

AWC 2025 Federal Legislative Priorities

Washington cities support community-based decision making and providing direct federal funding to cities to support critical local services; and oppose federal policies that undermine local government regulatory authority, impose unfunded mandates, or preempt local government revenues and revenue authorities.



Maintain stable and reliable federal government operations

Address budgets to avoid actual or threatened federal government shutdowns, which create uncertainty, fiscal impacts, and other hardships for our communities. Stable, reliable federal government operations are critical to cities and our residents.



Continue to invest in local public infrastructure

- Pursue policy solutions that support cities' basic infrastructure needs. Protect and ensure access to federal funding for cities of all sizes.
- Minimize costly grant application and other administrative burdens and provide technical support to ensure infrastructure funding is accessible to all cities and towns, including smaller jurisdictions under 5,000 and 1,000 in population.
- Seek sustainable funding sources to address the existing backlog of city infrastructure projects in Washington.
- Support policies that build climate-resilient infrastructure capacity and invest in sustainable technologies.

- Support digital equity in our communities. Continue federal investment programs like the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), and expand broadband access in unserved, under-served, and hard-to-serve areas.
- Ensure cities are explicitly recognized as "passive receivers" of PFAS and exempt from liability under Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act.
- Streamline permitting requirements to reduce the costs and time to update water and wastewater systems.
- Provide more support to implement smart city technology, digital safety, and cybersecurity support for protecting vulnerable infrastructure.



Invest in transportation

- Support a more sustainable revenue model to fund the Highway Trust Fund.
- Support federal policies that enhance municipal efforts to provide essential transportation systems.
- Ensure funding for fish passage improvements is available to both local and state governments.
- Support efforts and increase resources to improve traffic and pedestrian safety, and continue support for rail safety investments.

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Invest in safe and healthy communities

- Support community centered, equitable programs that improve our behavioral health system and local response to the opioid addiction crisis.
- Provide financial assistance to help recruit and retain first responders.
- Provide direct funding to cities to support violence prevention programs, including gun violence prevention.
- Support regulatory changes to allow access to banking for state-licensed cannabis businesses to address safety concerns.
- Support programs to alleviate poverty, including utility assistance and removal of the marriage penalty for individuals receiving disability payments.
- Support the Equal Rights Act and the Equality Act for LGBTQ individuals.
- Address immigration holistically in a manner that recognizes the needs of our state and local economies.



Invest in affordable housing and emergency shelter

- Support a comprehensive federal housing policy that preserves local decision-making while making substantial efforts to enhance federal investments in affordable housing.
- Expand low-income housing tax credits (LIHTC), increase federal flexibility to use Medicaid funding to provide housing and shelter, and take action to limit price fixing in the housing industry.



Invest in early learning and childcare

- Partner with states and local communities to provide sufficient resources for high-quality, safe, affordable, and available childcare.
- Replace the now-expired Child Care Stabilization Act dollars and expand the childcare tax credit.



Protect local fiscal sustainability and regulatory efforts

- Washington cities oppose federal policies that undermine local governments' regulatory authority, impose unfunded mandates, or preempt local government revenues.
- Protect and uphold local control over public rights-of-way to balance community interests with the need for new telecommunications infrastructure.
- Preserve the tax exemption on all municipal bonds, including Private Activity Bonds (PABs).
- Eliminate the \$10,000 cap on the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction.
- Provide direct, flexible funding to cities and towns.
- Expand the public service student loan forgiveness program.



Support National League of Cities' National Municipal Policy and Resolutions and the priorities of the US Conference of Mayors

Support the recommendations of NLC and the US Conference of Mayors if you have not otherwise heard specific feedback from Washington's cities and towns.

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