

CITIES OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY

2011-2012 State Legislative Agenda

This Legislative Agenda, which reflects input from the Cities of Snohomish County, expresses a collective position on key items that are expected to arise in the form of legislation, budget decisions, or policy decisions in the upcoming Session of the Legislature.

Aerospace Industry

- Support the Washington Aerospace Partnership and other stakeholder groups in developing a unified strategy (e.g., training & education, research & development, Office of Aerospace and Defense, unemployment insurance tax, worker's compensation, transportation infrastructure) to ensure that Washington State remains the leading location in the world for aerospace. 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.

Economic Development

- Support "tax-increment financing (TIF)", which is a tool used by most other states to foster economic and community development to allow cities to proactively implement their Comprehensive Plans and to ensure local, regional and national competitiveness.
- Support additional financial resources for Local Revitalization Financing (LRF) program and Local Infrastructure Finance Tool (LIFT) to allow those cities who currently qualify to participate.

Local Transportation and Capital Facilities

- Support legislation such as a transportation revenue package that ensures local distribution and local funding options to provide cities sustainable and adequate funding for vital infrastructure investments that is capable of promoting economic growth and prosperity to the cities of Snohomish County.
- Fully fund Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) and Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) programs to provide cities funding for infrastructure and economic development purposes; no additional diversion or 'sweeping' of capital accounts such as the Public Works Trust Fund.
- Support investment in key transportation corridors such as U.S. 2, SR-9, and I-5, which are critical to the quality of life and the movement of people and goods throughout Snohomish County.

Growth Management Act

- Reform of annexation statutes and those dealing with the role of cities, counties and special purpose districts in urban areas to include: require joint planning in unincorporated urban growth areas; removing referendum from annexation process; limiting the authority of boundary review boards; and legislation that allows counties the ability to levy a utility tax, if it is restricted to unincorporated areas and there are accommodations for the needs of cities, in those areas, such as annexation financing assistance.

Unfunded Mandates and Preemption of Local Authority

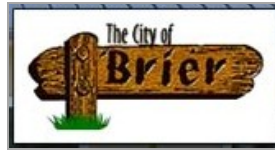
- Strongly oppose any legislation that: imposes an "unfunded mandate" without additional funding to support these programs; attempts to erode local revenue or tax authority such as local state-shared revenues that are critical to the financial health of cities; and pre-empts local authority over any policy or operational matter traditionally and historically vested with local government.

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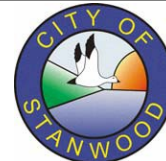


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