

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Adopting the 2019 State Legislative Priorities		
DEPARTMENT:	City Manager's Office		
PRESENTED BY:	Jim Hammond, Intergovernmental Program Manager		
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion
	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

Staff has drafted proposed 2019 Legislative Priorities for the upcoming State Legislative Session. For these Priorities, staff proposes continuing the request for local government financial sustainability and flexibility; continuing support for dedicated state revenues for the human services safety net, including affordable housing, homelessness services, and the behavioral health and chemical dependency systems; advocating for a system-wide approach to addressing fish-blocking culverts that includes funding for local government participation; and supporting changes to state law that encourage the construction of affordable condominiums while maintaining consumer protections.

At its November 26th meeting, the City Council reviewed and discussed the proposed 2019 Legislative Priorities. Pursuant to Council direction, staff has revised the Priorities. Tonight, Council is scheduled to adopt the 2019 Legislative Priorities.

RESOURCES/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This item has no direct financial impact.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the 2019 Legislative Priorities.

Approved By: City Manager **DT** City Attorney **MK**

BACKGROUND

2019 is the start of the 2019-2021 biennium, or 'long' session, which is scheduled to last 105 days. The City's legislative priorities provide policy direction in a highly fluid and dynamic legislative environment. They guide staff in determining whether the City supports or opposes specific legislation and amendments in Olympia during the legislative session. The City actively monitors legislative proposals at the state level, as success in advancing the City's position in Olympia depends on providing accurate and timely information to Legislators and their staff that illustrates the impacts of pending legislation on Shoreline.

The legislative priorities are the general policy positions that provide staff and Council representatives the flexibility to respond to requests for information and input. Key topics of legislation that do not fall under the adopted Legislative Priorities will be presented to the Council in regular briefings. The City also continues to partner with the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and Sound Cities Association (SCA), which provides a consistent voice and a strong presence for cities in Olympia.

At its November 26th meeting, the City Council reviewed and discussed the proposed 2019 Legislative Priorities ("Priorities"). The staff report for this November 26th Council discussion can be found at the following link:

<http://cosweb.ci.shoreline.wa.us/uploads/attachments/cck/council/staffreports/2018/staffreport112618-8b.pdf>.

Pursuant to Council direction, staff has revised the Priorities, which are attached to this staff report as Attachment A.

DISCUSSION

At its November 26th meeting, the City Council provided clear direction to staff on refinements to the Priorities. This direction included strong support for revision to the current condominium liability laws and a desire to emphasize council support for measures relating to the environment and sustainability.

Council also provided direction in terms of communications and the development of written collateral that can be used during the legislative session. Council also reinforced the importance of alignment between staff representations in regard to specific projects and Council direction relating to same. Finally, Council expressed interest in measures relating to sales taxes levied on non-prescription medicines and hygiene items.

In response to Council direction, staff have reorganized the Priorities and have added statements of priority relating to the environment and sustainability, as well as monitoring sales tax developments. So that Council can see these proposed changes, Attachment B to this staff report provides a tracked-changes version of the Priorities.

RESOURCES/FINANCIAL IMPACT

This item has no direct financial impact.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council move to adopt the 2019 Legislative Priorities.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Proposed 2019 Legislative Priorities

Attachment B: Proposed 2019 Legislative Priorities with Tracked Changes from
November 26, 2018 Council Discussion



2019 Shoreline Legislative Priorities

Legislative Issues the City Supports:

- State investment and financial support to address homelessness, affordable housing, behavioral health, and chemical dependency services.
- Support changes to the Washington Condominium Act to encourage construction of affordable condominiums while maintaining consumer protections.
- Support Local Government Financial Sustainability and Flexibility:
 - Revise the 1% property tax limitation to allow more flexibility for cities.
 - Increase flexibility on existing revenues to allow cities to meet critical needs.
 - Maintain the state's obligation to share revenues with cities and restore city revenue that has been diverted.
- Support aquatic and salmon habitat protections and improvements in Puget Sound that will preserve and enhance critical habitat areas, including a smart and strategic plan to fix fish blockages, including culverts, reduce risk and damage from polluted stormwater runoff, and help protect and recover the Southern Resident Killer Whales.
- Support legislation that addresses climate change impacts, specifically efforts to reduce transportation emissions through electric vehicle incentives and low carbon fuel and efforts to improve energy efficiency in buildings.
- Enhance economic development tools that support reinvestment in local infrastructure.

Shoreline-Specific Interests:

- Maintain project visibility for the N 145th Street/I-5 Interchange as a strong candidate for any state transportation package.
- Pursue funding support for a non-motorized ped/bike bridge to integrate connections to the Shoreline South/145th Street light rail station and for a new Community and Aquatics Center.
- Monitor activity both in the legislature and executive branch relating to Fircrest operations and the potential for redevelopment of underutilized property on the campus.
- Monitor activity relating to removal of sales tax for non-prescription medicines and hygiene products.



2019 Shoreline Legislative Priorities [DRAFT]

Legislative Issues the City Supports:

- ~~● Support Local Government Financial Sustainability and Flexibility:
 - ~~○ Revise the 1% property tax limitation to allow more flexibility for cities.~~
 - ~~○ Increase flexibility on existing revenues to allow cities to meet critical needs.~~
 - ~~○ Maintain the state's obligation to share revenues with cities and restore city revenue that has been diverted.~~
 - ~~○ Full and adequate funding to meet the State's obligation for the Law Enforcement and Corrections Officer Academies.~~~~
- State investment and financial support to address homelessness, affordable housing, behavioral health, and chemical dependency services.
- Support changes to the Washington Condominium Act to encourage construction of affordable condominiums while maintaining consumer protections.
- Support Local Government Financial Sustainability and Flexibility:
 - Revise the 1% property tax limitation to allow more flexibility for cities.
 - Increase flexibility on existing revenues to allow cities to meet critical needs.
 - Maintain the state's obligation to share revenues with cities and restore city revenue that has been diverted.
- Support aquatic and salmon habitat protections and improvements in Puget Sound that will preserve and enhance critical habitat areas, including a smart and strategic plan to fix fish blockages, including culverts, reduce risk and damage from polluted stormwater runoff, and help protect and recover the Southern Resident Killer Whales.
- Support legislation that addresses climate change impacts, specifically efforts to reduce transportation emissions through electric vehicle incentives and low carbon fuel and efforts to improve energy efficiency in buildings.
- ~~● Develop a systems-wide approach to correct fish-blocking culverts that includes funding for local governments.~~
- Enhance economic development tools that support reinvestment in local infrastructure.

- ~~• Support changes to the Washington Condominium Act to encourage construction of affordable condominiums while maintaining consumer protections.~~

Shoreline-Specific ~~Project~~ Interests:

- Maintain project visibility for the N 145th Street/I-5 Interchange as a strong candidate for any state transportation package.
- Pursue funding support for a non-motorized pedestrian/bicycled/bike bridge to integrate connections to the Shoreline South/145th Street light rail station and for a new Community and Aquatics Center.
- Monitor activity both in the legislature and executive branch relating to Fircrest operations and the potential for redevelopment of underutilized property on the campus.
- Monitor activity relating to removal of sales tax for non-prescription medicines and hygiene products.

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