

Olympia's 2022 Legislative Agenda

Olympia

Investing in the Capital City

- Olympia is the front door of Washington's State government.
- As the Capital City, Olympia embraces its role as host to the state.
- We value State employees and visitors who work, shop and dine in our downtown.

Olympia City Council

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Direct State Investments to Address Chronic Homelessness, Affordable Housing, Mental Health and Chemical Dependency

Olympia has the highest percentage of rent-burdened households and concentration of unhoused individuals in Thurston County.

The City of Olympia supports:

- Further State leadership to expand mental health and chemical dependency resources to address the root causes of homelessness.
- Financial support for emergency and permanent supportive housing from the \$1.9 Trillion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Dollars.
- The use of State property for the homeless and the State to manage encampments on their properties without the use of local jurisdiction resources.
- An amendment to the Residential Landlord-Tenant Act, specifically section RCW 59.18.040(1) exempting facilities established and operated by religious organizations and government entities.
- State leadership and support for renter/tenant protections, including rent control.

OTHER PRIORITIES IMPORTANT TO OLYMPIA

Clarifications to Police Reform Bills Passed in 2020

- E2SHB 1310 (Use of Force Regulations)
 - Clarify physical force to include additional circumstances related to behavioral health interventions; child protective custody; court orders; criminal investigations and assisting partners in securing a scene for safe response.
 - Clarify language related to exhausting de-escalation tactics.
- ESHB 1054 (Tactics and Equipment)
 - Modify restrictions on "firearms and ammunition of .50 caliber or greater" replacing it with "rifles of .50 caliber or greater."
 - Modify restrictions on vehicular pursuits expanding authority to engage in pursuits in certain circumstances and modifying supervisory control for pursuits in small jurisdictions.

Further Legislative Action Related to Climate Change

- Further state leadership is needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the built environment, transportation and other sectors.
- State funding support is needed to help advance local climate mitigation and sea level rise adaptation efforts identified in the Regional Climate Mitigation Plan.

Solid Waste Reduction

- Legislation that reduces packaging and plastics, as well as improves recycling markets in Washington State.

\$1M for Structural and Design Improvements for the Armory to be Converted into an Olympia Cultural Campus

- The funding would assist with ADA compliance hazardous material survey and abatement; exterior right-of-way improvements (additional/accessible parking, sidewalks, exterior lighting, safety and code improvements); landscape improvements; retrofit windows; design fees; and permitting.

\$5 Million to Close Funding Gap for Fones Road Improvements

- This \$16M project reconstructs a key corridor with a wide mix of uses; addresses failing pavement conditions; significantly improves pedestrian & cyclist safety; addresses traffic congestion and freight mobility needs.

\$ 6 M for Design and Right-of-Way Acquisition for New US 101 Interchange Ramps in West Olympia

- The Cooper Point Road/Black Lake Boulevard intersection is failing.
- Addressing congestion in this critical area requires more access from US 101 to West Olympia.

Changes to the Property Tax Levy Lid Lift

The current 1% levy lid restricts revenue growth when costs are increasing more than 1% per year. The City Supports:

- Raising the levy lid lift more than 1% for specific projects or initiatives.
- Raising the levy lid lift based on the rate of inflation or 1% annually, whichever is higher.

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