



EVERETT
WASHINGTON

2024



STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The City of Everett is home to a diverse community of 115,000 people. Our goal is to build a safe, vibrant and affordable city by advancing work in our priority areas of quality of life, economic development, housing, workforce development, behavioral health and public safety.

QUALITY OF LIFE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

Everett is poised for prosperity. We have most of the ingredients we need to promote positive growth and create a vibrant, attractive community. While we have a strong foundation to grow from, we also have immediate needs to address to sustain our existing job centers and recruit new businesses and ideas to Everett.

- Support the creation of new tools and incentives to increase the development and accessibility of **home ownership and affordable housing** at a variety of price points. This includes incentives for increased housing density around mass transit.
- Support **responsive revenue options** to address structural budget challenges, including revisions to the arbitrary 1% property tax cap that has been in place for more than a generation.
- The City thanks the legislature for the important investment in the 2023 capital budget for an outdoor sports facility in the City of Everett and encourages the legislature to allocate the money to the City in the supplemental budget.
- Support the **expansion of green infrastructure** to promote conservation and sustainability.
- Establish opportunities for our youth by ensuring access to **early learning, outdoor activities, quality education, mentorship** and positive career pathways.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Everett is fortunate to have a very skilled workforce to fill the needs of Boeing and other critical industries, but we need to ensure we continue to meet the needs of our industries for the economic well-being of our City.

- Support investments to the **behavioral health and general healthcare** workforces: improve career pathways for young adults, sustain the existing workforce and expand worker retraining opportunities to help meet regional workforce needs.
- Support efforts to improve **childcare access and affordability** to support both the current and future workforce.
- Support efforts to expand **innovative programs and internships** for high school and college students, bringing new technologies into the classroom and **strengthening STEM education** in K-12 schools.





BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Everett is fortunate to have a progressive and highly trained police force but recognizes the need to transform criminal justice policies to provide greater safety for communities that historically have not been well-served by the existing system, with a focus on behavioral health.

- The City strongly supports efforts to help recruit and retain police officers for public safety. This includes updating the existing local option public safety sales tax to allow implementation by councilmanic authority and flexibility of funds to cover more uses, including behavioral health co-response teams.
- Ensure the legislature empowers law enforcement to proactively intervene and encourage **voluntary treatment options**.
- Support solutions that address the gap between competency and involuntary commitment for behavioral health related issues to **ensure individuals receive the support they need** in the least restrictive setting.
- Support funding to expand co-responder units and create alternate response teams, law enforcement assisted diversion, therapeutic courts and other diversion programs allowing for a **more robust response to better connect people in crisis with needed services**.
- Support funding for broader access to additional behavioral health services for substance use disorder treatment (SUD), including crisis treatment for ongoing behavioral and mental health treatments.
- The City supports legislation that would make unlawful possession of a firearm in the first degree a violent offense.



MAKE IT IN EVERETT

These legislative priorities articulate a vision for Everett as a city ripe with opportunities to put down roots in an established but growing area of the Pacific Northwest. **Starting a business, a new career, a degree or a family: Everett is the place to make it happen.**

These transformational investments will move Everett, and our region, forward towards a strong, prosperous future.

ZeroAvia



Pallet

South Fork Baking Co.



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General Principles

Kirkland supports legislation that promotes the City Council's goals, plans, policies, and initiatives that enable Kirkland to provide basic municipal services and meet the needs of current and future community members.

- Protect shared state revenue sources available to the City and provide new revenue options and flexibility in the use of existing revenues.
- Support the partnership between Cities and the State to ensure that critical mandates are funded, and vital services are provided to all community members.
- Advance initiatives identified in the City's Work Program; 2023-24 Council Goals; City's 2023-2024 Budget; 2015 Comprehensive Plan (as updated); 2020 Sustainability Master Plan; 2015 Transportation Master Plan; 2022 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Roadmap; and 2018 Housing Strategy Plan, and related documents.

2024 Legislative Priorities

Kirkland supports legislation that provides funding and policy tools to increase access to housing and expands the construction and preservation of moderate- and low-income housing supply, such as:

- A policy framework that results in high-capacity transit-oriented development and also encourages creation of crucial community benefits, such as affordable housing, fees in lieu of housing (for commercial developments), multi-modal transportation, parks and open spaces, green buildings and infrastructure, and increased school and childcare capacity.
- A new Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) increment with new revenues dedicated to construction and preservation of affordable housing.

Kirkland supports legislation that addresses the behavioral health treatment crisis by increasing the capacity of the crisis response system and supporting local programs that connect individuals with needed care.

Kirkland supports legislation that allows for property tax increases of greater than 1% in order to improve the City's ability to provide basic municipal services to its community members in a manner that is stable and transparent.

Kirkland supports capital budget funding for:

- Updated facilities in Everest Park, home of the Little League Junior Softball World Series (in the 48th Legislative District)
- Safety and access improvements in OO Denny Park (in the 1st and 45th Legislative Districts)

Kirkland supports State budget reprogramming to:

- Move money appropriated in the State's 2025-2027 and 2027-2029 transportation biennial budgets for the Cross Kirkland Corridor HAWK Crossing and 132nd Intersection Improvements (awarded to the City as a grant by WSDOT) to the State's 2023-2025 transportation biennial budget.
- Address forecasted WSDOT and Sound Transit funding shortfalls for the I-405/SR167 Corridor improvements, including the Stride I-405 Bus Rapid Transit Project.

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

2025 State Legislative Priorities



Capital Funding for Emergency Replacement of City's Sole Water Source

The City of Mercer Island relies on Seattle Public Utilities for its water supply and recently declared an emergency due to a leak in the main water supply pipeline. The City is seeking \$3 million in emergency state funding to cover 15% of the cost to undergo emergency replacement of the damaged water supply pipeline, relocate the pipeline to a safer location, and upgrade it with earthquake-resistant materials. This will ensure the City is able to reliably provide safe drinking water and sufficient water pressure for fire response.

Support for Public Safety

The City supports law enforcement strategies that protect our community and businesses. Priorities include:

- Increasing capacity at regional law enforcement academies. Limited academy spots are delaying police hires, leaving recruits waiting months to begin work while on full pay and benefits.
- Supporting cities in hiring new officers by fully covering the \$5,000 Basic Law Enforcement Academy cost per officer and providing ongoing funding for public safety technologies like body worn cameras.
- Additional State resources and policy support to reduce auto and organized retail thefts.
- Support for expanded State regulations to address the growing use of e-scooters and e-bikes to ensure safe use while promoting sustainable transportation. Recent research indicates a significant rise in e-bike head injuries nationwide over the past five years, which indicates a need for stronger safety regulations.
- Amend the Public Records Act to exempt Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) security footage from disclosure. This change will improve government service efficiency, safeguard privacy, and maintain the effectiveness of law enforcement tools for public safety.
- As a regional marine patrol provider, Mercer Island supports increased funding for on-water safety programs, enhanced training for marine patrol providers, and public awareness initiatives to strengthen law enforcement and promote water safety.

Increase Resources for Behavioral Health & Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Prevention

The City is a direct provider of behavioral health services through community- and school-based programs while also relying on regional public health infrastructure for specialized care and crisis response. Priorities include:

- Increasing prevention and intervention resources targeting opiates and other substances of abuse, specifically those disproportionately impacting youth and young adults.
- Funding to expand low-barrier community- and school-based behavioral health services for youth.
- Opportunities to integrate behavioral health and first responders for enhanced crisis response.
- Increased resources for senior/geriatric behavioral health and support for basic needs.
- Support local governments' ability to deliver integrated behavioral health services through public-private partnerships, enabling outreach teams and crisis responders to effectively assist individuals in need.

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

2025 State Legislative Priorities



Support for Affordable Housing

The City champions a proactive stance on housing, using innovative tools and incentives to enhance housing supply and affordability. Priorities include:

- Transit-oriented development that prioritizes housing and infrastructure investments near major transit infrastructure and walkable jobs. Any bill should include affordability requirements, align with the City's housing targets under ESSHB 1220 (2021), and appropriately clarify any conflicts with other state housing regulations. This approach maximizes regional transportation investments to enhance mobility, expand affordable housing, and safeguard the environment.
- Complete Communities that support walkability, public safety, livability, and access to resources in tandem with affordable housing. Acknowledgement that cities are the best suited to implement these values in the unique context of their community.
- State investments and low-interest loans to strengthen local infrastructure such as sewer and water systems, which are essential for expanding affordable housing opportunities.
- Support continued partnership and investment in regional homelessness response through expansion of affordable and supportive housing capacity under ESSHB 1220, active participation in King County's Crisis Care Centers Levy implementation, and ongoing collaboration with ARCH. The City opposes unilateral state measures that would undermine these proven, coordinated local efforts to increase access to safe shelter and housing across Washington communities

Preserving and Protecting the Environment

The City supports legislation, partnerships, and funding opportunities that advance the implementation of the City's adopted Climate Action Plan. This includes initiatives for clean energy, emissions reduction, electrification of public assets, and innovative practices that promote resilience and protect natural resources.

Sustainable Funding Preservation and Maintenance of Critical Transportation Infrastructure

The City advocates for fully funding and prioritizing maintenance of critical state transportation infrastructure, including the six miles of I-90 crossing Mercer Island, one of the state's most expensive and complex assets. Maintaining and keeping these interstates operational is essential for safety, reliability, and commerce.



City of Shoreline 2024 State Legislative Priorities

- Work with legislative delegation to identify and seek Local Community Project funding for park-related planning resources that would allow the City to develop additional parks and open space for its growing community. Maintain visibility of the need for a community pool that can serve Shoreline residents and explore opportunities for advancing funding.
- Support legislation that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, addresses climate change impacts across all sectors, and promotes sustainable practices, including direction of state and federal resources toward on-the-ground implementation of local climate action in key sectors, such as building electrification and electric vehicle adoption. Support direct distributions to cities from the Climate Commitment Act for city priorities that support carbon reduction and climate resiliency.
- Support legislation relating to transit-oriented development (TOD) that fosters effective residential and commercial development around major transportation nodes, captures value for high-priority public benefits, such as affordable housing, and remains supportive of the values and priorities that the City has already incorporated into its transit-oriented planning.
- Continue to support legislation that addresses homelessness and increases equitable access to housing through such actions and measures that strengthen and better enforce statewide renter protections, as well as incentives and support for local efforts to accommodate additional housing development, including affordable housing.
- Support statewide funding that allows greater access to the entire continuum of behavioral health services and substance use disorder treatment, for both adults and juveniles, including:
 - Enhancement of 911/first response system to better provide access to immediate, high-quality behavioral health services at the moment of high acuity behavioral health emergency;
 - Improved treatment resources—both capital and operating— for behavioral health needs, including inpatient and outpatient treatment; and

- Investments that support growing and retaining the workforce needed to support these system enhancements.
- Preserve City fiscal health with secure funding sources, including:
 - Efforts to review and revise both state and local tax structures so they rely less on regressive revenue options, without negatively impacting local revenue authority; and
 - Removal of the existing 1% property tax limitation, or revision that indexes it to inflation, population growth, or some related indicator.
- Continue to advance a watershed-based approach and strategic plan to correct local fish-blocking culverts along with state culverts.
- Identify sustainable, ongoing transportation funding options for local jurisdictions, including Road Usage Charge, with flexibility to tailor funding to a community's needs.
- Support a producer responsibility program that requires consumer product stewardship and extended producer responsibility for consumer packaging that will help reduce the amount of waste entering the ocean by improving and expanding access to recycling infrastructure.



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.

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.



City of Spokane

2024 Legislative Priorities

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.



City of Spokane

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!~~



City of Spokane

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.

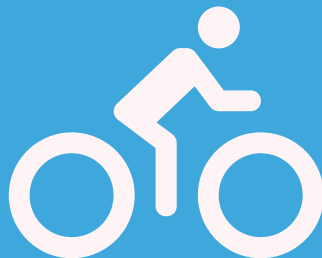


City of Spokane

2024 Legislative Priorities

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.



City of Spokane

2024 Legislative Priorities

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.

