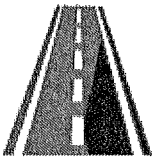


Advocacy

2022 City legislative priorities & outcomes

Cities are home to 65% of the state’s residents, drive the economy, and provide the most accessible government. The continued success of cities depends on adequate resources and local decision-making to best meet the needs of our shared residents. Strong cities make a great state.

Washington’s 281 cities asked the 2022 Legislature to partner with cities and take action on three priorities. Read the priorities, followed by the legislative outcomes to learn the pros and cons for cities.



Pass a transportation package

Adopt a new transportation revenue package that emphasizes maintenance/preservation funding and provides an equitable level of local funding and additional long-term, sustainable revenue options for cities.

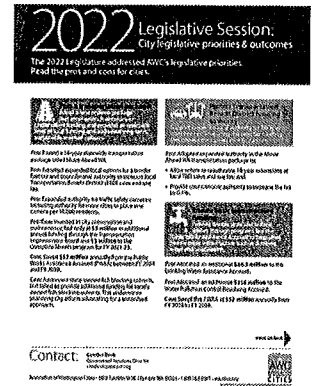
Pro: Passed a 16-year statewide transportation package titled Move Ahead WA.

Pro: Adopted expanded local options for a border fuel tax and councilmanic authority to increase local Transportation Benefit District (TBD) sales and use tax.

Pro: Expanded authority for traffic safety cameras; including authority for more cities to place one camera per 10,000 residents.

Pro/Con: Invested in city preservation and maintenance; but only at **\$5 million** in additional annual funding through the Transportation Improvement Board and **\$3 million** to the Complete Streets program for FY 2021-23.

Con: Swept **\$57 million** annually from the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA) between FY 2024 and FY 2038.



Access AWC’s online library of *Legislative Bulletin* and *CityVoice* news articles to search for issue updates by topic.

Check out the 2022 priorities of cities across the state.

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non-tracking cookies. This undermines your strong city efforts advocating for a watershed approach.



Ensure basic infrastructure funding

Provide flexible state and federal dollars through programs like the Public Works Assistance Account to help cities finance basic infrastructure such as drinking water and wastewater.

Pro: Allocated an additional **\$88.3 million** to the Drinking Water Assistance Account.

Pro: Allocated an additional **\$236 million** to the Water Pollution Control Revolving Account.

Con: Swept the PWAA at **\$57 million** annually from FY 2024 to FY 2038.



Protect Transportation Benefit District funding authority

Support expanded local authority for Transportation Benefit Districts (TBDs) so cities can continue using the sales tax funding tool beyond the current time limitations.

Pro: Adopted expanded authority in the Move Ahead WA transportation package to:

- Allow voters to reauthorize 10-year extensions of local TBD sales and use tax; and
- Provide councilmanic authority to increase the tax by 0.1%.

In addition to the above three priorities, AWC identified several significant issues to work on during the 2022 session. Read the legislative outcomes:

Pro: Adopted necessary modifications to the emergency provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act (**HB 1329**).

Pro: Adopted important clarifications related to police reform:

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- **HB 1735** allows physical force, when necessary, during community caretaking functions and to assist with transporting individuals in crisis; and
- **HB 1719** allows use of all less-lethal alternatives, such as rubber bullets from a .50 caliber rifle.

Pro: Funded a total of **19.5 classes** in 2022 and **23.5 classes** in 2023 to address wait times at the Basic Law Enforcement Academy.
Funded an online training platform for law enforcement training.

Pro: Provided cities with **\$21.5 million** to address costs associated with *Blake* decision; **\$4.9 million** to develop and expand therapeutic courts; and **\$2 million** to create alternative response teams.

Pro: Appropriated **\$100 million** for low-income customer utility assistance.

Pro: Directed a joint legislative taskforce, that includes city representation, to review and recommend best practices related to broadband deployment and local permitting.

Pro: Increased cannabis revenue sharing with cities and counties to **\$45 million**, representing an additional **\$5 million** for FY 2023. Ongoing increases are based on revenue percentages, instead of a capped amount (**SB 5796**).

Pro: Defeated multiple zoning mandate proposals (**SB 5670/HB 1782 & HB 1660**) preempting local land use authority for certain housing. Instead, the Legislature provided a **\$7.5 million** competitive grant program incentive for cities that want to adopt missing middle housing zoning ordinances.

Pro: Passed reforms to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) in **SB 5818** to facilitate housing development by expanding SEPA categorical exemptions and providing appeal protections for

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Pro: Created dedicated and ongoing planning funding of **\$10 million** annually for cities to complete Growth Management Act (GMA) comprehensive planning updates, including implementing 2021's **HB 1220**.

Pro: Created historic **\$430 million** capital investment in rapid acquisition of housing for shelter, crisis stabilization, and housing construction under the Housing Trust Fund.

Pro: Appropriated **\$52 million** to transition encamped individuals living on state-owned rights-of-way to permanent housing and remove debris.

Con: Did not pass **HB 1099**, a GMA proposal aimed at integrating climate change and resiliency planning into the comprehensive planning process. It would have provided planning funding for cities and a new, sustainable revenue incentive to address missing middle housing types.

Con: Declined to pass **HB 1117**, a GMA bill that would have integrated salmon recovery planning into the comprehensive planning process and provided planning funding for cities.

AWC's advocacy is guided by the following core principles from our Statement of Policy:

- Local decision-making authority
- Fiscal flexibility and sustainability
- Equal standing for cities
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Strong Washington state partnerships
- Nonpartisan analysis and decision-making

Legislative priority process

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city issues should be legislative priorities. The committee comprises approximately 25 city officials from throughout the state. The AWC Board of Directors adopts the next year's legislative priorities at its fall meeting.

Federal priorities

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 needs at the local level. More