



# 2025 Legislative Priorities



## Deschutes Estuary Restoration

- Support for the Department of Enterprise Services request for \$26M in State funding for the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project to achieve 100% project design and begin transition into construction in 2027, that will restore 260 acres of historic estuarine and salt marsh habitat across 2 miles in South Puget Sound.

## Continued Resources to Address Homelessness

- Continued state support for the Rights-of-Way Safety Initiative to include city owned Rights-of-Way, including the existing \$3.5M per year currently received by the City of Olympia for operations of the Tiny Home Village site as an alternative to homelessness and unsanctioned encampments.
- Continued State support for the operation and management of existing and expanded permanent supportive housing sites.

## Study of Reparations

- Create a state level taskforce to study reparations for the descendants of enslaved African people and implement the findings of such a study in order to increase the upward economic mobility and reduce the racial wealth gap for African American residents.

## Revise the Arbitrary Property Tax Cap

- Support for the Association of Washington Cities request to revise the property tax cap to tie it to inflation, up to 3%, and population growth factors so local elected officials can adjust the local property tax rate to better serve their communities and keep up with the costs of providing basic services like police, fire and streets.

## Additional Climate Mitigation

- Support actions to prohibit the extension of new natural gas service and require gas companies to plan for decarbonization and electrification.

## Tenant Protections

- State leadership and support for renter/tenant protections, including rent stabilization and tenant screening.

## Housing Resources

- Creation of new tools, incentives, revenues and resources to increase affordable housing supply, including dedicating current funding and exploring new funding options, such as the real estate transfer tax, to address needs across the housing continuum, to include pathways for home ownership, senior, workforce, affordable,

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and permanent supportive housing.

- Ensure that funding availability extends to all communities with needs, including small and medium sized cities and towns.

### **Address Issues of Financial Stability**

- Create programs to address the cost of rent, food and childcare as outlined in the Evergreen Basic Income Pilot Program.

### **Further Legislative Action Supporting Climate Change and Climate Justice Initiatives**

- Allocation of state funding for building decarbonization and weatherization initiatives, with an emphasis on low- and moderate-income residents, multifamily housing, and small businesses.
- Allocation of state funding for programs that substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with an emphasis on hard-to-decarbonize sectors, including on-road and transit diesel vehicles.
- Establish and fund a statewide Navigator program to provide information and resources to help businesses and residents access clean energy incentives and find qualified contractors for energy upgrades and retrofits.
- Establish a statewide home energy assessment and disclosure program that provides a common framework and licensing program for residential energy assessments and disclosures.
- Actions by the State Legislature to reduce waste and develop a circular economy, including establishing an extended producer responsibility program.

### **Behavioral Health Resources**

- Increase funding to expand community behavioral health treatment capacity, from crisis stabilization, inpatient beds, outpatient services and continued expansion of forensic behavioral health treatment capacity.
- Increase funding to expand crisis response, co-responder programs, diversion and other programs that provide options beyond law enforcement to assist individuals experiencing behavioral health challenges .
- Investments in education funding to improve workforce and staffing in the community mental health and behavioral health facilities, and support additional training, certification, and workforce development for co-responders.
- Help for families to get family members, who are not minors, into psychiatric care.

### **Further Legislative Action to Reduce Gun Violence**

- Further state leadership to put safeguards in place to prevent gun violence in public spaces and schools, expanding the prohibition of open carry to all publicly owned facilities.

### **Support for Funding of Joint Animal Services Facility Design Services to Replace Failing Building**

- Joint Animal Services (JAS) is the animal shelter and control agency for the cities of Lacey, Tumwater, and Olympia, and unincorporated Thurston County.
- JAS has outgrown the space, and a recent study found the facility is failing and requires significant investment to maintain.
- A space needs assessment will take place in early 2025 which will determine facility needs and construction costs.
- Olympia supports the JAS request of \$2M for facility design services.



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