



2016 Legislative Session

City Priorities

Washington's 281 cities and towns are where most residents live, learn, work and play. We work together to ensure decision makers know that the state is only as strong as its cities and towns. AWC's mission is to serve our members through advocacy, education and services.



Infrastructure

Halt the diversion from critical infrastructure programs to help cities grow and prosper

City infrastructure systems are a critical part of a larger network that serves and benefits the entire state. Diversion from programs that support basic local infrastructure means that communities cannot affordably maintain and secure new infrastructure. We need to reboot, and potentially reformulate this partnership. The state's abandonment of these programs cannot be the only option.



Fiscal Sustainability

Ensure sufficient and flexible revenue for essential city services

The current method of funding city services is fundamentally broken. Many available revenue options are either constricted, restricted, or unpredictable. Cities need stable revenue streams to provide essential services such as public safety, infrastructure, and environmental protection to our growing population.



Emergency Responsiveness

Help cities prepare for and address impacts of natural disasters and other emergencies

As a result of recent experiences with devastating wildfires, landslides, and other emergencies, cities need better ways to address emergency management. Examples include greater ability to coordinate response and enhance communication in emergencies, and the authority to ban fireworks sales and use during dangerous conditions.



Public Records

Strengthen the Public Records Act in response to changing technology and burdensome requests

Cities support open and transparent government and continue to seek the best ways to meet this commitment. Unfortunately, there are a growing number of requestors who monopolize resources with broad, voluminous, commercially-driven, or retaliatory requests that do not provide a public benefit proportionate to the taxpayer dollars needed to fulfill these requests. Cities need additional tools to resolve conflicts outside the courtroom and the authority to charge a reasonable fee for electronic and commercial requests. We also need to address the impact changing technology has on public records.



Human Services, Homelessness and Affordable Housing

Enhance the provision of much needed human service programs to address issues that drive increased homelessness and public safety costs

Cities throughout the state are grappling with affordable housing shortages and homelessness. In addition, greater access to mental health and substance abuse services is necessary. Together with the state, counties, and other partners we need additional resources for mental health and chemical dependency, new local option tools for affordable housing, continued support of programs, and opportunities for engagement on the issues.

Founded in 1933, the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan corporation that represents Washington's cities and towns before the state legislature, the state executive branch and with regulatory agencies. Membership is voluntary. However, AWC consistently maintains 100% participation from Washington's 281 cities and towns.

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