

Olympia's 2020 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 visiting citizens who work, shop, and dine in our downtown.

Olympia City Council

Cheryl Selby, Mayor
Jessica Bateman, Mayor Pro Tem
Jim Cooper
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Nathaniel Jones
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Contact City Council

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Administration

Jay Burney, Interim City Manager
Keith Stahley, Interim Assistant City Manager

2020 Legislative Priorities:

State resources and support to address homelessness, affordable housing, mental health and chemical dependency services.

- Olympia has the highest percentage of rent-burdened households and highest concentration of the Thurston County's homeless.
- Support is needed for use of state property for the homeless.
- State leadership and support is needed for mental health and chemical dependency resources.
- State leadership and support is needed for renter/tenant protections, including rent control.
 - The City supports a legislative amendment to the Residential Landlord-Tenant Act, specifically exempting RCW section 59.18.040(1) impacting domestic violence and shelter facilities, as well as tiny house and mitigation sites for lawful camping.

Funding 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.
- The interchange ramps are Olympia's highest priority for capital fund.

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.
- Olympia supports state building and energy code amendments, increases in renewable energy, and electric vehicle infrastructure.
- State funding support is needed to help advance local climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.

OTHER PRIORITIES IMPORTANT TO 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.
- The City Supports raising the levy lid lift based on the rate of inflation or 1% annually, whichever is higher.

A Ban on Sales/Transport of English and Atlantic Ivy

The City of Olympia seeks to ban the sale and transportation of English and Atlantic Ivy in Washington State.

- These types of ivy cause significant environmental damage to parks, trails, shorelines, and forest areas.
- Oregon banned the sale of these types of ivy in 2010.
- The Washington Recreation and Park Association has expressed support for such legislations.

Solid Waste Reduction

The City is interested in tracking legislation on solid waste, including bills on reducing packaging and plastics, as well as improving recycling markets in Washington State.

Funding for new First Responder Regional Training Center

\$4 million request for the design and construction of a Regional Training Center.

Continued Funding for the Capitol Lake – Deschutes Estuary Phase II EIS Process

The City supports the continued public process for the Environmental Impact Statement to find a long-term solution for Capital Lake.

- A special appropriation or allocation through the state general fund is needed to continue this work.

Future purchase of National Guard Armory

The City would like financial support for the future purchase of the Armory in Olympia, located at 515 Eastside St. SE.

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