

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**  
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

<b>AGENDA TITLE:</b> 2009 Draft Legislative Priorities
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> City Manager's Office
<b>PRESENTED BY:</b> Scott MacColl, Intergovernmental Programs Manager

**PROBLEM / ISSUE STATEMENT**

The 2009 Legislative Session begins January 12th and marks the beginning of the 2009-2010 Biennium. The state budgets biennially, so the Governor will present a two-year budget for the Legislature's consideration. Council reviewed the draft 2009 Statement of Legislative Priorities at the October 27<sup>th</sup> Council Dinner Meeting and proposed changes. Based on your input and discussion, staff proposes the following legislative priorities for your approval which, once adopted, provide policy direction to guide staff in determining support or opposition to specific legislation.

The City actively monitors legislative proposals at the state level, as our success in advancing the City's position in Olympia depends on providing accurate and timely information to Legislators and their staff that illustrate the impacts of pending legislation on Shoreline. The City continues to work with the Association of Washington Cities (AWC), which provides a consistent voice and a strong presence for cities in Olympia. The City also continues to work with the National League of Cities (NLC) in a similar fashion on federal issues.

Staff utilizes these priorities to determine whether the City supports or opposes specific legislation and amendments. Key pieces of legislation that do not fall under the Council's Legislative Priorities will be presented to the Council for review. However, legislation changes very rapidly, sometimes within hours, and there usually is not time to review changes with the Council. The legislative priorities are therefore primarily drafted as general policy positions to provide staff and our council representatives the flexibility to respond quickly to requests for information or input.

**BLEAK FINANCIAL OUTLOOK**

At the state level, the Governor is facing an approximately \$3.2 billion shortfall for the coming biennium, which will pressure the Governor to tap the Rainy Day fund that voters passed and the Governor contributed to last year. Once the Legislative Session begins, the House and Senate create their own alternative budgets which are used to negotiate a compromise budget between the Legislature and the Governor. The operating budget omnibus bill is usually the final piece of legislative business prior to adjournment.

In addition to the state's budget restraints, Cities and Counties are also facing tremendous financial strain to maintain basic services, both locally and statewide. King County's budget shortfall of approximately \$90 million for this year, and possibly more next year, requires budget cuts that will affect all King County Cities.

Local jurisdictions, including King County, are going to ask the State Legislature for financial assistance and changes in state statutes to enable financial stability. Therefore, this year's priorities include support for proposals from other jurisdictions that would also benefit Shoreline.

## **KEY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2009**

### **General Priorities**

- Support greater fiscal flexibility with existing resources.
- Support increased infrastructure funding for economic development, and to repair and maintain utilities, streets and sidewalks.
- Support legislative opportunities to increase affordable housing.
- Oppose any state preemption of local government authority to manage and franchise local public rights-of-way.
- Support legislation to improve environmental sustainability including, but not limited to, increased transit, carbon emission reduction, energy efficiency, alternative clean energy generation and improved surface water quality and habitat restoration.
- Opposed unfunded mandates that would result in loss of existing revenue or revenue authority.
- Oppose any additional restrictions on a city's legal authority

### **Specific Priorities**

- Pursue Funding for the City's Capital Improvement Projects.
  - \$100,000 for Solar Voltaic Demonstration Project
  - \$100,000 for Green Street Project
  - Support Proposed WSDOT Funding for the Aurora Corridor Project
- Support increased funding in the Public Works Trust Fund

- Advocate for health/human services legislation to ensure maintenance of the safety net for our most vulnerable residents and oppose legislation that would shift costs and responsibilities for these programs to cities and/or school districts without appropriate funding.
- Oppose the removal of 'non-supplanting' language in voter-approved levies and bond measures
- Oppose changes to the water/sewer district assumption statutes.
- Work with the State to ensure City participation in the redevelopment or other activities related to future uses of any surplus property on the Fircrest campus.

**Other Jurisdictions we support:**

- King County – authority to levy a utility tax on unincorporated areas
- Seattle/King County Public Health – authority for a dedicated revenue stream to ensure continued service.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that Council adopt the proposed Statement of Legislative Priorities.

Approved By:      City Manager  City Attorney \_\_\_\_

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