

City of Covington

2012 Legislative Agenda

Adopted by the City Council 11/8/11



The City of Covington will actively lobby the following issues:

- **Joint Legislative Agenda:** The cities of Black Diamond, Covington, and Maple Valley 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.
- **State-Shared Revenues:** Retain state-shared revenues including liquor profits and taxes.
- **Project-Specific Funding Requests:** Retain/enhance/seek funding for the following projects, in priority order:
 1. Covington Community Park soccer field
 2. SR 516, Jenkins Creek to 185th Avenue SE
 3. Covington Town Center Economic Impact & Infrastructure Cost Study
- **Infrastructure Funding:** Support increased funding for cities' infrastructure design and construction needs, including but not limited to the surface transportation program (SAFETEA-LU) and Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at the federal level; and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Connecting Washington Task Force, and street utility concept at the state level.

The City of Covington will support efforts by others to lobby the following issues:

- **Medical Marijuana:** Support legislation enabling medical marijuana use.
- **Economic Development Funding:** Support constitutional amendments and/or legislation to create pure tax increment financing. Support state funding programs that are simpler, more flexible, and user-friendlier.
- **Tax Exemptions:** Exempt cities' capital projects from the sales tax, and exempt utility and enterprise revenues from the state business and occupations tax.
- **Simple Majority:** Support legislation to replace the supermajority threshold (60%) with a simple majority threshold (50%) for local government bond and levy elections.
- **Unfunded Mandates:** Oppose unfunded and under-funded mandates on local government. Support funding for existing mandates including the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements.
- **Urban Growth Areas:** Provide cities time to annex adjacent land after a county classifies it as urban but before development may occur.
- **Commuter & Passenger Rail:** Support Auburn's efforts to secure an Amtrak stop, and support other parties' rail advocacy efforts when helpful to Southeast King County's rail and transit advocacy efforts.
- **AWC & SCA Legislative Programs:** Support the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and Suburban Cities Association (SCA) legislative programs, excluding AWC's position on LEOFF 2 benefit enhancements. Support other local government professional associations' legislative programs when consistent with the aforementioned programs.¹

¹ In event of conflict, the order of precedence is 1) Covington, 2) SCA, 3) AWC, 4) others