

City of Covington

2013-14 Legislative Agenda

Adopted by the City Council 12/11/12



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 license fees and taxes.
- **Project-Specific Funding Requests:** Retain/enhance/seek funding for the following projects, in priority order:
 1. SR 516, Jenkins Creek to 185th Avenue SE
 2. Covington Community Park, Phase II
 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 (MAP-21) and Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at the federal level; and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF), street utility concept, and transportation-package discussions at the state level.

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

- **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-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.
- **Rail & Transit:** 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. 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