



**Date:** January 17, 2023  
**To:** City Council  
**From:** Nathan A. West, *City Manager*  
**Subject:** 2023 Legislative Priorities

**Summary:** Each year in anticipation of the upcoming State legislative session, City Council and staff review and update City legislative priorities. City Council had an initial discussion on legislative priorities in November of 2022. Staff have since worked to update the City's state legislative priorities in order to bring a draft to be considered by Council at tonight's meeting.

Staff are recommending Council consider the Legislative Priorities document, vote on any changes, and adopt the final list for presentation to legislators during the City Action Days event.

**Funding:** N/A

**Recommendation:** 1.) Discuss the legislative priorities as presented by staff and the committee.

2.) Approve the 2023 Legislative Priorities Briefing Paper.

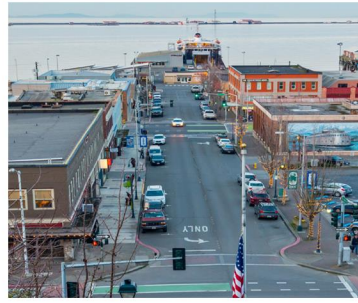
**Background / Analysis:**

In 2022, City Council established legislative priorities which were utilized throughout the year to share with State and Federal legislators. In anticipation of the State legislative session in January, staff presented a memorandum with legislative suggestions on November 15, 2022. During the meeting, a motion was passed to develop a pamphlet which focuses on Adequate and Non-Regressive Tax Structure as a top priority, endorses the legislative agendas of the Association of Washington Cities and Low-Income Housing Alliance and other remaining active items from the last agenda or as noted in the memo. The attached draft legislative briefing paper reflects the motion. The AWC Legislative Priorities have also been attached to this memorandum.

Staff are recommending Council consider the Legislative Priorities document, vote on any changes, and approve the final legislative briefing paper to present to legislators during City Action Days.

**Funding Overview:**

Funding N/A



# CITY OF PORT ANGELES 2023 KEY PRIORITIES

## Adequate and Non-Regressive Tax Structure

### **Build a more just and equitable tax code for Washington**

**State.** Those with the least should not pay the most.

Establishing a non-regressive tax structure will create a strong and resourceful future for Washington's communities and support the welfare of all its citizens.

## Joint Public Safety Facility

### **The City requests \$5.0M to co-locate City of Port Angeles and Clallam County emergency operations.**

The current 911 Dispatch facility is small and its location is seismically unsuitable. The communications room, which houses emergency operations communication equipment, requires expensive upgrades to meet future demands. A joint and modern facility will allow the City and County to provide the most efficient, innovative and sustainable lifesaving services to our community as it grows.

## Transportation Infrastructure

### **The City seeks to partner with the State to complete the**

**Tumwater 101 Interchange.** The current interchange, located at the intersection of US101 and SR117, limits movement from the Port of Port Angeles to locations heading west. This project will improve safety and freight mobility by allowing full movements for freight travel to and from the Port Angeles Harbor, without utilizing the downtown corridor. New ramps will be added and channelization improved to accommodate freight traffic without conflict. The estimated total cost of the project is \$7.75M. The City needs \$7.525M to complete construction.

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## Accessible Child Care

The pandemic created shortages in childcare programs and exacerbated an already limited service in our community. The City has allocated ARPA funds to support the YMCA and Boys & Girls Club, two vital childcare providers. However, this support has merely helped these license-exempt organizations to catch up from losses caused by COVID-19. Neither has been eligible to receive State resources or grants made available to private businesses operating similar programs.

### **Fund the Olympic Peninsula YMCA's Early Learning Center.**

\$2.0M is needed to build a centrally located, 8,000 sq. ft. facility planned to serve up to 92 children, ages 0-5. Additional benefits include improved local workforce recruitment and retention, and the creation of 15 new jobs.

### **Support the Boys & Girls Club of the Olympic Peninsula.**

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## We also support:

- AWC Legislative Priorities
- Washington Low Income Housing Alliance 2023 Priorities
- \$3.5M Field Arts & Events Hall Completion
- Marine Discovery Center
- Rayonier Mill Cleanup
- Futurewise GreenLink Project
- Senate Bill 5841
- House Bill 1787





# 2023 City Legislative Priorities

Strong cities make a great state. Cities are home to 65% of the state's residents, drive the economy, and provide the most accessible government. The continued success of cities depends on adequate resources and local decision-making to best meet the needs of our residents.

Washington's 281 cities ask the Legislature to partner with cities and act on the following priorities:



## Respond to the *Blake* decision

Support clarification around the crime of possessing a controlled substance so that individuals, law enforcement, and treatment providers can respond appropriately. Revise the current system of two referrals prior to criminal charges, so it can be more effectively administered across the state.

Support additional investments to help cities with the costs stemming from the *Blake* decision on how possession of controlled substances is handled by the criminal justice system. This includes:

- Funding to help offset the costs of vacating criminal convictions, repaying legal financial obligations, administering diversion programs, and mitigating municipal court impacts.
- Investment in alternative response teams; treatment facilities for adults and juveniles; treatment in jails; and social workers, treatment providers, and system navigators to help direct people to treatment.



## Address vehicle pursuits for public safety

Clarify the ability for law enforcement to conduct vehicle pursuits using a reasonable suspicion standard in specific circumstances. This is essential to allow for effective and safe pursuit of suspects when there is an immediate threat to public safety. Cities will continue to support safety standards and training for officers who engage in vehicle pursuits.



## Ensure basic infrastructure funding

Fully fund the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA), allow the current revenue diversions to sunset at the end of fiscal year 2023, and refrain from further fund transfers or diversions to other infrastructure programs or non-infrastructure accounts. Expand state funding opportunities to assist with maintenance and operations of local infrastructure.



## Increase housing availability & affordability

Support a proactive approach that creates new tools, incentives, and revenues that cities can use to help increase housing supply and address affordability. Cities need resources to encourage development of housing at all income levels—especially for our lowest-income residents.



## Provide behavioral health resources

Create greater access to community-based behavioral health services to include substance use disorder treatment and dual diagnosis treatment facilities. Support continued state funding to help communities establish alternative response programs like co-responder programs, diversion programs, and others that provide options beyond law enforcement for responding to situations that involve individuals suffering from behavioral health issues.

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