City Legislative Priorities

Washington’s 281 cities and towns are where most residents live, work, learn, and play. Cities recognize the serious funding challenges facing the state involving the need to adequately fund quality schools and maintain economically viable communities. Cities face many of these same challenges and pledge to partner with the Legislature and Governor to find ways to adequately fund both state and local priorities.

Shared Revenue

Maintain the revenue sharing partnership between the state and cities and restore local liquor revenue. Sharing of these revenues is the product of a longstanding partnership, and without the promise of this revenue, cities would have sought other local options and authorities.

Support HB 1517 and SB 5896 - restoring local liquor revenue.

Property Tax

Consider replacing the 1% property tax cap with an annual limit that accounts for inflation and population growth. A local option would balance the public’s desire for property tax limits with the reality of keeping pace with funding service needs.

Continue to educate legislators about the constraints on revenue sources.

Marijuana

Fund critical criminal justice needs by sharing a portion of the excise tax on recreational marijuana. The state and local governments must partner to respond to the legalization of marijuana, including support for enforcement, prevention, and education efforts. We must also appropriately regulate medical marijuana while maintaining patient access.

Support SB 5417, provides revenue sharing for cities and SB 5052 (proposed sub), reconciles medical/recreational marijuana.

Infrastructure

Restore the state’s commitment to public infrastructure investment. To keep Washington moving forward and to keep up with demand and regulatory requirements we need on-going and reliable funding for programs like the Public Works Assistance Account, the Centennial Clean Water Fund and the Model Toxics Control Account.


Transportation

Adopt a multi-modal transportation package that addresses city needs. Like the state, cities have insufficient funding to maintain and enhance critical transportation infrastructure. We urge passage of a statewide transportation revenue package that includes direct distribution of gas tax revenues to cities at a percentage that reflects the actual amount of travel that occurs on city streets; an array of local transportation revenue options; and increased funding for programs that benefit cities, including the Transportation Improvement Board, Safe Routes to Schools, Bicycle and Pedestrian grants, Complete Streets, transit, and freight mobility.

Support HB 1593 and SB 5813 - local transportation revenue options.

AWC is now following how legislators respond to our 2015 priorities and other city issues and sharing this information with our members.

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