



2019

Legislative Session

City Priorities - Outcomes

The 2019 Legislature took action on AWC's priorities this session, with pros and cons for cities.



Support economic development tools to encourage job creation and economic growth

PRO – Passed **SB 5511**, creating new tools and resources for expanding broadband access in unserved areas of the state.

CON – Failed to pass **SB 5564** for a new infrastructure financing tool to support economic development.



Keep the Public Works Trust Fund in working order

PRO – Passed a capital budget that funds \$95 million in project loans for the Public Works Trust Fund.

CON – Continued diversions from the PWTF, including a \$160 million transfer to the Education Legacy Account and \$21.5 million for a new statewide broadband program.

CON – Revised statutory allocation amounts from graduated state REET in **SB 5998**, effectively capping the distribution amounts instead of allowing them to grow as a proportional share of the increase in REET to rebuild the PWTF.

CON – Failed to pass proposals to end revenue diversions and restore funding to the PWTF:

- **HB 1680 / SB 5952** to restore funding for housing infrastructure
- **HB 1691** to restore funding for culverts
- **SB 5788** to restore funding for both housing infrastructure and culverts



Invest in affordable housing

PRO – Invested \$175 million in the Housing Trust Fund, a significant increase from the previous biennium for this critical housing program.

PRO – Created a \$26 million annual local government revenue sharing tool (**HB 1406**).

PRO – Passed **HB 1923**, a voluntary and incentive-based proposal to promote urban density and infill.

PRO – Extended local authority to use REET for affordable housing (**HB 1219**).

PRO – Passed **SB 5334**, condominium liability reform to remove barriers to this housing option.

PRO – Funded a study of shared housing opportunities.

CON – Failed to pass a \$1.5 million annual sales tax reinvestment program for multifamily housing (**HB 1938**).

CON – Failed to authorize smaller cities to use the multifamily tax exemption program (**SB 5366**).



Fund a systems approach to correct fish-blocking culverts

PRO – Funded the Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB) at \$26.5 million. While significantly less than the \$50 million requested, this funding exceeds that of the last biennium and will allow the FBRB to continue to make progress on a coordinated, watershed approach for local and state-owned culvert corrections.

more outcomes on back

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PRO – Directed the Washington State Department of Transportation, in complying with a federal court-ordered injunction, to coordinate with the FBRB to maximize habitat improvements by replacing both state and local culverts based on a watershed approach.

CON – Did not establish a permanent framework to address all fish-blocking culverts. Although proviso language to ensure a robust plan to address local culverts was proposed, it was not adopted.



Provide responsive funding for the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC)

PRO – Funded 19 Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) classes per year, as requested. In addition, funded seven Corrections Officer Academy classes in the first year of the biennium and six in the second year.

CON – Failed to pass a proposal to reduce the maximum BLEA wait time from six months to two months (**HB 1253/SB 5944**).



Address a failing behavioral health system

PRO – Passed **SB 5444**, the *Trueblood* bill that establishes forensic navigators to assist individuals referred for a competency evaluation and help coordinate community services for individuals ordered to receive outpatient competency restoration.

PRO – Funded the co-response program to provide a mental health professional to assist law enforcement; \$3 million to implement the program in underserved areas and \$1 million to support existing programs.

PRO – Passed **HB 1767**, creating a grant program administered through the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs to help identify individuals with substance use disorders and other behavioral health needs at the time of arrest or incarceration, and engage those persons with therapeutic interventions and other services. Provided \$2.2 million dollars in funding.

PRO – Passed **SB 5380** to provide a statewide approach to the Opioid Use Disorder (OUD).

CON – Failed to provide funding for jails to provide Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) services for persons suffering from OUD.



Other outcomes: State shared revenues and city finances

PRO – Fully funded state shared revenues for Liquor Profits, Liquor Taxes, Municipal Criminal Justice Assistance, Fire Insurance Premium Taxes, City-County (6050) Assistance, and Streamlined Sales Tax (SST) Mitigation.

PRO – Funded continued SST mitigation for jurisdictions most negatively impacted after October 2019.

PRO – Passed **SB 5581** aligning the Department of Revenue's regulatory changes with the United States Supreme Court's decision in *South Dakota v. Wayfair*, increasing sales tax revenues for the state and cities.

PRO – Passed a Model Toxics Control Act reform bill (**SB 5993**), creating a \$63 million per biennium in dedicated funding for local stormwater assistance; the bill also stabilizes the funding source and provides more resources for toxic cleanup sites.

PRO – Passed **HB 1667**, making public record grant and technical assistance programs permanent.

PRO – Created greater public works contracting flexibility by raising bid limits for cities (**SB 5418**).

CON – Funded Marijuana Excise Tax distributions at last biennium's level of \$30 million, instead of planned increase to \$40 million when distribution allocations were established in 2015.

CON – Transferred \$300 million from the LEOFF 2 pension account to the Benefits Improvement Account to fund new, increased pension benefits at the expense of funding current benefits (**HB 2144**).

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