

Long Term Financial Strategy (LTFS) - Key Financial Principles

- Make Trade-Offs
- Do It Well
- Focus Programs on Olympia Residents & Businesses
- Preserve Physical Infrastructure
- Use Unexpected One-Time Revenues for One-Time Costs or Reserves
- Invest in Employees
- Pursue Innovative Approaches to Service Delivery
- Contract In/Contract Out
- Maintain Capacity to Respond to Emerging Community Needs
- Pursue Entrepreneurial Initiatives
- Address Unfunded Liabilities
- Selectively Recover Costs
- Recognize the Connection Between the Operating Budget and the Capital Budget

Long Term Financial Strategy - Guidelines

What Should the City Do in the Following Year's Budget When the Financial Forecast is Positive?

- Assess the situation
- Maintain adequate reserves
- Use one-time revenues only for one-time expenses
- Use recurring revenues for recurring costs or for one-time expenses
- Stay faithful to City goals over the long run
- Think carefully when considering revenue cuts
- Think long-term

What Should the City Do Every Year, Whether the Financial Forecast is Positive or Negative?

- Increase operating cost recovery
- Pursue cost sharing

What Should the City Do in the Following Year's Budget When the Financial Forecast is Negative?

- Assess the situation
- Use reserves sparingly
- Reduce services
- Continue to think carefully when considering tax increases

What should the Council consider before increasing taxes?

- Will the increase result in programs or services that will have a quantifiable public benefit?
- Is the tax source related and connected to the services that are to be supported by the new revenue?
- Is the increase fully justifiable in terms of need?
- Has every effort to educate citizens about the tax been taken in advance of the increase?
- Are the services that are intended to be supported by the new revenue supportable into the foreseeable future?

What should the Council consider before asking residents to increase taxes?

- Have efforts to educate residents about the tax been made?
- Has there been ample time for residents to debate and discuss the issue?
- Has the council taken the time to listen to residents' concerns?
- Do our residents understand what the results will be following implementation of the new tax?