

Association of Washington Cities

Statement of Policy & Resolutions 2010-11



Preface

AWC's legislative process is a two year process. AWC's Resolutions Committee reviews and proposes changes to the AWC Statement of Policy (at least every six years) and Resolutions (in even-numbered years). The 2010 Resolutions Committee recommended changes to the Statement of Policy's Preamble – adding more information about the role of cities and current economic conditions – and drafted a new set of Resolutions.

On Friday, June 25, 2010 the AWC membership adopted the following Statement of Policy and Resolutions for 2010-11. This document outlines the positions held by AWC on issues of importance to cities and towns. It serves as the basis for development of specific legislative proposals on adoption of positions on other issues.

The Legislative Committee will make specific legislative proposals in the fall of 2010 and again in 2011. In December of each year, the AWC Board will review their recommendations and adopt the legislative priorities for AWC for the 2011 and 2012 legislative sessions respectively.

If you have any questions about AWC's legislative policy development process or a specific issue, please feel free to contact me or one of state and federal relations staff members (see the last page of this document for contact information).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike McCarty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "McCarty" clearly distinguishable.

Mike McCarty
Chief Executive Officer
Association of Washington Cities

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Statement of Policy

Preamble

This Statement of Policy of the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) serves as the foundation for our general principles. These principles guide the actions of the AWC Board, Officers, committees and staff in building stronger municipal governments in order to enhance the quality of life of all citizens. For purposes of this document, “cities” means both cities and towns.

Whether small rural towns or large urban cities, Washington’s 281 cities are home to 62 percent of the state’s population. From coastline communities that boast international ports to inland communities that are home to cutting-edge industries, and from quaint-residential towns to tourist villas, cities are the bedrock of entrepreneurial activity that provide a high quality of life.

City government offers specific services that are defined by state and federal laws and are a reflection of their citizens’ demands. These essential services include:

- Public safety and security – protecting residents and businesses through employment of 69 percent of the state’s local law enforcement and 66 percent of fire personnel.
- Streets – constructing and maintaining streets over which one-quarter of all the state’s traffic is carried.
- Water, sewer and stormwater – providing dependable utility services for millions of residents and businesses.
- Parks, libraries and recreation activities – enhancing cities with quality of life opportunities that keep communities healthy and engaged.

- Permitting and licensing – ensuring public safety and shaping livable and vibrant communities.
- Affordable housing and human services – supporting affordable and diverse housing options and integration of housing and human service resources.

In recent years cities have struggled to maintain essential and citizen demanded services. Many cities face significant budget shortfalls and critical services are in jeopardy. The implications of this financial crisis have been felt across Washington State. Erosion of services threatens our economic vitality, public health and safety, and quality of life.

While in 2008, 37 percent of cities indicated they were less able to meet financial needs than in the past, that figure grew to 63 percent in 2009. Unfortunately that number continues to grow.

Cities in Washington are doing all they can to meet the recession’s challenges, but it is an uphill struggle. The underlying fiscal imbalance of city budgets must be remedied to create a sound foundation for economic recovery and growth.

Cities are characterized as much by their differences as by their similarities. AWC supports home-rule authority that guarantees local decision making authority and optimal flexibility for matters of local concern.

Every city should be assured of sufficient fiscal capacity to provide for the delivery of basic services to their citizens.

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Preamble *con't*

Cities have limited fiscal capacity. Unfunded and under-funded mandates reduce the ability to provide needed services.

Governmental challenges are best addressed through the cooperative efforts of private and public parties. Reasoned examination and discussion can advance the legitimate interests of each of the parties, generate creative solutions and provide opportunities for resolving disputes.

AWC is committed to the principles of civil equality, access to quality education, fairness, and respect for diversity. We respect the different perspectives and beliefs of our citizenry and encourage participation by all citizens in the decision-making process at all levels of government.

AWC supports the ability of communities to provide the fine and performing arts, the humanities, and the preservation of the historical and cultural heritage in order to enhance the quality of life in cities.

Economic Development

The ability of cities to provide municipal services and maintain community viability is dependent upon a healthy local economy. Cities need economic development tools that assist in maintaining, expanding, and diversifying local economies. These tools must include appropriate state infrastructure programs and flexible local options, and each city should have equal access to such tools.

The Legislature should recognize the importance of cities to the state's economic health and partner with cities when advancing economic development objectives.

AWC supports:

- A menu of economic development tools cities may use to meet the jurisdictions' diverse needs, and an on-going program of state technical assistance.
- Financial support for economic diversification in cities adversely impacted by unique local conditions, or the elimination or downsizing of public or private employment opportunities.

Energy & Telecommunications

AWC acknowledges the importance of energy and telecommunications policies that protect and enhance local government authority.

AWC supports:

- The operation of municipal electric, natural gas, and communications systems.
- The goal of achieving increased energy efficiency.

Environment

Local officials place high importance on protecting and enhancing the environment in order to maintain the quality of life for both current and future generations.

Preserving our natural resources must be done in concert with providing adequate economic opportunities.

Federal, state and county agencies relying upon city actions to protect the environment must adequately support cities with funding and technical support tailored to fit local needs and circumstances.

Water Quality and Quantity

AWC supports:

- Protection and preservation of municipal water rights and drinking water sources, and affirmation of the needs of growing communities to have sufficient resources to efficiently serve expanding populations.
- Planning for and implementation of water quality programs. Such programs should consider the costs and benefits of implementation for individual communities.

Flood Protection

AWC supports federal and state flood control policies that recognize the role of cities in basin-wide flood protection and acknowledges the needs and constraints of communities of varying sizes and locations.

Solid and Hazardous Waste

AWC supports:

- Waste stream control and recycling options for cities.
- Federal and state funding for the timely clean-up of hazardous waste sites and ongoing efforts to responsibly monitor and inform cities when the transport of hazardous substances could present a danger to citizens.

Clean Air

AWC supports city participation in the establishment and implementation of federal and state policies that impose and maintain air quality levels that protect against adverse effects upon humans, animals, and plants and respond to a changing climate by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Housing

An ample and diverse supply of safe housing is a critical component of a healthy community. Many public and private partners are needed to insure the availability of housing for all citizens including those in need of low income and affordable units. Cities recognize the need to provide housing assistance but require additional financing and land-use tools.

AWC supports:

- Increased resources to address unmet housing needs, including funds for shelters, transitional and/or permanent housing for moderate and low income, homeless, farm worker and special needs populations.
- Expanded use of incentives, land use policies, public education and technical assistance to foster development and retention of affordable housing.

Infrastructure

AWC recognizes that maintaining and investing in infrastructure is necessary for the public safety and economic health of our cities. Maintaining and expanding core infrastructure systems, such as streets, bridges, stormwater, sewer, water utilities, parks, and other public facilities are necessary in order to meet regulatory requirements and enhance the quality of life of our communities.

Transportation

AWC supports:

- The availability of sufficient state and local resources that will fund city transportation needs, including maintenance, upgrades and expansion of their transportation system.
- Regional transportation financing and governance mechanisms that provide for meaningful city participation and an equitable distribution of funding and transportation investments.

Public Works

AWC supports:

- Enabling cities to address public works needs in the most efficient manner possible.
- Sufficient ongoing funding for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and maintenance of infrastructure, including sewer, water, stormwater, and parks and recreational facilities.
- Equal city access to capital assistance funding and programs.

Land Use & Planning

AWC recognizes the benefit of clearly defined state goals that guide local land use, economic development, transportation, and public facility planning, as long as they are implemented through locally-determined processes and regulations. Urban or urbanizing areas require a range of municipal services that are most efficiently provided by cities.

AWC supports:

- Joint planning by cities, counties and special purpose districts in areas subject to future annexation to ensure the consistency of development and efficient provision of services.
- A full array of tools for cities to facilitate annexation of adjacent urbanizing areas.
- State laws that impose minimum construction standards through a uniform building code.
- Local flexibility to amend state codes above minimum standards.

Law & Justice

City officials are best positioned to direct the enforcement efforts that reflect community values and standards to ensure public safety within their boundaries. To achieve this, cities need an adequate array of resources, tools and authority.

AWC supports:

- Meaningful participation in policy decisions related to law and justice services, including law enforcement, jails and courts.

- City authority to determine the appropriate court structure, including authority to determine the best method of judicial selection.
- Innovative and cost-effective solutions and partnerships to assist overburdened local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, and jails to meet the demand for services to offenders, victims and the community.
- Reasonable relief from liability in providing essential criminal justice and other city services.

Municipal Finance

AWC recognizes the differing fiscal needs of the state's cities. Cities should be allowed to develop a revenue structure that best meets their individual circumstances.

Revenue Capacity and Flexibility

AWC supports:

- A variety of revenue sources for cities.
- Flexibility for cities to adopt local option taxes and use those revenues as they determine.
- Sufficient state financial assistance to units of local government to ensure the ability of each city and county to provide basic services.

Federal and state government should review the impact on local government revenues when considering proposals for tax exemptions and explore alternatives that hold local governments harmless or reduce the harmful effects of such exemptions.

State and Federal Facilities

AWC supports:

- Federal assistance that compensates cities for burdens associated with the siting and operations of all federal facilities, and for economic dislocations resulting from the closure of such facilities.
- Reimbursement to cities for services provided to state facilities and for capital improvement costs necessary to serve state facilities.

Personnel & Labor Relations

Personnel-related expenses account for a substantial portion of municipal expenditures. Cities should be given broad discretion to manage their work forces.

Local Control

The state and federal government should:

- Eliminate unneeded and duplicative personnel regulations.
- Ensure cities have broad latitude to contract out work or use internal staff in order to provide the service or program in the most efficient fashion.

AWC opposes any state or federal mandate or standard that requires specified benefit levels for employees or staffing levels that interfere with local government's ability to determine how best to deliver services.

Pensions

AWC supports appropriate pensions at reasonable and predictable contribution rates and costs.

Social & Human Services

Cities agree that the federal, state, and county governments are the primary providers of social and human services. The Association supports those cities that have chosen to provide additional services.

AWC supports those services that promote and encourage self-sufficiency, but recognize some citizens, including children, the elderly, low income, mentally ill, those with physical disabilities and chemically dependant people, may need on-going assistance.

AWC encourages adequate federal and state funding for vital social and human services programs that meet the specific needs of these populations, including child health and welfare programs, affordable child-care, early intervention and prevention programs for at-risk youth, direct assistance and subsistence services, and mental health and substance abuse programs.

Resolutions

City Fiscal Health & Flexibility

Cities continue to experience substantial difficulty in maintaining basic services and meeting the service demands of their citizens. This has been exacerbated by the weak economy. Sales tax losses, property tax limitations, and rising personnel costs including health care and pension obligations, have contributed to the deteriorating fiscal condition of cities. The inability of the current tax structure to accommodate the different needs and economies of cities has also damaged the fiscal health of cities and towns.

Citizens desire quality services and they deserve that tax dollars to be spent efficiently, effectively and on services they deem most important. Service and program demands continue to grow but revenues are insufficient. City officials must be allowed to work with their citizens and allocate revenues as determined locally. These officials should be given broad discretion to utilize existing revenue sources to respond to local challenges. They should also be given broad authority to manage their expenditures including personnel costs. Finally, city officials should be allowed to seek new and innovative strategies and resources to address their citizens' service and program expectations.

In recognition of the need to enhance the fiscal health of cities and towns, AWC shall work to:

- Secure significant flexibility in the local government tax structure that provides an array of revenue choices reflective of local desires.
- Ensure cities are provided broad authority to manage their personnel and personnel-related costs including health care and other benefits.
- Develop and support innovative means to address the fiscal needs of cities and towns that allow for the ongoing delivery of services, the funding of capital improvements and other fiscal needs.
- Provide state funding for cities and towns whose tax base is insufficient to finance basic services.
- Ensure cities are provided greater flexibility with existing revenue sources – capital and operating.
- Secure state assistance in meeting previously mandated benefits including LEOFF I retiree medical and long-term-care costs.
- Ensure local governments have sufficient resources for state mandated pension funding responsibilities.
- Ensure the authority for establishing levels of service appropriate to individual cities and towns is retained and left exclusively to cities and towns.
- Ensure the state appropriately researches and documents the fiscal impact of proposed administrative rules, legislation and certified initiatives impacting local governments. These proposals should not be approved without sufficient financial resources. If approved the state should evaluate and address the impacts on local governments on an on-going basis.

Healthy and Safe Communities

Building healthy and safe communities is the goal of all cities and towns, but local officials face many challenges in achieving this goal.

Encouraging healthy communities means a high quality of life for our residents. Cities can be proactive in promoting wellness among our residents. We need to be able to support programs and activities that encourage healthy communities including substance abuse prevention, mental health care, and community or non-profit public health agencies.

As employers, cities and towns are also responsible for health care for employees and promoting wellness programs within our organizations. We must find new ways to cope with the rising cost of health insurance, especially costs related LEOFF I benefits, so that we can continue to balance the needs of our residents with our responsibilities as employers.

Cities and towns expend substantial resources on law enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical services, prosecution, defense, and jail services. Additionally, adverse liability claims related to these and other services continue to grow. The costs of these services are increasing rapidly as the Legislature creates new penalties, imposes longer sentences, and enhances local responsibilities for supervision, while also limiting local control.

The impacts of drugs and gang related crime continue to plague our cities. Additionally, incarceration costs, especially healthcare costs for inmates, continue to increase.

Emergency management and homeland security responsibilities, including planning, training, communications (including interoperability) and mitigation, increasingly fall on local governments as first responders. Cities and towns need additional support and access to funding to be able to meet these mandates and protect our communities in emergencies.

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Cities and towns continue to support efforts to provide safe and diverse housing options for their residents. Our communities are particularly concerned with insuring safe, crime free rental housing as well as quality affordable housing options for our citizens.

In the past, while cities and towns received limited financial support from the state to assist with law enforcement expenditures, we have considered the state a partner in local government efforts to create healthy and safe communities. However, as state revenues have continue to diminish, that support has been further reduced – shifting responsibilities and the associated costs to already depleted local budgets.

To assist cities and towns in safe and healthy communities,AWC shall work to:

- Encourage full participation by the state and counties in a comprehensive approach to complex social issues such as public health, mental health, substance abuse, health care, homelessness and transitional housing, sex offenders, at-risk youth, and immigration.
- Seek flexibility to provide law enforcement, court, and emergency management services in a manner consistent with local priorities.
- Seek financial and other assistance to address additional capital and operating costs for jails, offender supervision and medical services, law enforcement, criminal justice, homeland security, and interoperable communications.

- Pursue relief from undue and excessive liability exposures.
- Encourage flexibilities and additional tools for cities to support affordable housing options within our communities including access to low income, workforce and special needs housing.
- Support integration of housing and human service resources that can provide a holistic approach to addressing poverty, homelessness, mental health and other human service concerns.

Flexible General Government Operations

Cities are responsible for solving day-to-day public problems and responding directly to the needs of their citizens.

City officials need local decision-making authority and flexibility to make appropriate decisions for their communities.

Because local resources are limited, cities determine their priorities through public involvement and the budgeting process. Unfortunately, cities face numerous challenges as they strive to balance their budgets and meet their citizens' needs. These challenges include: unfunded federal and state mandates, state-wide ballot measures that restrict local revenues, and declining or restrictive revenue sources.

Local government must be able to work with their citizens to set clear policies and develop tools necessary to accomplish the multitude of service responsibilities in a cost-effective, efficient and flexible manner – free from unwarranted restraint.

In addition, cities support a transparent and open government, whether it is public participation in open meetings or the availability of public records. The challenge is to achieve the appropriate balance between ease of access to government information and the full cost and impact on city budgets for records management personnel, retrieval and storage of documents, and legal counsel needed for public meetings and public records.

To assist cities and towns in achieving maximum operational flexibility, AWC shall work to:

- Strongly oppose state and federal unfunded mandates and encourage alternative legislative and administrative solutions. But, we accept our responsibilities when they are accompanied by sufficient financial resources and are compelled by significant public interests.
- Strive to maintain and enhance cities' ability to efficiently and effectively manage personnel and control personnel-related costs.
- Seek an objective review of the impact of statewide ballot measures and initiatives on local governments, both prior to and after passage of such measures.
- Encourage policies that ensure the authority of cities to contract or partner with public and private entities to provide needed services and programs.
- Seek innovative solutions to the burgeoning costs of maintaining a transparent, open government.
- Pursue state and federal telecommunications and utility policies that protect local government authority to manage the rights-of-way, retain franchise authority to ensure build-out and universal service, and protect public access television.

Land Use & Environmental Stewardship

A core function of cities is their ability to plan for, manage and protect land uses and municipal services within their borders. These fundamental activities are frequently the subject of considerable discussion and debate within each community and are undertaken within an increasingly complex array of state and federal laws governing land use and environmental protection.

Washington's cities desire to both maintain and expand opportunities for their citizens to live, work and play in vibrant and healthy communities.

To support cities in fostering land use and environmental stewardship, AWC shall work to:

- Maintain cities' fundamental and basic planning and zoning authorities, including land use or decisions around general aviation airports.
 - Oppose measures that would encroach upon city authority to protect the public interest, health, safety, and welfare.
 - Maintain local discretion as to the intensity and character of growth accommodated within each community.
 - Support ongoing implementation of the Growth Management Act and, where necessary, review the Act to ascertain its effectiveness and if it is meeting its objectives and goals.
 - Assist cities, the Governor, legislators, state agencies and other interests in the evaluation and consideration of opportunities and challenges associated with efforts to address the causes of and impacts from climate change within Washington State and individual communities and regions.
- Develop tools that seek to provide the variety of housing types to meet the varying needs of all cities.
 - Adopt clarifications at the state level to help guide how cities and towns are expected to protect environmental values while providing opportunities for growth and development.
 - Encourage the state to work in partnership with cities, towns and other local governments to help foster healthy and vibrant communities.
 - Ensure that state-administered programs under either the federal Clean Water Act or Endangered Species Act balance the costs of any standards imposed on cities and towns that are in excess of minimum federal regulations and ongoing costs to the environment, with the benefit to people and the environment, and when mandated by federal or state actions, be accompanied by the appropriate level of financial support that recognizes currently constrained federal, state, and local budgets.
 - Ensure that federal and state regulatory authorities recognize regional and local difference in how best to apply and mitigate impacts from their programs or activities.

Economic Development and Quality Infrastructure

Sixty-two percent of Washington's citizens live within cities or towns. In addition, businesses in Washington state's metro areas generate 90 percent of the state's gross domestic product. Nationally, half of working Americans either own or work for a small business, and over the past 15 years, they created 64 percent of net new private sector jobs. As part of the future growth of our state's gross domestic product, much of it will come from small businesses.

Citizens and businesses alike, expect their city to contribute to the health and well being of the community by providing quality transportation, water, wastewater, stormwater, parks and recreation and other infrastructure systems that ensure the delivery of basic services. They often define an effective city as one that is able to encourage sufficient employment opportunities, provide adequate housing and address other facets that enhance their quality of life.

The financing and managing of infrastructure, including transportation, water, wastewater, stormwater, parks and recreation and other capital intensive systems are on-going concerns for cities. Infrastructure and economic development initiatives often compete for the same city dollars that provide for other services such as police and fire protection. Even if these types of infrastructure are managed as enterprise funds, cities are increasingly faced with the challenge of providing basic infrastructure while complying with the many requirements of state and federal mandates. Many cities are at their rate payer limit to finance basic utility infrastructure.

In addition, it is in the state's interest to help cities maintain and develop infrastructure that can serve as a basis for increasing direct revenues to cities while also providing the state with added property and sales tax revenues. As public works become more complex in nature, cities will need more contract management flexibility.

The state's economic crisis has resulted in a substantial contraction of state economic development and infrastructure assistance. Redirecting approximately \$400 million from the Public Works Assistance Account, base level Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) funding, and reduced gas tax revenues has resulted in cancelled or deferred infrastructure investments. In transportation, many cities have simply cancelled their maintenance programs due to lack of funds and will be facing expensive reconstruction costs in the future.

The Legislature has provided approximately \$50 million in one-time funding in recognition of stormwater costs for cities and other local governments. In addition, baby steps continue to be made for urban economic development projects. The 2009 Local Revitalization Financing tool (LRF) enabled a few cities to move forward with state tax credits. The authority was enhanced again in 2010, but will require renewal in 2011 if additional cities are to access this economic development tool.

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In support of economic development measures and quality city infrastructure AWC shall work to:

- Seek increased state financial and other assistance to replace and upgrade aging infrastructure and fund new infrastructure to ensure public health and safety.
- Seek state aid and new tools for infrastructure that drives business development, and recognizes the importance of family wage, community-based jobs.
- Support a periodic review to evaluate the state's infrastructure assistance, and community and economic development programs to ensure both the efficiency and efficacy of the programs.
- Ensure existing local agencies and new infrastructure funding programs, have a primary mission of assisting local governments needs, and any merger or consolidation proposal of local state agencies must be able to demonstrate enhanced or current customer service levels, efficiencies and savings before merging.

- Pursue legislation that increases contract management flexibility and improves the efficiency of capital project delivery.
- Ensure a complete viable infrastructure system that includes traditional infrastructure and 21st century infrastructure, such as telecommunications, to assist economic development efforts and preserve the quality of life in our communities.
- Seek additional state transportation assistance for specialized local government programs such as small city pavement funding.
- Seek expanded authority to raise transportation revenue locally.
- Seek local flexibility associated with the use of existing revenue sources.
- Support investments which facilitate a seamless transportation system which includes city streets, county roads and state highways.
- Encourage state transportation policies that emphasize a partnership between the state and other transportation providers including the private sector.

- Identify the extent to which issues relating to rail and water transportation impact cities and towns.
- Augment existing state economic development programs, financial and technical assistance, for both urban and rural cities.
- Support investments that build local capacity to deliver services to grow business in the community.
- Streamline requirements for cities and towns to access economic development programs.
- Create new and expand current economic development programs and tools to all cities.
- Provide uniquely-impacted cities and towns, including smaller ones, assistance to address unique economic challenges.
- Ensure adequate options exist to utilize public-private partnerships to enhance local economic development efforts

Federal Partnership continued

Federal Partnership

The health and vitality of local economies are critical to a robust and dynamic national economy. Federal fiscal policies should enhance the ability of local elected officials to respond to economic needs at the local level, especially during times of economic downturn. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided Washington cities with much needed funding for transportation, infrastructure, and other community development projects – all of which create jobs. Cities appreciate this federal commitment to local economies and job creation. With sufficient federal funds, cities can demonstrate a significant return on investment. This funding must be consistent, stable, and reliable.

In addition, federal policies should not have negative consequences for local taxing and regulatory authority or disproportionately negatively impact local businesses.

Communication, Information, and Technology

Communications and information technology have become integral to efficient, equitable, and affordable services. AWC supports:

- A balanced approach to communication and information technology policy that allows new technologies to flourish while maintaining local regulatory and taxing authority.

- Preservation of the ability of local governments to provide communications infrastructure.
- Financial and other assistance to address additional capital and operating costs for interoperable communications.

Community and Economic Development

Cities rely on federal funding to build infrastructure and support economic development. It is critical to the quality of life for our communities. AWC supports:

- Consistent and enhanced funding to the Community Development Block Grant, Energy Efficiency Block Grant, Economic Development Administration, and other federal programs.
- Simplifying the federal application process to provide local jurisdictions with equal easy access to federal funding. Federal assistance in the application process should be provided when needed.
- Federal policies that support diverse housing opportunities in suitable living environments.
- Federal land use policies anchored by the principles of responsible federal stewardship, social responsibility, growth management and sustainable development, and respect for local authority.

continued

Immigration

The Federal Government should work with cities across the United States, including Washington cities, taking into account local impacts when developing federal immigration policies.

Public Safety

The safety and security of its citizens is a fundamental responsibility of governments. Federal government funding provides essential resources for safe communities. AWC supports:

- New and continued federal funding for law enforcement, public health, fire, and emergency response programs.

Transportation & Infrastructure

Infrastructure systems are among our cities' biggest assets. They provide a fundamental link to strengthening and sustaining a vital economy. Developing and maintaining these systems to meet 21st century demands requires a strong city-state-federal partnership. AWC supports:

- A multimodal federal transportation policy that provides stable funding for the nation's transportation system; that is coordinated with our country's energy and environmental policies; that allows states and municipalities to set their own priorities in transportation investment; and that provides local governments more flexibility and a greater voice in influencing transportation plans that meet local needs and objectives.
- Continued federal support for rail and light rail projects.
- Increased federal funding for cities to invest in and maintain well-functioning city infrastructure systems.

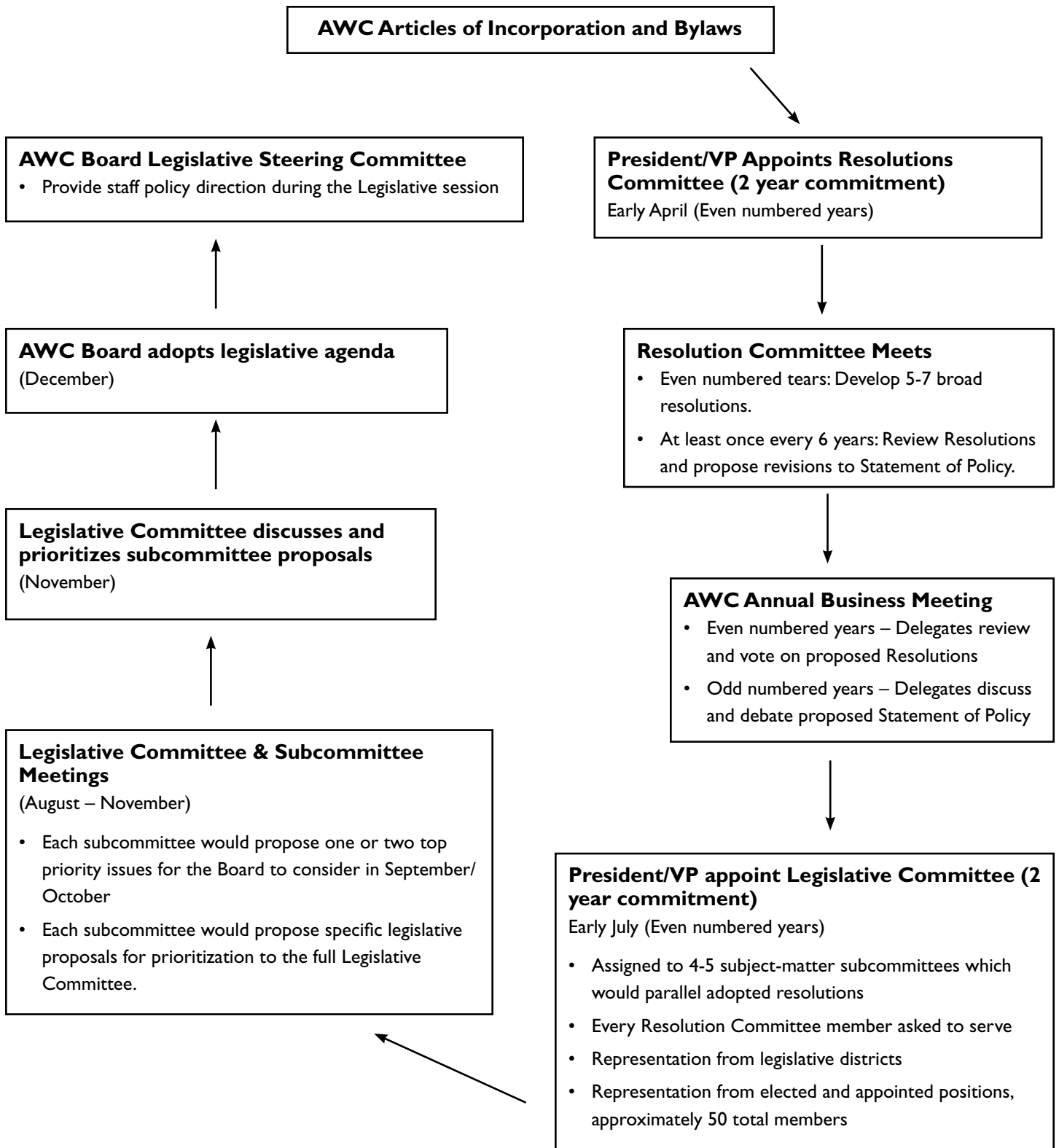
Unfunded Mandates and Preemption

AWC recognizes the responsibility of cities to provide public safety services, needed infrastructure, and a host of other critical services and programs to city residents. We also know cities have limited resources that continue to decline.

AWC encourages legislative and administrative solutions that are free of unfunded mandates, and strongly opposes additional federal mandates (both legislative and administrative) unless they are accompanied by appropriate financial resources and are compelled by significant public interests.

AWC opposes federal policies that undermine or preempt the fundamental responsibilities of local governments, including franchising, zoning, siting, issuing permits and licenses, and local code development.

AWC Legislative Policy Development Process



AWC 2010-11 Resolutions Committee

Chair	Mayor Kathy Turner, Puyallup
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West At-Large	Mayor Kathy Turner, Puyallup
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East At-Large	Vacant
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Chief Admin Officer	Vacant

AWC 2010-11 Board of Directors

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AWC Legislative Contacts

During the legislative session, AWC's lobbyists often are unable to return your phone calls immediately. If you have a legislative or specific issue question, please request AWC's analyst staff, or send them an email directly.

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