

2025 State Legislative Session Kick-off

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Information Only





Agenda

1. 2025 Legislative Session Expectations
2. Review Bellevue's State Legislative Agenda
3. AWC Legislative Agenda
4. Next steps



2025 Legislative Political Climate

- All nine executive office positions retained by Democrats
- Democrats retained, expanded majorities
 - Democrats can approve bonds and transfers out of the budget stabilization account without Republican support
- Significant turnover
- Some new leadership, new committee chairs, ranking members, committee members



2025 Legislative Session Preview

- First year of the two-year biennium, 105-day session (begins Jan. 13)
- Develop 2025-27 budgets
 - Operating
 - Transportation
 - Capital
- Consider and adopt policy




Likely Hot Topics in the 2025 Session



- Budget shortfall
- Tax proposals
- Transportation funding
- Land use and zoning
- Environmental sustainability
- School funding

City of Bellevue 2025 State Legislative Agenda




City of Bellevue 2025 State Legislative Agenda

Bellevue welcomes the world. Our diversity is our strength.
We embrace the future while respecting our past.

Key Legislative Priorities

Bellevue Grand Connection – Downtown Integration Project

Bellevue requests \$900,000 from the Capital Budget for construction. This project would improve the safety and accessibility of the public gathering space at Bellevue's City Hall Plaza for more than 40,000 people each day. When the Bellevue Grand Connection I-405 Crossing is complete, it will connect light rail to Eastrail and the bicycle and pedestrian network throughout East King County. Capitalizing on the regional investment of Sound Transit's 2 Line, this project is critical in preparing for the arrival of the Grand Connection I-405 Crossing, future bus rapid transit lines, and new public facilities near City Hall.







Rendering of the Bellevue Grand Connection crossing I-405

Bellevue Grand Connection – I-405 Crossing: Downtown to Eastrail

Bellevue requests the Legislature's partnership if a transportation funding package is developed in 2025. This project will improve access to the second-largest regional jobs center in the Puget Sound by constructing a pedestrian and bicyclist bridge over I-405. The crossing over I-405 will connect more than half a million people via a 120-mile regional trail network, including Eastrail and the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway. It will improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety, create new opportunities for community gathering and recreation, and drive redevelopment in the fast-growing Wilburton neighborhood, spurring transit-oriented housing.

INVESTMENT RETURN

 Over \$3.2 Billion in private investment in Bellevue along light rail	 Over 12 Percent of Washington's exports originate from the Eastside	 Over 1.9 Million overnight visitors came to Bellevue year-to-date, creating \$1.498B in regional	 Over 12,000 total housing units in development pipeline
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2025 State Legislative Agenda

City of Bellevue State Policy Statement

High Performance Government

Bellevue supports data-informed and collaborative decision making, strategic investment of public resources, and strong commitment to inclusive engagement. Bellevue is a Smart City and we are interested in leveraging technology to optimize data management, safe and secure infrastructure, and the customer experience. We value our relationship with the Washington State Legislature, while advocating for Bellevue's interests including infrastructure, public services, growth, and finance.

Governance & Fiscal Sustainability

- Bellevue requests that the Legislature support cities in managing public works needs in the most efficient manner possible, including flexible and reasonable contracting and procurement requirements.
- Cities must not be burdened by state mandates that are unaccompanied by sufficient funding or necessary resources.
- The city strongly opposes proposals that would undermine the ability for cities to administer local business and occupation (B&O) tax revenues. Diminished local authority reduces flexibility to tailor tax to local conditions and may reduce revenues that fund critical services.
- Bellevue supports revising the one percent cap on annual property tax levy growth with a limit that allows cities to respond to local needs.
- Bellevue supports preserving and enhancing state-shared revenues and retaining programs to meet the diverse needs of local government. The city requests that the State provide greater flexibility for local revenue decisions.
- Bellevue supports proposals that increase operational efficiency while maintaining transparency and access to open government, including updating the Public Records Act and the Open Public Meetings Act to reduce costs to cities and disruptions during public meetings.
- Support cities in managing public works needs in the most efficient manner possible, including flexible and reasonable contracting and procurement requirements.
- Innovations like edge computing and generative artificial intelligence (AI) will drive transformative city services. Bellevue supports legislation and funding that ethically enhances service delivery.



Bellevue City Hall



2025 Key Legislative Priorities



Bellevue Grand Connection

- Downtown Integration Project
- I-405 Crossing



Transportation

- SR 520/124th Ave. NE Interchange
- I-405/SR 167 Corridor projects

Affordable Housing

Digital Permitting

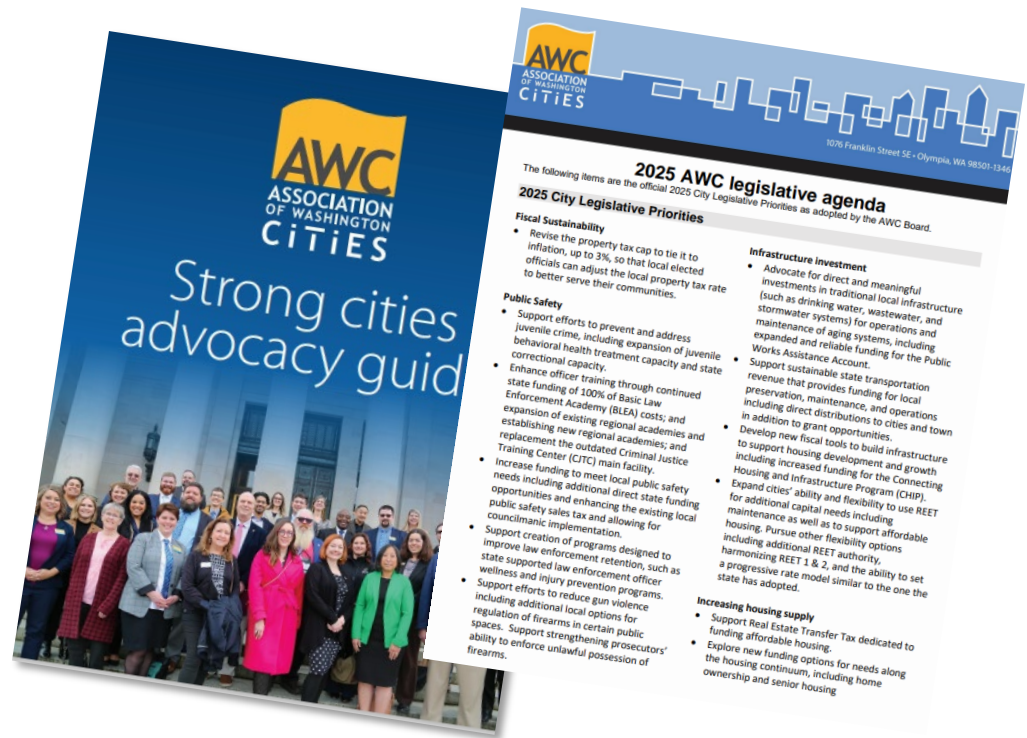


2025 State Policy Statement

- **High Performance Government**, including fiscal sustainability
- **Vibrant Economy**, including economic and workforce development
- **Safe & Efficient Transportation**
- **High Quality Built & Natural Environment**, including utilities, land use and stewardship
- **Community Safety & Health**, including first responders, law enforcement, justice
- **Thriving People & Communities**, including behavioral health and access to housing

AWC 2025 Legislative Agenda

- Fiscal Sustainability
- Public Safety
- Infrastructure Investment
- Increasing Housing Supply
- Increase Behavioral Health Treatment Capacity



Next Steps

- ❑ **January 13:** Legislative session began
- ❑ **January 15:** Gov. Ferguson's inaugural address
- ❑ Meetings with 41st and 48th district legislators and visits to Olympia
- ❑ Discussions with AWC, other cities, and stakeholders on key emerging issues
- ❑ Advance Key Legislative Priorities
- ❑ **February 19-20:** AWC's City Action Days
- ❑ **April 27:** Legislative Session Ends



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