

# Olympia's 2021 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 visitors who work, shop, and dine in our downtown.

## Olympia City Council

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## Administration

Jay Burney, City Manager  
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## 2021 Legislative Priorities:

### Additional 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 concentration of unhoused individuals in Thurston County.
- State leadership and support for renter/tenant protections, including rent control.
- Support for use of state property for the homeless and the state to manage encampments on their properties without the use of local jurisdiction resources.
- Further state leadership for mental health and chemical dependency resources.
- The City supports an amendment to the Residential Landlord-Tenant Act, specifically section RCW 59.18.040(1) exempting facilities established and operated by religious organizations and government entities.

### 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.
- State funding support is needed to help advance local climate mitigation and adaptation efforts identified in the Regional Climate Mitigation Plan.

### \$6 Million for Design and Right-of-Way Acquisition for New US 101 Interchange Ramps in West Olympia

- The Cooper Point Road/Black Lake Boulevard intersection is failing, hindering access to Capital Medical Center and other emergency medical facilities.
- Addressing congestion in this area requires more access from US 101 to West Olympia.
- The interchange ramps are Olympia's highest priority for capital transportation funds. The City has already spent \$2M on this project.

### Clarification and Strengthening of Statute Regarding Unauthorized Military Organizations and Support for Action Related to Regulation of Firearms for Local Governments

- Throughout 2020, armed groups have posed a threat to the safety of City residents and those who peacefully assemble in our streets and on the Capitol Campus.
- The City wants a change in state law that provides clarification as to what constitutes a militia and harsher punishments for those who participate in such unauthorized organizations.
  - Currently, RCW 38.40.120 is only a misdemeanor punishable by up to ninety days in jail or a fine up to \$1,000 or fine and imprisonment.
- The City supports action related to expanding local government authority to regulate firearms.

## OTHER PRIORITIES IMPORTANT TO OLYMPIA

### **\$3 Million for the Future purchase of National Guard Armory Located at 512 Eastside Street**

- The City would like financial support for the future purchase and renovation of the Armory or have it donated to the City as a proviso.

### **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.

### **Tax Increment Financing**

- The City supports Tax Increment Financing (TIF), to help fund infrastructure, accelerate economic development and job growth.
- Washington is one of only two states that does not have TIF authority for local communities.
- TIF uses anticipated future increases in tax revenues to generate incremental tax revenues from a specific development project or projects across a designated district to help pay for current costs associated with development.

### **Solid Waste Reduction**

The City is interested in legislation that reduces packaging and plastics, as well as improves recycling markets in Washington State.

### **Funding for Key Parks Grant Programs**

- The City supports the Washington Recreation and Parks Association's request for robust investments in grant programs in the 2021-23 Capital Budget critical for the vitality of local parks and recreation.
- This biennium includes four City applications representing over \$2M in funding requests from Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and the Youth Athletic Facilities program.

### **\$5 Million to Close Funding Gap for Fones Road Improvements**

- This \$16M project reconstructs a key corridor with a wide mix of uses; addresses failing pavement conditions; significantly improves pedestrian & cyclist safety; addresses traffic congestion and freight mobility needs.

### **Funding for Shovel Ready Capital Projects**

- **Karen Fraser Woodland Trail Phase III Development Project \$5.1M** – provides the long-awaited extension of the Karen Fraser Woodland Trail from Eastside Street through Watershed Park to Henderson Blvd. This is a critical next step in connecting this regional trail network to Tumwater.
- **Grass Lake Nature Trail Completion & Access Project - \$1.2M to close funding gap** – Received partial funding from a 2018 RCO Trails grant. This allocation would allow full funding for the project as designed, adding critical ADA and pedestrian safety upgrades.
- **Lions Park Sprayground Project – \$700K to close funding gap** - RCO Local Parks grant has allowed this project to begin construction in fall 2021. Due to limited resources the current project scope only includes frontage improvements along Wilson St. Additional funding would allow us to provide similar improvements on Frederick St., 7th, and 9th.
- **Yauger Park ADA Upgrades and Field Renovations - \$600K**– Initially built in 1982, this heavily used softball complex needs new backstops, field lights, safety fencing, and ADA upgrades throughout the park.

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