

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

<p><b>AGENDA TITLE:</b> 2010 Legislative Priorities <b>DEPARTMENT:</b> City Manager's Office <b>PRESENTED BY:</b> Scott MacColl, Intergovernmental Programs Manager</p>
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**PROBLEM / ISSUE STATEMENT**

The 2010 legislative session begins January 11th for the mid-biennium short session (60 days). The Legislature passed a biennial budget last year, however State revenues continue to fall and the State is approximately \$2.5 billion short. Therefore, the Governor has proposed a mid-biennium budget adjustment that addresses that shortfall and makes deep cuts in services. However, the Governor has indicated that she will present a revised proposal this week that includes new revenues.

Council reviewed the draft 2010 Statement of Legislative Priorities at the November 23rd Council Dinner Meeting and suggested minor changes (highlighted in yellow). This draft was presented to the new City Council on January 4<sup>th</sup> for review, discussion, and any final modifications. This staff report has been prepared prior to the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, so any changes from that date have not been incorporated. If there are changes these will be forwarded to Council under separate cover prior to the January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Once adopted this will provide 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 additional \$2.5 billion shortfall after cutting approximately \$3.2 billion in last year's budget. In order to balance the budget, the Governor has proposed cutting entire programs, such as basic health care. The Governor also plans to propose an alternative budget that includes new revenues to fund some of the programs that would be otherwise cut.

Once the 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 sine die.

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 2010 budget cut approximately \$45 million, which will affect all King County cities.

## **CITY OF SHORELINE 2010 KEY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

### **General Priorities**

- Support greater fiscal flexibility with existing resources.
- Support increased infrastructure funding for economic development, and to repair and maintain parks, 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, transit oriented development at transit stations, carbon emission reduction, energy efficiency, alternative clean energy generation and improved surface water quality and habitat restoration.
- Support Green Jobs and related workforce training through Shoreline Community College
- 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

- Support funding to meet local and regional stormwater requirements
- 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 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.
- Clarify data retention requirements

## RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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