



LEGISLATIVE POLICY DOCUMENT

In addition to the City's 2017 adopted legislative priorities, the City has adopted the following policies. The policy document provides direction to city staff and the city lobbyist. These are issues that the city will monitor and support along with AWC and other stakeholders, but are secondary to the 2017 legislative priorities of the City.

TRANSPORTATION

Covington Connector – The City of Covington supports efforts to expedite funding for the construction of the Covington Connector.

Walkways and Street Grant Policies – The City of Covington will explore and support legislative proposals to create new grant programs and/or amend existing grant programs to prioritize streets with high average daily traffic flow counts or state routes through city centers.

Councilmanic Authority – The City of Covington supports additional revenue tools that provide councilmanic authority to fund local transportation.

I-90 and State Highway 18 Improvements – Collaboratively work with applicable jurisdictions to lobby for the widening of I-90 & Highway 18 in the next transportation package.

PROPERTY TAX

The City of Covington supports lifting the 1% property tax ceiling to allow city revenues to increase with inflation/increasing costs.

STATE-SHARED REVENUES

The City of Covington requests that as the Legislature develops its 17-19 budgets that it fully fund local-state shared revenues, and further asks that the legislature restore full funding to the liquor revolving account. The City supports legislation that restores liquor profit revenues to pre-2012 levels by removing the 2011 cap, and restoring the 50/50 revenue sharing relationship over multiple biennia and dedicating the revenue to public safety..

AWC & SCA LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS

Support the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and Sound Cities Association (SCA) legislative programs. Support other local government professional associations' legislative programs when consistent with the aforementioned programs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

Support constitutional amendments and/or legislation to create pure tax increment financing. Support funding for the Local Infrastructure Financing Tool (LIFT) and Local Revitalization Financing (LRF) programs. Support efforts to make LIFT and LRF simpler, more flexible, and user-friendly.

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

The City of Covington supports reforming and restoring the Public Works Assistance Account to meet local infrastructure needs.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The cities of Covington, Maple Valley, and Black Diamond will continue to advocate jointly for federal and state funding for State Route 169 and State Route 516 improvements and for transit alternatives in the three rapidly growing communities.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

Oppose unfunded and under-funded mandates on local government. Support funding for existing mandates including comprehensive plan updates, Shoreline Management Act updates and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements.

LOCAL CONTROL

The City of Covington supports legislation that provides greater local control of city regulatory issues, particularly around fireworks, marijuana lounges, liquor establishments, etc.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TOOLS

The City of Covington supports additional local option funding tools for affordable housing. Additionally, the City joins housing advocates in requesting \$200 million for the Housing Trust Fund, and extending the document recording fee.

PARKS

The City of Covington is grateful for state investments in its parks, particularly Covington Community Park. The City will work with the Washington Recreation and Parks Association to increase local park and recreation opportunities in the city, including full funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program to fund SoCo Park Phase 2.

STORMWATER & CULVERT FUNDING

The City of Covington has significant stormwater and culvert funding needs. The City requests funding for current and new grant programs for local stormwater and culvert projects.