



2023 Legislative Priorities



Deschutes Estuary Restoration Funding

Olympia supports the Department of Enterprise Services State funding request for the design and construction of the Deschutes Estuary Alternative as identified in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the long-term management of the waterbody currently known as Capitol Lake.

Further Legislative Action Related to Climate Change and Statewide Climate Justice Initiatives

The City supports use of Climate Commitment Act (CCA) funding for programs that substantially cut climate pollution and reduce cost burden including:

- A building electrification program to help residents and building owners transition to all-electric buildings, with an emphasis on ensuring low and moderate income residents, multifamily housing, and small businesses are prioritized.
- A point-of-sale vehicle incentive program for zero emission medium and heavy-duty vehicles, with an emphasis on small business and high-polluting sectors.

Further State Resources and Support to Address Homelessness and Affordable Housing

Olympia has the highest percentage of rent-burdened households and the highest concentration of Thurston County's homeless. The City supports:

- Continued State support for the operation and management of permanent supportive housing sites.

- The creation of new tools, incentives, revenues and resources that cities can use to increase affordable housing supply, including statewide Missing Middle Housing and condo ownership.
- State leadership and support for renter/tenant protections, including rent stabilization and tenant screening.
- State resources for low and moderate income community members to achieve housing stability and pathways to homeownership.

Support for Mental Health and Behavioral Health Resources

- Further State leadership and funding to expand and create better access to community based mental health and behavioral health resources.
- State investments in education funding for professionals to enter the mental health and behavioral health fields.

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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Supported Climate Change and Climate Justice Initiatives, continued

- Updates to land use planning that take into consideration climate change and resiliency.
- State funding for cities and counties to address climate mitigation and resilience within their comprehensive plans.
- Legislation that reduces packaging and plastics, as well as improves recycling markets in Washington State.

Support for Tax Structure Reform

- Making the Washington State tax code more fair, adequate, stable, and transparent.
- Improving Washington State's tax structure to benefit individuals, families, and businesses in Washington State.

Funding Support for Implementation of Public Safety Reforms

- Funding to help cities with resources related to the ongoing implementation of unfunded and mandated public safety reforms (ie body cameras, Blake decision, etc.)

Further Legislative Action to Reduce Gun Violence

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

Support for \$4.5M in Grants for Parks Projects

- Several Olympia Parks projects have been included in the ranked list of projects totaling \$3.5M that will be recommended for inclusion in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Budget. The funding would support the development of Yelm Highway Park and improvements to Kaiser Woods.
- The Armory has been included in the ranked list of projects totaling \$1M that will be recommended for inclusion in the Washington State Historical Society's Budget. The funding would support critical code improvements, stabilize the building envelope and better ADA accessibility.

