



City of Longview 2016 State Legislative Agenda Draft

The City of Longview is very grateful to local legislators who supported a number of significant accomplishments in the 2015 session. Passage of the largest transportation investment package in Washington State history will directly benefit the City of Longview. We are particularly grateful for full funding for the Industrial Way/Oregon Way intersection (SR 432/433) project, enhanced direct local transportation shared revenues, enhanced local transportation funding options and funding for important programs like TIB and FMSIB. 2015 also marked a reversal in a years-long loss of state shared revenues and we are appreciative for policy and funding enhancements associated with growing and sale of recreational marijuana. Looking ahead we ask for your support in 2016 of a number of initiatives that will help our City keep up with demands for services, enhance economic development, and improve the quality of life of our citizens.

Priorities

1. No unfunded or underfunded mandates and no preemption of local control.
2. Enhance local control over how local taxes and fees are raised and spent.
3. Reduce cost drivers that impact our budgets and over which you exercise control.
4. One troubling trend in recent years has been the loss of funding for almost all state programs aimed at helping local communities with economic development. Failure of the Legislature, this year, to fund the Public Works Trust Fund program is an example of this years-long slide. And of course Washington is one of only a handful of states without any measure of robust tax increment financing. Longview is a perfect example of a city that has planned well for future growth and has tremendous potential to grow the regional economy. Our state needs to do more to support local effort like ours and specifically to assist with infrastructure financing. Every econometric analysis done in Washington shows that no government benefits more in

terms of new revenue from economic development than does the State of Washington. It's time for the State to do a comprehensive review of its role in support of local infrastructure and economic development and we call upon the Legislature to lead in this effort.

5. While very appreciative of successful efforts in 2015 to fund the Industrial Way/Oregon Way Intersection project (SR 432/433), we are now asking your help in moving project funding allocations and start dates up by two years.
6. The City supports the five top priorities of the Association of Washington Cities, including legislation to enhance infrastructure programs, provide sufficient and flexible revenue for essential city services, enhance emergency response capabilities, strengthen the Public Records Act in response to new technology and burdensome and abusive requests, and enhance human services, homelessness and affordable housing programs.
7. The City is very supportive of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and has directly benefitted over the years from the "Local Parks" category within this program. We view the current legislatively mandated review of this program as timely and certainly some changes may be of value. However, we strongly believe that the program should provide funding for both acquisition and development.
8. The City supports legislation that would extend by fifteen years the current State sales tax credit we receive in support of our local Public Facilities District. A ten year extension would allow us to enhance our local PFD facilities.

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