

2026 State Legislative Agenda

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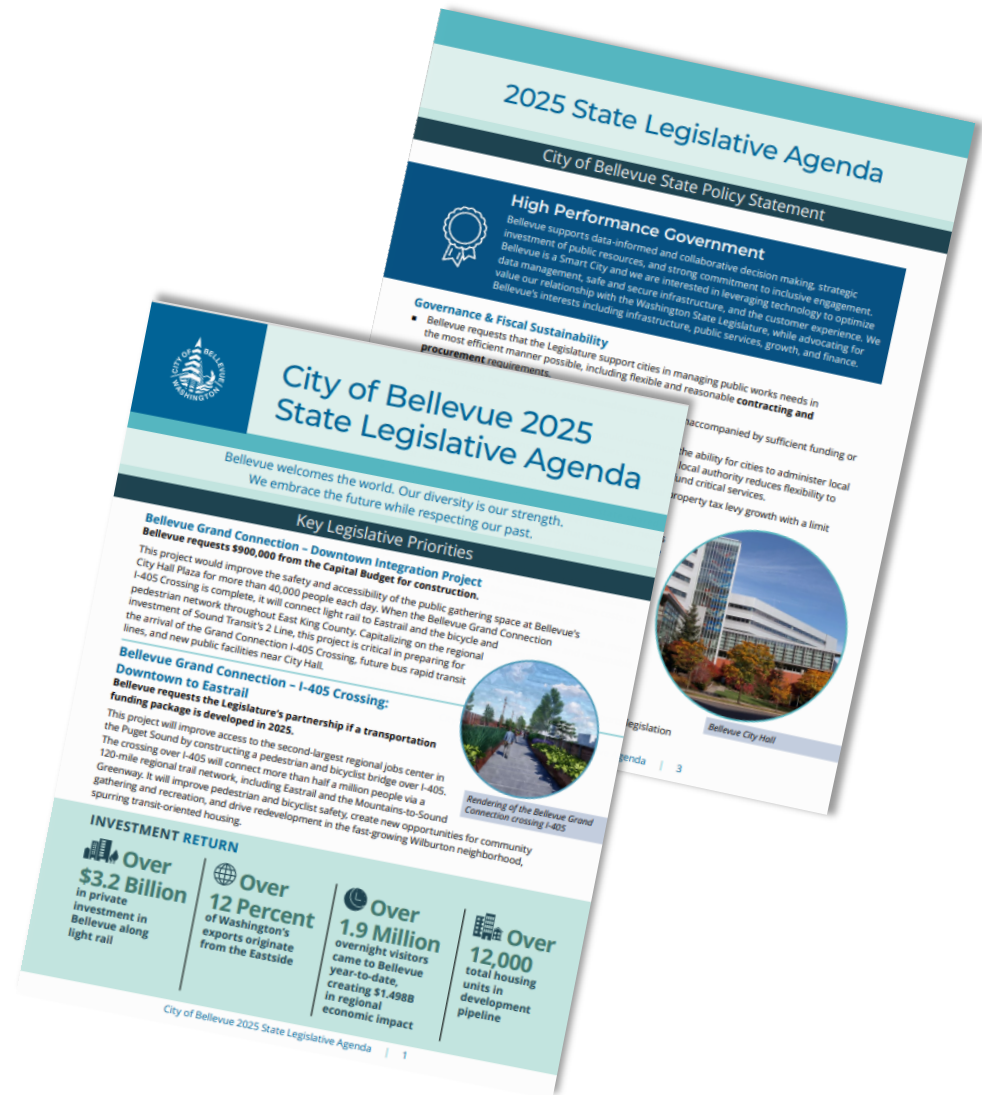
Direction

Staff recommends that the City Council provide input on the draft 2026 State Legislative Agenda and provide direction for adoption.



Agenda

- 2026 Session Preview
- Draft Legislative Agenda
- AWC Priority Issues
- Next Steps



2026 Legislative Session Preview

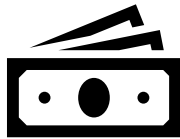
- Begins January 12
- 60-day (“short”) session
- Supplemental budgets
 - Operating
 - Capital
 - Transportation
- Second year of biennium



Leading up to session



Election Day
Nov. 4



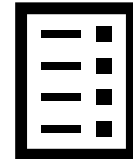
**State Economic
and Revenue
Forecast**
Nov. 18



**Pre-filing of
Legislation**
Early-Dec.

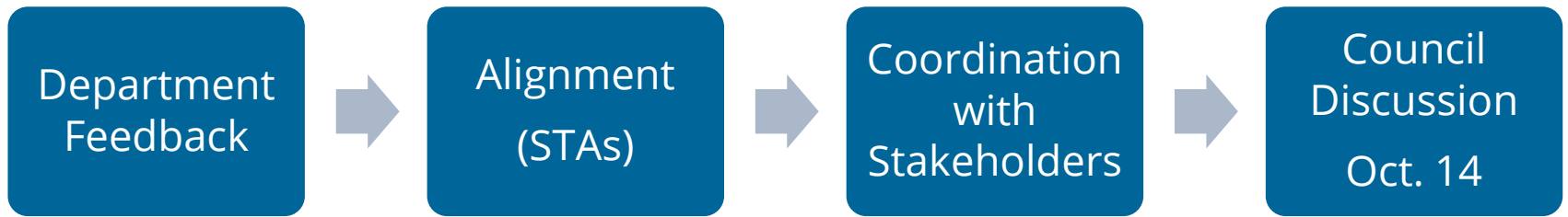


**Legislative
Committee Days**
Week of Dec. 1



**Governor's
Supplemental
Budget**
By Dec. 20

Legislative Agenda Development



Elements of the State Agenda

- ☐ *New:* Economic Prosperity & Partnership
- ☐ Key Legislative Priorities
- ☐ State Policy Statement



Economic Prosperity & Partnership

- State and federal decisions affect economy, city services, and affordability.
- Request to be a consulted partner to economic and policy shifts.
- Bellevue will evaluate proposals through fiscal sustainability and economic prosperity lens.
 - Policies that foster fair business competition, drive innovation, and attract and retain talent.
 - Prioritize stable, sustainable revenue sources that minimize impacts.



Key Priorities: Housing, Permitting

Affordable Housing

Provide adequate funding, resources, and time necessary to implement recent state land use and housing legislation.

Support flexible funding options for local jurisdictions that address affordable housing.

Streamlined Permitting

Consistent permitting across jurisdictional boundaries is critical to supporting local economies, housing, environmental protection and trust in local government.

Support the eCityGov Alliance funding request to modernize *MyBuildingPermit.com*.



Key Priorities: Transportation

I-405/SR 167 Corridor (WSDOT)

Support improvements that maximize the effectiveness of the 50-mile Express Toll Lane system, including the Renton to Bellevue Contract 3 project

Business Access and Transit (BAT) Lanes

Support policy that allows employer shuttles to use BAT lanes along with transit buses.

SR 520/124th Avenue NE Interchange (WSDOT)

Support funding for construction for interchange, fish passage, and multimodal realignment

Appreciation for supporting Grand Connection Crossing



2026 State Policy Statement

- **High Performance Government**, including fiscal sustainability and liability
- **Thriving People & Communities**, including human services and behavioral health
- **Vibrant Economy**, including economic and workforce development
- **Safe & Efficient Transportation**, including Vision Zero and smart mobility
- **High Quality Built & Natural Environment**, including utility infrastructure and land use
- **Community Safety & Health**, including first responders, law enforcement and justice

AWC 2026 Legislative Agenda

Priorities

- Indigent defense
- Housing supply
- Transportation
- Shared revenues

Significant Issues

Support Issues



Next Steps

- **October - December:**
 - Advance Key Legislative Priorities, including legislator coordination, early advocacy, policy review
- **December:** Special Council Meeting with Legislators
- **Early-January, 2026:** Session Look Ahead at Council
- **January 12, 2026:** Session Begins
- **January 21-22, 2026:** AWC's City Action Days
- **Mid-Session:** Bellevue Day in Olympia
- **March 12, 2026:** Session Concludes



Staff Proposed Amendment

Economic Prosperity & Partnership

Add to the end of the first paragraph:

Bellevue may not be able to support tax proposals that could create a direct impact on Bellevue's employment base and that would give Washington a competitive disadvantage in a competitive marketplace.





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