad array of local governments and local government associations that continue to have concerns over the cost impacts of the Department of Ecology’s “Puget Sound General Nutrient Permit” that took effect Jan. 1, 2022. The concerns include the impact the permit will have on utility rates experienced by ratepayers, on growth and density expectations, and more. The City of Renton would support further review or study of the Permit to see where improvements can be made.

Advocate for increased grant funding from the Department of Ecology for use by local governments to meet with 2024-2029 Municipal Stormwater Permit requirements.

Parks, Recreation, and Trail Connectivity

Strongly support robust investments into outdoor recreation programs such as the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP), Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF), Aquatic Lands Enhancement Act (ALEA), the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and other related programs.

Advocate for additional investments into the Evergreen Communities program for equitable support of local urban forestry programs that enhance climate resilience, public health, and environmental justice.

Collaboratively support impactful investments into grant programs and organizations that grow and enhance local and regional trail connectivity.

Continue to support equitable funding opportunities that assist local governments with their park maintenance needs and backlogs.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Engage in conversations around sustainable transportation revenues to ensure funding for growing local transportation needs, with specific focuses on greater councilmanic authority for Transportation Benefit Districts (TBDs) and equitable and predictable transportation revenue sources, such as road usage charges (RUCs) and other impactful funding mechanisms.

Support infrastructure improvements to maximize the effectiveness of the 50-mile Express Toll Lane system, implement the I-405 and I-405/SR 167 Master Plans, and upgrade the efficiency of state highways and regional corridors.

Continue to advocate for timely completion of the North 8th Street Direct Access Ramp.

Strongly support meaningful investments and expansions of WSDOT Local Program grant opportunities for bicycle/pedestrian improvements and safe routes to school.

Advocate for direct and impactful investments into traditional local infrastructure, including expanded and reliable funding for the Public Works Assistance Account, to support community needs.

Local Government

Strongly support amendments to the Public Records Act to decrease the severe burden being put on cities, enhance cost-recovery for broad and time-consuming requests, and to create tools to address vexatious abuse of the Public Records Act.

Advocate for amendments to state statutes that would limit the number of years e-mail records must be stored and retrieved.

Educate legislators on the need for updates to the Open Public Meeting Act (OPMA) to address the increasing trend of disruptive activities and hate speech during public meetings.

Support investments and enhanced access to grant funding for local cybersecurity needs.

