



LEGISLATIVE 2022 POLICY DOCUMENT

In addition to the City's 2022 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 or weigh in on, along with AWC and other stakeholders, but are secondary to the City's 2022 legislative priorities.

STATE-SHARED REVENUES

The City of Covington requests that the Legislature preserve and enhance state shared revenues, including liquor revolving account revenues, liquor profit revenues, marijuana excise tax revenues, and others.

PROPERTY TAX

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

CULVERT FUNDING

The City of Covington has significant culvert funding needs. The City applied for funding within the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board Grant Program (FBRB) to replace two culverts at Little Soos Creek on SE 256th Street in Covington. However, only a quarter of the ranked culvert projects received funding over the last biennium which does not include the City's project. The City encourages the Legislature to include additional funding for the FBRB to adequately fund the list of recommended projects and identify other opportunities for the state to support local culvert restoration.

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.

CONTINUED ON BACK

UNFUNDED MANDATES

The City of Covington opposes unfunded and under-funded mandates on local governments. The City supports funding for existing mandates including comprehensive plan updates, Shoreline Management Act updates and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements.

OPMA PROPOSAL

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

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

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.

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 and the Legislature's most recent capital budget appropriation for SoCo Park. To continue to build upon those efforts and meet the City's adopted level of service for both parks and trails, the City encourages the Legislature to increase the level of investment in grant opportunities within the Recreation and Conservation Office.

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