



2024 Legislative Priorities



TAX REFORM

Revise the Arbitrary Property Tax Cap

- 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.
- Fix the structural deficit in the city revenue and expenditure model created by the current 1% cap, resulting in a reliance on regressive revenues and artificially restricting the use of property taxes to fund basic services like police, fire, streets, and community amenities like parks.

Address Regressive Revenue Options

- Efforts to review and revise both state and local tax structures to provide less regressive revenue options to Making the Washington State tax code more fair, adequate, stable, and transparent.
- Changes to the state tax structure that would not negatively impact cities' revenue flexibility to address community needs.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY LIVABILITY

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.

Resources to Address Homelessness

- Continued State support for the operation and management of permanent supportive housing sites.
- Continued State support for the Rights-of-Way Safety Initiative to include city owned Rights-of-Way.

Resources to Support Affordable Housing

- The creation of new tools, incentives, revenues and resources to increase affordable housing supply, including an approach to transit-oriented development density increases that:
 - Address affordable housing needs.
 - Reflects existing and future community transportation modes.
 - Maintains consistency with local community development needs and promotes multi-modal access to services.
 - Removes barriers to condominium development and ownership.
- State leadership and support for renter/tenant protections, including rent stabilization and tenant screening.
- State resources for moderate and low-income community members to achieve housing stability and pathways to homeownership.
- Support for State funding to South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity to close the funding gap for the Boulevard Road affordable home ownership project.

Olympia City Council

Cheryl Selby, Mayor
Clark Gilman, Mayor Pro Tem
Jim Cooper
Yến Huỳnh
Dani Madrone
Lisa Parshley
Dontae Payne

Contact City Council

Susan Grisham, Legislative Liaison
360.753.8244
citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us

Parking Services

360.753.8017
parkingservices@ci.olympia.wa.us

Administration

Jay Burney, City Manager
360.753.8740 | jburney@ci.olympia.wa.us
Debbie Sullivan, Asst. City Manager
360.753.8499 | dsulliva@ci.olympia.wa.us
Rich Hoey, Asst. City Manager
360.753.8227 | rhoey@ci.olympia.wa.us

CLIMATE

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

- The use of Climate Commitment Act (CCA) funding for statewide and community based programs that substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with an emphasis on hard-to-decarbonize sectors, as well as low- and moderate-income residents, multifamily housing, and small businesses.
- Actions by the State Legislature to prohibit the extension of new natural gas service and require gas companies to plan for decarbonization and electrification
- Establish a statewide Navigator program (HB 1391) 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.

Expand Mental Health and Behavioral Health Resources

- Create greater access to community based mental health and behavioral health resources, to include substance use disorder treatment and dual diagnosis treatment facilities.
- Increased funding to help expand crisis response, co-responder programs, diversion and other programs that provide options beyond law enforcement to assist individuals experiencing behavioral health challenges.
- Increased support to improve workforce and staffing at community treatment centers and to expand treatment facilities; including education funding for professionals to enter the mental health and behavioral health fields.
- 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.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

Further Support Regarding Public Safety Reforms

- Direct funding to offset cities' costs for implementing the new Blake/drug possession law—including staffing, law enforcement assisted diversion, co-responder teams, therapeutic courts, and diversion programs.

OTHER ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO OLYMPIA

- Abatement and remediation of housing that were once sites of methamphetamine labs.
- Continued protections related to reproductive and gender affirming healthcare.



Olympia City Hall
601 4th Ave E
Olympia, WA 98507-1967
olympiawa.gov