



# 2024 Federal Agenda

The City of Olympia's 2024 Federal Agenda will engage federal elected officials and government representatives on issues of priority, including securing federal funding that warrants Congressional or other Federal government engagement. The City is prioritizing policies which:

- Address climate change
- Develop cultural resources
- Support economic and infrastructure development
- Create solutions for housing and homelessness
- Contribute to the City's public safety goals

## Climate Change Response

The City is committed to addressing climate change and will promote efforts related to ongoing work on Olympia's Regional Climate Mitigation Planning and Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning.

Specifically, the City is the lead coordinating entity for the submission of a nearly \$75 million grant application for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Resilience Regional Challenge. Working with other stakeholders including the Squaxin Island Tribe, the Port of Olympia (Port), the Washington State Department of Enterprise

Services (DES), and LOTT Clean Water Alliance (LOTT), the City will organize and manage the grant application to restore the Deschutes Estuary and Build Community Resilience in the South Puget Sound.

This valuable and sustainable work will respond to the longstanding issues related to the clean-up of Capitol Lake and the restoration of the Deschutes Estuary, addresses sea level rise in Budd Inlet to minimize flooding, protects critical infrastructure and assets, and supports and protects coastal ecosystems necessary to help restore salmon and other native species. The comprehensive plan involves design and permitting, construction, estuary and shoreline restoration, landscaping, property acquisition and feasibility studies.

The City will seek federal support for overall climate change objectives that support Olympia's long-standing goals and planning and will specifically engage federal elected officials and representatives regarding the NOAA grant application.

## Developing Cultural Resources

Following on the success of the passage of *Inspire Olympia!* the City has already collected \$3 million to support arts, science and cultural heritage programming. Funding from the additional 0.1% sales tax will also be utilized to develop and support cultural resources including redevelopment of the Armory into a Creative Campus as envisioned by Olympia's citizens.

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The City continues the planning and evaluation process to convert the Armory into a Creative Campus and additional efforts, including pursuing federal resources, to support the facility's development are underway and will continue as further analysis and planning are completed.

### **Economic Development and Infrastructure**

As part of *Olympia Strong*, the City's federal engagement will focus on education and workforce pathways, housing and sense of security, infrastructure, business enterprise resources, and the City's Brownfield Initiative. With Thurston County's approval as an Economic Development District, more opportunities at the federal level for funding can also be recognized.

The City will engage federal elected official and representatives regarding the shared Economic Development and Housing & Homelessness departments' vision for parking and low-income housing. Working with federal officials, Olympia will seek to establish the resources necessary for planning and design work and eventual construction of a downtown parking structure to repurpose the City's surface parking lots for low-income housing development. The project presents a unique approach and opportunity to solve two challenges in the downtown core, meets climate change and equity goals, and focuses development to a denser setting with public transportation access.

### **Housing & Homelessness**

As Olympia works to support dignity for every member of the community, housed and unhoused, by connecting people to resources, housing initiatives and supporting community partners, federal engagement will include requests for additional resources to support these objectives. Following on the data, purpose and goals established in the One Community Plan, Olympia will share with federal elected officials and representatives the City's challenges, approaches, successes and experiences as a means to help advance and share best practices regarding housing and homelessness policies.

Specifically, the City of Olympia recently submitted a PRO Housing grant to the U.S. Department of Housing and

Urban Development. The City was able to secure support for this grant from Members of Congress. The City will continue to monitor federal funding opportunities and seek support for additional resources and advocate for the aforementioned combined project with the Economic Development department.

### **Public Safety**

The Olympia Police Department provides services, builds partnerships, and enhances public safety to strengthen community trust and improve quality of life for current and future generations, using teamwork, accountability, compassion and integrity to support a safe and vibrant community for all. The City will pursue federal funding support in advancement of its public safety objectives.

### **Overall Approach to Federal Engagement**

The City of Olympia works collectively and collaboratively among staff and departments to:

- Develop strategies to meet the City's federal government affairs objectives.
- Coordinate materials, including background information, written correspondence and the like for presentation to federal officials.
- Provide guidance and support the engagement of federal policymakers including Congressional members and their staff as well as the Administration regarding policy related to the City's interests.
- Coordinate, identify, and work with stakeholders to advocate for agreed upon policy objectives and strategies to achieve success.
- Identify areas of mutual interest between the City and targeted external stakeholders that will help develop and execute strategies to capitalize on those areas of mutual interest where they are beneficial.



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