



City of Port Angeles 2022 Legislative Priorities

Thank you, Board Members, for your continued engagement and support during the pandemic. We know you are working hard for us.

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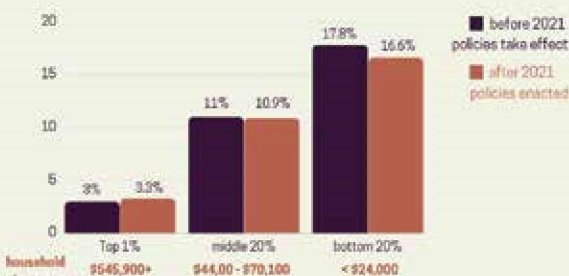
Adequate & Non-Regressive Tax Structure

Build a more just and equitable tax code for Washington state that is adequate to create a strong future where all our communities have the resources they need to thrive.

The State cannot say it has sufficient revenue by ignoring the needs of its local governments, who have to fill in when the state doesn't provide for everyone's health, safety, and welfare.

THOSE WITH THE LEAST PAY THE MOST IN WA

Percent Household Income Spent on State & Local Taxes in WA



Childcare

- **Fund License Exempt Youth Serving Organizations.** Vital local childcare providers like Boys & Girls Club of the Olympic Peninsula, Shore Aquatic Center S.P.A.R.K. Squad (Swim, Play & Active Recreation for Kids) Program, and Olympic Peninsula YMCA were not eligible for 2021 funding opportunities. Licensed exempt youth serving organizations must be included in funding opportunities.
- **Kids & Teens Mental Health.** Allocate \$2.5M to youth development programs.
- **Youth Development & Childcare Workforce Care Worker Center Bill.** Create support programs to improve standard of living and well-being of care workers and their families. Improve career pathways for childcare and youth development workers in education, social work and nonprofit sectors.

Childcare providers are faced with higher operational costs including the need to increase hours of operation, staffing and wage levels. Funding support is necessary for these providers to successfully navigate the pandemic and changing childcare climate.

- PenCom Emergency Operation Center
- AWC Legislative Priorities
- The City supports mandatory certification for 9-1-1 Dispatchers as first responders: **City of Port Angeles First Responder Proclamation**
- WSDOT culvert replacement impacts and coordination with local restoration efforts

Housing

The City of Port Angeles supports the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance (WLIHA) Lead and support agenda items, including:

- **\$500 million for affordable homes (Housing Trust Fund and Rapid Acquisition).** Peninsula Behavioral Health was able to purchase the All-View Motel in Port Angeles to bring us 1/3 of the way toward having enough permanent supportive housing in Clallam County. But to meet current need, we still need funding for two more new projects like that.
- **Invest in crisis response teams.** Port Angeles now has three community paramedics whose interventions are creating dramatic reductions in 911 calls and emergency room visits. But this cost saving (and lifesaving) program is still grant funded and thus its future is not guaranteed.
- **Fund the Medicaid Transformation Project.** Allow Medicaid to continue to be used to pay for homelessness services related to permanent supportive housing.
- **Aged Blind or Disabled (ABD) cash grant increase from \$197 to \$417.** Our disabled residents who cannot work need enough to live on.
- **\$2 million for pre-eviction civil legal aid.** OlyCAP says there are almost no available rentals in either Clallam or Jefferson County, so a tenant losing their current housing is almost certain to become homeless. Thus funds for the new tenant protections passed in 2021 are vital to ensure a fair process.

In addition to WLIHA priorities, the City of Port Angeles and other jurisdictions throughout Washington State are seeing increases to housing costs based on State Building Code (implemented every three years), and the State's stormwater regulations (updated every five years). The frequency of these routine updates is beyond the capacity of both the local development community and the City as administrator of these regulations, and needs to be reduced so that small businesses and small towns can keep up.



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.

Contact:

Candice Bock

Government Relations Director

candiceb@awcnet.org

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Association of Washington Cities • 1076 Franklin St SE, Olympia, WA 98501 • 1.800.562.8981 • wacities.org



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