

This Legislative Agenda reflects the City of Mountlake Terrace’s position on several key matters that are expected to arise either as legislation or in the State budget process.

The City’s position on a broader array of issues is well reflected in position papers and legislative agendas of organizations in which we participate and support, such as the Association of Washington Cities (AWC), Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC), and Association of Snohomish County Cities and Towns.

If you have questions about the City’s position on any of the issues identified herein, please contact John Caulfield, City Manager, at (425) 744-6205 or JCaulfield@ci.mlt.wa.us.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The City understands that the answer to its financial challenges over the long-term do not rest solely in State financial assistance or new taxing authority, but rather a partnership with the State Legislature to advance economic and community development objectives. We seek additional tools to foster economic and community development to allow cities to proactively implement their Comprehensive Plans.

1. **Aerospace Industry:** Led by The Boeing Company, the aerospace industry within Snohomish County employs as many as 45,000 people, while one out of every three to six Washington State jobs is supported either directly or indirectly by the aerospace industry. Support the Washington Aerospace Partnership and other stakeholder groups in developing a unified strategy to ensure that Washington State remains the leading location in the world for aerospace.
2. **Gambling/Local Zoning:** Support legislation that provides cities the ability to zone or partially ban gambling facilities. Clarify that local jurisdictions can enter into pre-annexation agreements with existing gambling establishments or the county that will allow for their continued use and operation (grandfather clause) following an annexation in which the local government does not permit said use and operation.
3. **Local Infrastructure Finance Tool (L.I.F.T.):** Support efforts to reauthorize and increase funding for the LIFT program and, additionally, support efforts to remove the “one per county” restriction in the law that could prevent certain cities from qualifying under the program. In the long-term, support “tax-increment financing (TIF)”, which is a tool used by most other states.
4. **Local Transportation and Capital Facilities Funding Options:** Support legislation to provide cities additional funding for infrastructure improvements (e.g., streets, sidewalks, storm water, sewers, water, parks, open space preservation, facilities) to assist with community and economic development that benefit cities. Fully fund the Public Works Trust Fund Program and oppose efforts to re-direct or otherwise dilute PWTF funds.

FINANCE AND BUDGET

Local government has faced significant financial challenges in recent years as a result of periodic economic downturns and several initiatives. The following are ways in which we believe the legislature can help cities deal with these challenges.

1. **Unfunded Mandates and Preemption of Local Authority:** Strongly oppose any legislation that imposes an “unfunded mandate” without additional funding to support these programs; strongly oppose any legislation that attempts to erode local revenue or tax authority; and strongly oppose legislation that would pre-empt local authority over any policy or operational matter traditionally and historically vested with local government. The City also encourages the Legislature to provide more timely fiscal-impact notes that specify how pending legislation affects local government jurisdictions.
2. **LEOFF 1 Medical Liability:** Seek help from the State Actuary to identify the liability for medical and long-term care costs for LEOFF 1 retirees, by jurisdiction, and pursue options for providing financial assistance to local governments for this liability.

CAPITAL BUDGET

The City is expected to develop capital budget requests for the 2011-2013 Legislative Session in support of for example, downtown revitalization, transportation, sidewalk and park improvement projects.