

2016 Legislative Agenda Update

Office of Intergovernmental Relations
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Legislative Session Overview

- 60 day session begins January 11th
- Entering second year of biennium, potential issues include supplemental budget, education funding, and charter schools
- 2016 is an election year, will have impacts on legislative actions
- Numerous departures of key legislators means new committee chairs and different dynamics. A special election in District 30 narrowed the Democrat House Majority to two seats.
- Committee Days for both chambers are Nov. 19th-20th

Legislative Leadership Changes

- House Appropriations Chair: Hans Dunshee (Snohomish, Lake Stevens)
- House Finance Chair: Kristine Lytton (Anacortes, San Juan Islands)
- House Capital Budget Chair: Steve Tharinger (Port Angeles, Ocean Shores)
- House Local Government Chair: Open

Legislative Agenda Process

City's collaborative legislative agenda development process:

- This summer OIR took departmental requests/holdovers from last year
- Worked with the Mayor, Council, State Legislative delegation, and legislative partners to develop draft
- Mayor and Councilmembers review and edit the agenda through the fall, with a plan for Council passage after the budget in late November or early December
- There will be continued meetings with our community partners and participation with AWC

Key Agenda Issues for 2016

- Additional funding to address the homelessness crisis
- Additional affordable housing tools & enhanced tenants rights
- Expanded impact fee authority (e.g., transit, etc.)
- Ability to hire non-citizens for public safety employment
- Enhanced funding for mental health and human services
- Gender equity and family-friendly workplace policies
- Race and social justice issues; e.g. Justice Reinvestment Act, CROP, Ban the Box, Voting Rights Act
- Gun safety
- Environmental issues; e.g. fish consumption rule, MTCA funding, climate change, product stewardship
- Public Records requests reform

Next Steps

- Final edits to legislative agenda – Agenda is passed by Council late Nov./early Dec.
- Committee Days for both chambers are Nov. 19th-20th
- McCleary 5-corners work group continues to meet
- Governor Inslee will propose a Supplemental Budget in Dec.
- Legislators return to Olympia January 11th for 60-day session