



# CITY OF BELLEVUE

## DRAFT 2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE STATEMENT OF POLICY

### GENERAL POLICY

The City of Bellevue encourages legislation that supports its goals and priorities. Bellevue also encourages legislation that results in responsible fiscal policies, cost-effective state, regional and local policy planning and delivery of government services that enhance local flexibility to address issues of local concern. The City opposes legislation that mandates increased local costs or results in an inappropriate diminution of local authority over local affairs. The City will focus its legislative efforts on the following:

**A. ECONOMIC VITALITY.** Quality of life for Bellevue's residents, businesses, neighborhoods and overall community is inextricably linked to our area's economic vitality. The City supports development of tools that improve and enhance the innovation and knowledge workforce and economic sectors that contribute to our overall quality of life. Bellevue also supports funding for infrastructure improvements, including mobility options and better transit services, which are a key factor in innovation firms choosing to locate in the City, especially in Downtown.

1. **Support the Technology Sector.** The combined technology sector in Bellevue generated an estimated \$4 billion in taxable gross receipts in 2017. Bellevue supports initiatives that enhance competitiveness of the technology sector through investments in infrastructure and education, specifically STEM, K-12, higher education, vocational-technical education, advanced manufacturing for technical specialties and apprenticeships. The City also supports reinstating the research and development tax incentives and providing tax incentives for technology sector start-up companies.
2. **Infrastructure Bank.** Monitor legislation to establish a state infrastructure bank as a tool to enhance economic development opportunities.

### B. TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

1. **Transportation and the Economy.** The strength of our region's economy depends upon a multimodal, well-integrated transportation system that reliably moves people and goods within and between significant job centers. The success of this system is predicated on the local and regional highway networks performing effectively. The addition of the Express Toll Lanes (ETLs) to the I-405 Corridor has furthered this goal, and Bellevue supports maintaining the toll lanes between Bellevue and Lynnwood as well as authorizing toll implementation for new improvements between Bellevue and Renton. The ETLs lay the groundwork for future investments by Sound Transit in Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) along the entire I-405 Corridor. Bellevue supports adjustments to the phasing of the "Connecting Washington" transportation package to deliver projects sooner to meet the needs of SOV, HOV, transit and non-motorized users. Bellevue also supports:

- Funding the NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street to SR 520 southbound braided ramp and the NE 2<sup>nd</sup> interchange;
- Constructing interchange improvements on SR 520 at 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE;
- Developing the NE 6<sup>th</sup> Street extension project and beginning discussions with legislators about funding opportunities for the City's Grand Connection project

across I-405 that connects growth corridors in Wilburton and Bel Red with Downtown Bellevue;

- Addressing traffic congestion on I-405 at SR 522;
- Develop a multi-modal regional trail system that provides north/south connectivity on the Eastside Rail Corridor, including funding for the Wilburton Trestle rehabilitation; and
- Ensuring \$14 million is approved for the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail project.

**2. Tolling.** Bellevue supports the following principles concerning tolling of state highways (these principles are excerpted from previously-adopted Council policies and interest statements):

- a. The state should develop a region-wide phasing plan that responds to the need to provide geographic balance and regional equity in the use of tolling to improve overall highway system performance and manage regional travel demand;
- b. Tolling should be used as both a tool for managing and improving highway operations for all users and as a revenue tool to augment project funding;
- c. Revenue raised in the corridor should be spent in the corridor (this has been state law for the last several years, with the exception of 2012, when the Legislature passed a bill allowing future I-90 toll revenue to be used to help fund SR 520); (STAFF NOTE: The Legislature has placed I-90 tolling on hold).
- d. Traffic diversion and its associated effects on local roads should be minimized and the state should mitigate negative impacts; and,
- e. The state should continually monitor and evaluate the impacts and performance of all tolled lanes and assess the impact on general purpose, transit and HOV travel lanes, including occupancy parameters for 2+ and 3+ HOV users and ensure that 2-person carpools either improves or holds harmless general purpose lane performance as compared with any No Build scenario.
- f. Toll revenue should be used to optimally leverage state gas tax revenues, bonding availability and Federal partnership funding.

**3. Corridor-Specific Guiding Principles.** The City shall engage with WSDOT and refine tolling guidance over time as the region's tolling plan is implemented. The following principles should guide this engagement with regard to Bellevue's key highways—I-405, SR 520 and I-90:

- a. **I-405.** In addition to Bellevue's tolling principles, WSDOT should ensure that the Express Toll Lanes being planned and constructed on I-405 be consistent with the I-405 Master Plan and implemented where new capacity has been, or will be added, to accommodate the toll lanes.
- b. **Cross Lake Corridors - SR 520 & I-90.** In addition to Bellevue's tolling principles, WSDOT should engage with affected communities, stakeholders and cross-lake users of both bridges to ensure that the Legislature's direction to toll I-90 to help fund remaining costs associated with the SR 520 bridge replacement project be done in an open and transparent manner. A meaningful portion of the tolling revenue generated by I-90 tolls should be used to improve overall operation, maintenance and improvements (e.g., capital improvements such as targeted capacity improvements, park-and-ride lot expansion, transit service, enhancements, etc.) to I-90 through a future formal agreement with WSDOT.

4. **Transportation Technology.** Bellevue supports efforts to ensure that the regional transportation system uses new and smart technologies that increase overall system efficiency, including the exploration of new technology-related funding mechanisms. The City urges state and regional transportation agencies to work in close collaboration to get maximum benefit from public investment in the region's transportation system. The City supports incentives to accelerate the sales and use of electric vehicles as well as incentives for commuter parking and commute trip reduction programs to increase the use of public and private vanpool, carpool and shuttle services.
5. **Infrastructure**
  - a. **"Waters of the State Proposal."** Ensure that any proposed infrastructure investment package for water supply, storm water, and flood control provides equity between where taxes and fees are collected and where they are invested.

## C. FINANCE

1. **Local Revenue Authority.** Oppose legislation that would reduce the City's tax or license base or revenue authority, or would adversely alter or limit the distribution or application of revenue at the local level. Support legislation that provides additional financial flexibility at the discretion of the city legislative body, while recognizing the need for local government to streamline its revenue collection processes and act in a "business friendly" manner.
2. **Safeguard State-Shared Revenues and Provide Revenue tools to Better Enable Cities to Address Community Needs.** Bellevue strongly supports safeguarding state-shared revenues and retaining programs and authority benefitting local government, including restoring funding for the Public Works Trust Fund or establishment of an equivalent stable revenue source for infrastructure funding; removing the cap on state-shared revenues for liquor profits; and increasing state revenue from non-regressive sources to support K-12 education funding, maintaining local control of education programming, safeguarding the human services safety net and the ability of state and local government to provide quality services.
3. **Maintain Local Business and Occupation (B&O) Tax and Licensing Authority.** Bellevue supports the continued goal of streamlining administration and reporting of local B&O taxes through the single multi-city business license and tax portal, FileLocal, now being used by Bellevue businesses. The City opposes state administration of local B&O tax as it would reduce local flexibility to tailor the tax to local conditions and reduce revenues that fund critical services.
4. **Sales Tax.** Bellevue supports continued mitigation for losses to jurisdictions that are negatively impacted from changes to sales tax sourcing, until such time as voluntary compliance of the collection and payment of state and local sales tax on interstate mail order and internet sales, or federal mandate, results in net positive revenues from the sourcing change.
5. **Telecommunications Taxes.** Bellevue opposes any reduction in the ability of municipalities to impose reasonable taxes and fees on telecommunication services.
6. **Sales Tax Limitations.** Bellevue opposes legislation to extend sales tax to new areas of local government operations, such as parks and recreations programs for youth.
7. **Utility Lien Law.** Bellevue opposes legislation that would preempt existing city authority to place liens on property or discontinue service to assure payment for utility services.

8. **City Utility Tax Authority.** Support maintenance of existing city utility tax revenues and utility authority.
9. **K-12 Education Funding.** The Legislature has made significant investments in K-12 education funding in response to the McCleary decision. Bellevue supports efforts to identify a balanced, phased funding solution for K-12 education. As the Legislature develops a plan to meet its obligations under McCleary, the City urges a comprehensive study of the local economic impacts of proposals for levy reform as the impacts in many areas could be significant. Proposed solutions should maintain local control of education programming; provide a phased, balanced approach that could include year-over-year increases in the state property tax rates to reduce reliance on local levies over time; and mitigate any negative economic impacts.

## D. ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND UTILITIES

Bellevue considers natural resources to be key community assets for current and future generations and supports legislation and funding to maintain the City's quality of life, including preserving and protecting a healthy environment and economy.

### 1. ENERGY

- a. **Clean Energy Tools.** Bellevue supports an accelerated transition from coal to clean, renewable energy provided the transition does not result in negative economic impacts to ratepayers. The City supports the transition to cleaner energy sources, including: electric cars; "smart city" technologies; green building technologies that save energy; comprehensive science-based limits on carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases; and infrastructure that supports renewable power and storage.
- b. **Clean Energy and Technology Sector.** Bellevue supports funding that would enhance cities' ability to attract and retain emerging clean energy businesses and jobs, including funding or favorable financing mechanisms for development of infrastructure required to accommodate them.
- c. **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.** Bellevue supports incentives for the installation of renewable energy generation equipment and facilities, including solar, heat recovery and geothermal. The City also supports incentives to encourage energy efficiency, conservation and the use of advanced biofuels (e.g. biodiesel and ethanol, among others).
- d. **Public-Private Partnerships.** Bellevue supports legislation enabling public-private partnerships that increase the functionality and value of public facilities (e.g., park-and-ride facilities).

### 2. TECHNOLOGY

- a. **Small Cell Wireless Facilities Siting.** Bellevue supports the deployment of wireless technology. The City supports legislation that protects its authority and ability to control use of its rights-of-way when siting small cell wireless facilities and associated equipment. The City strongly opposes legislation that would impact its ability to control costs, permitting and land use processes in the siting of these facilities. The City further strongly opposes legislation that would encroach upon its rights as a property owner to negotiate any and all terms of leases of its property for use by other parties, including for the siting of small cell wireless facilities.

### 3. AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE

- a. **Green Fleets.** Bellevue supports incentives for government fleets to transition to cleaner, more fuel-efficient vehicles, such as hybrids and plug-in electric vehicles.
- b. **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure.** Bellevue supports funding for regional, state and multistate electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure planning and implementation efforts.
- c. **Air Pollution Prevention. Bellevue supports increased funding for local and regional air quality and pollution reduction programs, including those managed by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) and the Clean Cities Coalition.** Bellevue supports legislation that would provide the option for all larger cities to be directly represented on the PSCAA Board of Directors.
- d. **Commute Trip Reduction.** Bellevue supports Commute Trip Reduction funding and policies that reduce demand on local and state roads.

### 4. WATER SUPPLY

#### **Bellevue supports state legislation that:**

- a. Encourages cooperative efforts of local governments to undertake water supply planning, develop new water resources, and link systems together for greater efficiency.
- b. Provides tools that allow local governments and water supply agencies to equitably balance competing demands on water resources, including a balance between in-stream and out-of-stream benefits.
- c. Creates incentives to pursue and encourage cost-effective water conservation measures for all segments of water users.
- d. Encourages water efficiency through the building code council's adoption of a rule to require that all new toilets sold in the state must be high efficiency toilets by 2016.
- e. Requires reclaimed water providers to: obtain City approval prior to the sale and use of reclaimed water within the City's water service area; ensure that the City's customers will not be financially harmed by additional costs that result from using reclaimed water in place of the City's potable drinking water supply; and integrate and coordinate plans for reclaimed water with municipal watershed and water supply system plans.
- f. Requires a cost-benefit analysis from purveyors of reclaimed water to ensure that general rate-paying customers are not subsidizing those who will benefit directly from the reclaimed water system.

#### **Bellevue opposes:**

- a. Changes to the municipal water law statute that would jeopardize the ability of the Cascade Water Alliance to meet its obligations to its members.

### 5. STORM WATER MANAGEMENT AND NPDES PERMIT

#### **The City supports:**

- a. Continued funding for municipal storm water capacity grants that provide flexibility for cities to implement National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements;
- b. Additional funding to help cities implement the municipal storm water discharge permit under Phase II of the NPDES;

- c. Flexible and direct funding to cities and counties to meet NPDES requirements based on a per-capita or other formula that recognizes the burdens of the new regulations to different jurisdictions; and
- d. State funding that allows local governments flexibility to determine the best way to use the funding in implementing the Phase II storm water requirements (NPDES permit). (NOTE: included below in “oppose” section—b)
- e. Continued funding for the Storm Water Financial Assistance Program that provides funding for projects with direct water quality benefits.

**The City opposes:**

- a. Permit requirements that exceed what is reasonable and practicable regarding urban runoff;
- b. Permit requirements that undermine local land use authority and/or conflict with the Growth Management Act vesting rules and other local government functions;
- c. Permit-mandated watershed scale storm water planning that undermines the local land use control and/or potentially expands City liability for the actions of other jurisdictions; and
- d. Department of Ecology rulemaking that results in unrealistic water quality standards and implementation through Water Quality Cleanup Plans and the NPDES Permit.

**6. SOLID WASTE**

- a. **Preserve Local Authority.** Bellevue supports preserving existing city authority over solid waste management, especially waste stream control and recycling.
- b. **Solid Waste Facility Mitigation.** Bellevue supports legislation to allow cities with essential public facilities within their boundaries (i.e., transfer stations) to receive reasonable fees to mitigate the related public safety and infrastructure impacts, costs, and loss of tax revenue.
- c. **Lifecycle Product Stewardship.** Bellevue supports product stewardship policies that significantly improve the management of hazardous and solid wastes in the Puget Sound region and ensure such wastes are recycled whenever practical and managed in a manner that reduces human exposure and environmental pollution. Specifically, Bellevue supports:
  - Improved packaging requirements that minimize packaging in order to reduce the creation of solid waste, encourage including significant recycled content, and improve the ease of recycling products at the end of their useful life;
  - Programs that encourage manufacturer responsibility for developing and implementing a collection system for the reclamation and proper disposal of their products at the end of the products’ useful life;
  - A convenient, safe, secure and environmentally sound medicine take-back program for unwanted medicines from households through a mechanism that covers the cost of collection, transportation and legislation for point of sale fees on hazardous waste products to support the operation of specialized collection facilities; and
  - Disposal that does not rely on local government funding.
- d. **Preserve Solid Waste Grants.** Bellevue supports stable, sustainable funding for statewide Local Solid Waste Funding Assistance grants, used for solid

waste programs such as household hazardous waste, waste reduction and recycling, including organics, and waste prevention.

## 7. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

- a. **Invasive Species.** Bellevue supports legislation to reduce the introduction of non-native species that could negatively impact the quality of life in the City by jeopardizing aquatic habitat, hindering efforts to recover salmon and endangered species, or increasing water supply costs. Specifically, Bellevue supports legislation that addresses the following:
  - Training and certification programs.
  - Improving decontamination best management practices (BMPs) and protocols.
  - Establishing baseline assessments.
  - Developing certified sources of aquatic materials.
  - Providing funds for local jurisdictions to prevent and respond to infestations.
- b. **Salmon Recovery and Endangered Species Act (ESA) Funding.** The City supports increased state funding for salmon recovery focused on watershed forum implementation plans.
- c. **Environmental Permits.** Bellevue supports legislation that:
  - Streamlines permitting for ESA-related projects.
  - Modifies regulatory permits that protect the natural environment such as Hydraulic Permit Authority (HPA) permits to reduce duplication and regulatory burdens of environmental oversight and ensure equitable mitigation based on project impacts.
  - Provides programmatic permitting to reduce unnecessary permit fees and administrative costs.
- d. **Fish Consumption Rulemaking and Legislation:** Bellevue supports rulemaking and legislation regarding fish consumption and water quality standards that ensure a balanced, rational approach that does not impose unreasonable and unattainable regulatory compliance and costs.
- e. **Puget Sound Partnership.** The City supports legislation that is compatible with current planning efforts and activities related to water quality, quantity and habitat, as well as consistency with community values and appropriate fiscal constraints. Bellevue opposes adoption of actions or legislation that impose unrealistic or infeasible water quality, quantity or habitat or monitoring requirements in urban areas.
- f. **Flood Control.** Bellevue supports legislation that would require balancing public safety concerns with habitat protection when reviewing and/or issuing permits for flood control projects. The City also supports efforts to ensure a nexus between the expenditure of funds within a flood control district and the contribution and benefit received by areas within the district.
- g. **Lakeline Funding.** The City supports funding to repair and/or replace deteriorating segments of the sewer pipeline located along the shore of Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish.

## E. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

1. **Insurance/Tort Reform.** Bellevue supports efforts by the state to reduce liability costs which will add a greater degree of certainty to business and government budgets and improve the economic environment. Bellevue supports legislation to amend state tort statutes to remove unreasonable municipal and private sector liabilities, specifically:
  - a. **Joint and Several Liability.** Exempt cities and towns from joint and several liability for the acts of other persons at fault;
  - b. **Cap Non-Economic Damages:** Provide caps on non-economic damages for local government entities, their officers, employees, and volunteers and for businesses and health care providers.
2. **Public Contracting**
  - a. **Procurement.** Bellevue opposes efforts to mandate a specific statewide procurement code for local use.
  - b. **Bidding.** Bellevue supports legislation giving cities greater flexibility with bidding procedures and increases in bid limits.
  - c. **Public Works.** Support legislation that clarifies, streamlines, and/or simplifies prevailing wage processes, reduces fees for processes, and/or limits increases in hourly wage rates to reflect inflationary rates. Support legislative or regulatory changes that ensure job classifications for prevailing wage purposes reflect industry practices.
3. **Protect Public Intellectual Property.** Support legislation to grant local authority to calculate and assess charges for custom electronic products developed from electronic information systems (E-Gov) when provided to persons or organizations for other than governmental uses. Permissible charges for such data should include a reasonable amount to cover staff time to research and develop the information system.
4. **Telecommunications and Rights-of-Way.** Protect local authority to require franchises to manage city rights-of-way and to protect publicly-owned infrastructure. Bellevue supports current state law requiring utilities to bear the cost of relocating their facilities in public rights-of-way.
5. **Reform the Public Records Act**
  - a. Bellevue is committed to open and transparent government and supports legislative reform to enable the City and other agencies to meet their obligations under the Public Records Act without being overwhelmed by requests.
  - b. Bellevue also supports legislation to ensure the rights and privacy of witnesses are protected and exemptions to the public disclosure act that would protect personal information of clients participating in City-sponsored activities, such as parks and recreation programs, and confidential or proprietary information supplied by persons or entities doing business with governments.
6. **Eminent Domain Authority.** Bellevue will monitor proposals to change eminent domain authority to ensure that the ability of local governments to use eminent domain in appropriate situations is not diminished and to ensure that the costs and



administrative burden for using eminent domain authority are not unreasonably increased.

7. **Clarify Recreational Immunity.** Bellevue supports clarifying recreational immunity for multi-purpose pedestrian and bicycle trails. Recent court cases (*Camica and Lockner*) in conflict with long-established precedent have created new uncertainty over whether recreational immunity exists for these types of multi-purpose facilities as it does for other recreational facilities such as parks.

## F. GROWTH MANAGEMENT, LAND USE AND PLANNING

1. **Growth Management.** Support legislation providing incentives to focus future growth in cities and urban centers. Support legislation to enable local governments to address growth management issues through balanced regional policy planning and local program implementation as envisioned by the policy coordination and consistency requirements of the state Growth Management Act (GMA). Oppose legislation that would exempt essential public facilities from compliance with SEPA and oppose legislation that would decrease the City's ability to regulate and influence the siting of essential public facilities.
2. **Transit-Oriented Development (TOD).** Support legislation that provides cities with additional support, incentives and authority to encourage compact growth around transit stations and areas served by high frequency transit, such as the option of SEPA exemptions or additional authority regarding concurrency. Oppose any form of mandatory TOD legislation imposed on cities that would limit local government zoning authority. Monitor legislation and proposals regarding "value capture financing" in areas currently identified or zoned for TOD-type development.
3. **Concurrency.** Bellevue supports the premise of GMA concurrency, and further supports ensuring that cities have clear authority to implement concurrency in a manner best suited to meet city-wide growth management goals. The City opposes any changes that would undermine local land use authority.
4. **Regulatory and Permitting Reform.** The City supports defining, coordinating, simplifying and streamlining land use decisions and permitting under the GMA as well as under SEPA and the Shorelines Management Act, balancing benefits of statewide uniformity with the need for local communities to govern themselves. The City opposes legislation that would diminish the City's authority over permitting and fees.
5. **Shoreline Management.** The Legislature should provide full funding to implement and update shoreline management requirements.
6. **Property Rights.** Support a balanced approach to property rights, which recognizes the community benefits from land use and zoning authority and which recognizes the limits of municipal financial resources while respecting the rights of property owners to be free from unreasonable intrusion into the use and development of property.
7. **State Building Codes.** Oppose legislation that would impose significant new administrative burdens on local government.

## G. PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE COURTS

1. **Juvenile Justice and Services.** Support legislation maintaining strong sanctions for chronic, misdemeanor behavior for juvenile offenders and permit greater

judicial discretion to impose detention. State policy should recognize legitimate city land use and other regulatory concerns related to juvenile justice issues, including but not limited to, facilities siting and operation issues. Support continued and enhanced state funding of juvenile justice systems, including local government programs for providing alternatives to incarceration, programs to keep youth off drugs, and the provision of drug treatment.

2. **Gun Legislation.** Support appropriate gun licensing legislation, as well as:
  - a. Enhanced penalties for persons using or possessing guns in the commission of a crime;
  - b. Legislation making any felony conviction and juvenile adjudications reasons for disqualifying applicants from firearm possession permits and linking the possibility of restoration of possession rights to the seriousness of the underlying felony offense/juvenile adjudication;
  - c. The ability of local governments to restrict or prohibit the possession of firearms in schools, city parks and other city facilities regardless of gun permits; and
  - d. Legislation allowing for the forfeiture of guns in the possession of a suicidal person.
3. **Hate Crimes.** Support legislation that provides civil equality, fairness and tolerance of differences consistent with the state and federal constitutions.
4. **Vehicle Prowling.** Support legislation redefining vehicle prowling in the first degree as prowling of all types of vehicles rather than simply certain vehicles in order to make penalties in this area more consistent.
5. **Fire Safety Standards.** Oppose state regulation of fire response times and staffing standards.
6. **Provide Adequate Funding for Police Training Academy.** Support adequate state funding for the Basic Law Enforcement Academy to ensure local agencies are able to meet their police training needs within a reasonable time.
7. **Medical Cannabis/Legalization of Adult Marijuana Use.** Bellevue supports legislative changes to consolidate the laws regulating the production and distribution of medical cannabis and recreational marijuana into a single system. The principle focus should be on achieving safe and appropriate access to medically recommended supply of medical cannabis while removing incentives to continue with black marketing of products. The City also strongly supports legislative confirmation of local authority over traditional land use, licensing, local taxes and fees, and other regulatory functions regarding marijuana production or distribution.
8. **Law Enforcement/Corrections Officers Body Cameras.** Bellevue supports legislation that provides local governments the option to adopt a program for the use of cameras. The City also supports legislation that specifically clarifies records retention, disclosure, and use limitations of video and/or sound recordings made by law enforcement or corrections officers and ensures the rights and privacy of victims and witnesses are protected.

## H. PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND ENVIRONMENT

1. **Parks and Open Space.** Support legislation to secure long-term state funding for maintenance of existing parks, as well as acquisition/development of open space and active and passive parks consistent with local and county-wide planning policies.
2. **Forest Practices Permits.** Support legislation requiring that all forest practices permits issued for properties within city limits or within urban growth boundaries be subject to local government review processes.
3. **Park Usage Liability.** Support existing protections for local government from liability in park facilities.

## I. PERSONNEL AND LABOR RELATIONS

1. **Interest Arbitration.** Oppose expansion of compulsory interest arbitration. Bellevue supports legislation to:
  - a. Amend the criteria for binding interest arbitration that would permit consideration of the following: economic priorities and fiscal limitations, local labor market conditions, and qualifications of arbitrators;
  - b. Make wage comparability requirements consistent between police and fire to eliminate West Coast comparisons when sufficient in-state comparables exist; and
  - c. Use 90 percent of the Consumer Price Index as appropriate cost of living measure in determining wage increases.
2. **Workers Compensation.** To address rising workers compensation costs, the City supports a comprehensive evaluation of the workers compensation system to provide greater certainty, fairness and accountability for both employers and employees. The City opposes legislation that would limit the ability of cities and towns to self-fund workers' compensation programs. The City opposes the expansion of occupational disease presumptions for firefighters.
3. **Disclosure of Labor Negotiations Materials.** Support legislation that would exempt from public disclosure requirements materials and information gathered and prepared in anticipation of labor negotiations, disclosure of which would reveal the municipality's collective bargaining strategy in current or future negotiations.
4. **LEOFF II Right to Sue.** The City supports legislation to amend state law to clarify that LEOFF II members may not sue their city employers for on-the-job injuries, but may sue only for intentional acts.
5. **Retiree Benefits for Firemen's Pension Fund Member's Surviving Spouses.** Bellevue and other cities support closing the loophole in the recent amendment to the Firemen's Pension Act to prevent deathbed election of benefits that would be costly to the City.
6. **Control Pension Costs.** Bellevue urges the Legislature to consider and limit fiscal impacts to local governments if legislation is considered that will change employer contribution rates, or provide enhanced benefits in the LEOFF, PERS, and PSERS systems. Bellevue also supports the state providing financial assistance to cities to help pay for LEOFF 1 liabilities.

7. **Manage LEOFF 1 Retiree Medical Costs.** Bellevue supports the state providing financial assistance to cities to help pay for LEOFF 1 medical costs.

## J. **AFFORDABLE HOUSING, HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS**

1. **Tools for Affordable Housing:** Bellevue supports legislation to provide tools jurisdictions could consider adopting to help add affordable housing units, including but not limited to: increasing funding for the Housing Trust Fund; expanding state and local funding tools; eliminating the sunset provision and increasing the document recording fee dedicated to affordable housing/homeless assistance; a sales tax exemption on construction of units affordable to 30% of Area Median Income (AMI); transit oriented development (TOD) incentives for affordable housing; increasing the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) by one-quarter of one percent to raise funds for the production of affordable housing; and an affordable housing preservation tax exemption for existing multi-family properties. Bellevue also supports legislation to resolve the construction warranty provisions in state law that are preventing the development of condominiums, which provide affordable housing ownership opportunities for moderate-income households.
2. **Homelessness and Human Services.** Bellevue supports legislation to: regulate homeless encampments that do not disproportionately impact the safety, security and well-being of residents of the encampments and surrounding neighborhoods by clustering and excessively long stays; ensure the rights of religious organizations to host safe parking for the homeless on property owned/controlled by the religious organization, and invest in the state's human services sector, including better access to mental health and substance abuse services.
3. **State Support for Social Service Programs.** Major cuts to social service programs at the state level could result in shifting the responsibility and costs for providing such services to local governments. The City supports:
  - a. Continued state funding for public health and human services and opposes legislation that would result in shifting the costs of providing such services, including mental and dental health, to local governments. The City supports the county as the appropriate regional provider of public health care services, while recognizing the unique issues of urban health departments may require supplemental state funding. Oppose legislation that would require increasing City financial contributions to county public health systems.
  - b. State funding of effective mental health and substance abuse treatment and prevention programs
  - c. Maintain state funding for job training, ESL training, and child care for those making the transition from welfare to work and those who become unemployed during the recession.
4. **Adult Family Homes.** Monitor legislation regarding the siting and operation of adult family homes.
5. **Eastside Human Service Forum Priorities.** The Eastside Human Services Forum (EHSF) advocates with Eastside Cities, King County, state and federal governments to ensure that revenue and policies support the needs of East King County residents. The Eastside Human Services Forum Board has a designated seat for a Bellevue City Councilmember. Typically the City adopts the EHSF State Legislative Agenda as part of its Statement of Policy. The EHSF 2018 priorities are included below.

**a. Support access to basic needs and health services including:**

- Allocate additional resources for behavioral health, including mental health and substance abuse.
- Increase funding for civil legal aid.
- Allow appropriate funding of Medicaid dollars to allow counties to supplement for mental illness and drug dependency.
- Stabilize behavioral health treatment and improve access and quality in the community.
- Fund the Working Family Tax Rebate which allows families to receive rebates to help them pay for basic needs.
- Pass the Equal Pay Opportunity Act to ensure that all people are paid equally regardless of gender.

**b. Make homelessness rare, brief and one-time including:**

- Pass a Capital Budget that invests \$106 million in the Housing Trust Fund and allow local governments to create and preserve affordable housing through optional local tools.
- Increase and make permanent the Document Recording Fee which is used to prevent and end homelessness.
- Protect low-income tenants by enacting statewide Source of Income Discrimination protections.

**c. Support older adults and people with disabilities including:**

- Restore the Medicaid Adult Hearing Hardware Benefit, discontinued effective 2011, to cover hearing aids, related services, repairs and replacements.
- Preserve Washington's long-term care infrastructure and increase support for services that enable adults to remain in their homes and in the community, such as Adult Day Health, Family Caregiver Support programs, Case Management programs and programs funded through the Senior Citizen's Services Act.
- Increase qualifying income level necessary for eligibility for the senior/disabled property tax exemption or deferral.

**d. Strengthen early learning and youth programs including:**

- Increase funding to the Home Visiting Services Account to provide support for families with young children birth to three.
- Increase Homeless Student Stability Act to reduce transportation costs for McKinney-Vento students and allocate transportation dollars to cover actual costs.
- Support Breakfast After the Bell to ensure that low-income students have access to adequate food at school.

**K. EARLY CHILDHOOD, SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN/YOUTH AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS.** The City supports strong state legislation and programs for children and families, including early childhood education, school readiness, after-school programs, access to quality child care, drop-out prevention, family support, prevention of child abuse, special education and local government partnerships with school districts.