

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Adoption of the 2023 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:

Tonight, Council is scheduled to adopt the City's 2023 State Legislative Priorities. For 2023, staff proposes to seek and support state funding for key investments in Shoreline's neighborhood park system; capital and other costs to stand up a Crisis Receiving Center in north King County; as well as increased funding and legislative guidance needed to enable Shoreline and other cities to effectively comply with the *Blake* decision.

In terms of additional policy goals, staff proposes to engage our legislature in order to:

- Support legislation that advances efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector and across all other sectors.
- Effectively direct state and federal resources toward effective on-the-ground implementation of key climate action steps, such and electrification of buildings and vehicles.
- Advocate for state/local collaboration on a watershed-based approach to improving fish-blocking culverts, including improved coordination and funding.
- Improve local government financial sustainability and flexibility, with secure funding sources that rely less on regressive revenue options.
- Support efforts to continue to address homelessness and affordable housing, including enhanced protection for tenants, equitable access to housing, and support for local efforts to accommodate additional housing development, including affordable housing.

Council discussed these priorities on November 14 and directed staff to add one item, which is reflected in the priorities to be adopted tonight.

RESOURCES/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This item has no direct financial impact.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the 2023 State Legislative Priorities.

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

BACKGROUND

The upcoming 2023 legislative session is the first year of the State's 2023-2024 biennium, or "long" legislative 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), each of which provides a consistent voice and a strong presence for cities in Olympia.

At its November 14th meeting, the City Council reviewed and discussed the proposed 2023 State Legislative Priorities. The staff report for this November 8th Council discussion can be found at the following link: [Discussing the 2023 State Legislative Priorities](#).

DISCUSSION

During the course of the November 14th Council discussion of the draft 2023 State Legislative Priorities, Council directed staff to add to the Priorities. Specifically, Council wished to maintain support for its effort to establish a community pool that could serve Shoreline residents.

Per the request from Council, staff drafted the following priority, which has been added as seen in Attachment A: "Maintain visibility of the need for a community pool that can serve Shoreline residents and explore opportunities for advancing funding."

Tonight, Council is scheduled to adopt the City's 2023 State Legislative Priorities.

RESOURCES/FINANCIAL IMPACT

This item has no direct financial impact.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the 2023 State Legislative Priorities.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: 2023 State Legislative Priorities



City of Shoreline 2023 State Legislative Priorities

Shoreline-Specific Priorities:

- Seek Local/Community Project funding in the Capital Budget for important improvements in Shoreline parks, including renovation of outdated public restrooms at key park facilities, design of three new neighborhood parks, and improved accessibility to Richmond Beach Community Park.
- Seek funding, as part of a five-city coalition, for capital and start-up costs for the North King County Crisis Receiving Center that will provide comprehensive behavioral health crisis care and support the efforts of first responders and crisis response staff.
- Maintain visibility of the need for a community pool that can serve Shoreline residents and explore opportunities for advancing funding.

Legislative Issues the City Supports:

- Support legislation that better enables the City to comply with the *Blake* decision, including:
 - Funding support for required changes to criminal justice operations, such as conviction vacations, financial repayments, diversion programs and municipal court changes;
 - Funding for behavioral health-oriented community responders, as well as associated facilities that support treatment and crisis response;
 - Clarification of the crime of possession and modification of the current referral requirement system.
- Support legislation that reduces greenhouse gas emissions addresses climate change impacts, across all sectors, and promotes sustainable practices.
- Support efforts to direct state and federal climate action resources, including funding from the state Climate Commitment Act and federal Inflation Reduction Act, toward on-the-ground implementation of local climate action in key sectors, such as building electrification and electric vehicle adoption.

- Continue to advance a watershed-based approach and strategic plan to address local fish-blocking culverts along with state culverts; seek state resources to correct locally owned culverts as a part of the state's overall resolution to the culvert injunction.
- Continue to support legislation that addresses homelessness and increase equitable access to housing through such actions as measures that strengthen and better enforce statewide renter protections, as well as incentives and support for local efforts to accommodate additional housing development, including affordable housing.
- Identify sustainable, ongoing transportation funding options for local jurisdictions, including Road Usage Charge with flexibility to use the funding that meets each community's specific needs.
- Preserve City fiscal health with secure funding sources, including:
 - Efforts to review and revise both state and local tax structures so they rely less on regressive revenue options, without negatively impacting local revenue authority.
 - Removal of the existing 1% property tax limitation, or revision that indexes it to inflation, population growth, or some related indicator.
- Support ongoing state funding for local park maintenance and operations needs.