



LEGISLATIVE 2021 POLICY DOCUMENT

In addition to the City's 2021 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 2021 legislative priorities of the City.

STATE-SHARED REVENUES

The City of Covington requests that the Legislature continue to fully fund local-state shared revenues, including liquor revolving account revenues, liquor profit revenues, marijuana excise tax revenues, and others.

FISCAL FLEXIBILITY

The City of Covington requests that the Legislature provide greater flexibility to use funds from existing revenue sources to help local governments manage the impacts of the economic crisis.

PROPERTY TAX

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

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.

OPMA PROPOSAL

The City of Covington supports amendments to the Open Public Meetings Act providing cities with greater flexibility to hold virtual meetings during emergencies.

INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

The City of Covington supports continued and increased funding for the Public Works Assistance Account to meet local infrastructure needs, including redirecting Real Estate Excise Tax revenues and Utility Tax revenues back into the Public Works Assistance Account.

CONTINUED ON BACK

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

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

The City of Covington opposes 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.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING & HOMEOWNERSHIP TOOLS

The City of Covington joins housing advocates in requesting funding tools for affordable housing, funding for the Housing Trust Fund, and other creative solutions to funding or incentivizing affordable housing, which have become even more imperative due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PARKS

The City of Covington is grateful for state investments in parks. Currently, the city is meeting less than 50% of its adopted level of service for both parks and trails. Because of this, the City has applied for funding within the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) for Jenkins Creek Park, Jenkins Creek Trail and Welcome Park. To continue improving park access for the Covington community, the City requests that the WWRP receive sufficient funds to award all ranked projects, which would include Covington's three park projects.

STORMWATER & CULVERT FUNDING

The City of Covington has significant stormwater and culvert funding needs. The City has applied for funding within the Brian Abbott Fish Culvert Grant Program to replace a culvert on SE 256th Street in Covington. The City requests funding for current and new grant programs for local stormwater and culvert projects.

** The City supports the efforts of the Association of Washington Cities and Sound Cities Association.*