

January 16, 2018

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

Draft 2018 State Legislative Agenda

STAFF CONTACTS

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POLICY ISSUES

The State Legislature addresses a range of policy issues of interest to the City. Council may wish to provide direction to staff regarding particular legislative proposals.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

ACTION



DIRECTION



INFORMATION ONLY



Staff is seeking Council feedback and direction on the Draft 2018 State Legislative Agenda and whether the preliminary positions are the right ones to include in the agenda, and if so, the relative priority.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Each year the City Council adopts two policy documents related to the State Legislature:

Legislative Agenda – short list of priority items that will be the focus of the City's efforts in Olympia each year. A new document is produced each year for Council approval. The agenda (Attachment A) is used to communicate key issues of interest and concern to the City's legislative delegation. The issues proposed for inclusion in the Draft 2018 Legislative Agenda are those preliminarily identified by staff as the most important for the City to pursue during the 2018 legislative session or those that are likely to be pursued by others. Many of the key priorities for 2018 are carried over from 2017 as many issues remained unresolved. In many cases, the proposed policy positions are protective of the City's authority and revenue base.

The Draft 2018 State Legislative Agenda is organized with policies regarding transportation, transportation technology and affordable housing and homelessness as the City's highest priorities. These policies have been updated from 2017 to refine the City's transportation priorities, including maintaining and expanding the I-405 toll lanes, and to reflect recent Council adoption of the City's Affordable Housing Strategy. In addition, staff has included a focus on pursuing funding opportunities for the City's Grand Connection project, including the NE 6th Street crossing and a capital budget request for a gateway from the Downtown Park as part of the Grand Connection.

Statement of Policy – a comprehensive list of legislative positions covering a broad range of issues developed over time. These issues may or may not surface during the legislative session. The Statement of Policy is carried forward each year with changes to remove items that have been resolved or are no longer policy positions of the Council and to add new policies as appropriate. The Statement of Policy has grown over the years to encompass many policy issues. The document is utilized by City staff to provide policy direction as issues are considered by the Legislature. The revised Statement of Policy will be updated in concert with Council adoption of its 2018 State Legislative Agenda on a future Consent Calendar.

2018 Legislative Session

The 2018 session of the State Legislature began January 8. This year is a short, 60-day session that is scheduled to end on March 8. The balance of power in Olympia has shifted with the Senate Democrats having a one-vote majority for the first time in five years. The House Democrats maintain a two-vote majority. The Legislature is likely to be focused on passing the stalled capital budget from last year and resolving the *Hirst* water rights problems associated with the Supreme Court ruling.

Governor’s Proposed 2018 Supplemental Budget

In 2017, the Legislature adopted a \$43.7 billion two-year operating budget and failed to pass a capital budget. Although the operating budget provides \$1.8 billion in new funding for K-12 education to address the *McCleary* case, the state Supreme Court ruled recently that the funding plan falls short because it does not fully fund higher salaries for teachers and other school staff in the 2018-2019 school year. Governor Jay Inslee is proposing a one-time \$950 million investment to meet the new K-12 salary requirements in the 2018-2019 school year.

The Governor is also proposing adjustments in his 2018 supplemental budget to cover unanticipated costs and emergencies such as fighting wildfires. He is also proposing modest increases for combating opioid addiction, boosting earthquake and tsunami preparedness and protecting the Puget Sound’s killer whale population. Increases in state revenue collections and use of reserves will cover much of the new spending, but the Governor is also proposing a carbon pollution tax that he will unveil later this month.

OPTIONS

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

A. Draft 2018 State Legislative Agenda

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY

N/A