



# State Legislative Session Kick-off

Genesee Adkins, Chief of External Affairs  
*City Manager's Office*

January 2, 2024

# Direction

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No direction sought tonight; This update is for information only.





# Agenda

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1. Brief preview of the legislative session
2. Recap of Bellevue's State Legislative Agenda
3. AWC legislative priorities
4. Timeline, Next steps





# Preview of Legislative Session

- Begins January 8, 2024
- 60-day (“short”) session
- Majorities will not change
- Supplemental budgets
  - Operating
  - Capital
  - Transportation
- Revenue Review
  - November 20
  - February 20





# Likely Hot Topics in the 2024 Session

- Supplemental Budgets
- Climate Commitment Act
- Transit-Oriented Development
- Transportation Funding Challenges
- Organized Retail Theft
- HB 1110 Implementation



# Bellevue State Legislative Agenda – Priorities

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## **Affordable Housing and Land Use**

- Recognition of our state's affordable housing crisis
- Desire to shape bills on transit-oriented development to be effective
- Interest in new and flexible local funding options

## **Infrastructure for a Growing Community**

- Electric Fire Engine and Charging Infrastructure
- Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail funding shift
- I-405 Funding Gap



# Bellevue State Legislative Agenda – Statement of State Policy

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- Homelessness and Human Services
- Climate and the Environment
- Fiscal Sustainability, Financing Tools, and General Government
- Equity and Social Justice
- Public Safety
- Transportation
- Public Works and Infrastructure
- Economic Development and Workforce
- AWC Legislative Priorities
- Implementing Bellevue's Vision and Priorities







# 2024 State Legislative Agenda

Now in its 70th year, Bellevue champions the programs, projects, and opportunities that position our city to thrive for the next 70 years and beyond. Bellevue plans today for the next evolution of our city. This state legislative agenda advances the City Council's vision, values, and priorities to get us there. Bellevue is the city where you want to be.

## HIGHEST PRIORITY ISSUES

**Affordable Housing and Land Use:** Washington State faces an affordable housing crisis. Like most communities throughout the state, Bellevue needs the state's partnership to address this crisis. Bellevue recognizes that land use policies impact housing capacity and is actively implementing legislation enacted in 2023 as part of its 2024 comprehensive plan update.

Additionally, Bellevue supports legislative action that provides incentives to cities to increase housing capacity near light rail and bus rapid transit. Such legislation must provide protection from appeals and litigation. Affordable housing should be required in future planning for growth near fixed route transit. Bellevue supports setting affordability goals for transit-oriented development, and providing local flexibility and planning resources to help communities achieve those goals. Transit-oriented development legislation should focus on residential development and provide

flexibility for local land use conditions. Cities need time to incorporate new land use legislation into comprehensive plans.

Bellevue supports new and flexible funding options for local jurisdictions that address the need for affordable housing, such as a local option Real Estate Excise Tax (REET). Such options should be progressively structured to best meet the needs of low- and moderate-income households.

**Infrastructure for a Growing Community:** Bellevue is experiencing exponential growth, welcoming 30,000 new jobs from 2020 to 2025. The economic vitality of Bellevue and the Eastside of Lake Washington provides an excellent return on investment for the state economy.

**Electric Fire Engine and Charging Infrastructure:** Together, Bellevue and Redmond seek \$800,000 to invest in the first electric fire engines in the state.

The Cities of Bellevue and Redmond are at the forefront of sustainable emergency response in acquiring the state's first electric fire engines. Bellevue specifically seeks \$560,000 of that shared total, which would be the last dollars in after anticipated federal support. Both cities successfully received partial grant funding from Ecology, but an electric engine costs approximately double that of a diesel engine. This project involves removing diesel engines from service, purchasing electric



Invest in  
**Bellevue**

INVESTMENT



**\$2.3 Billion**

total investment in Bellevue's Spring District, the West Coast's single largest transit-oriented redevelopment underway



**136,000**

workers use the region's multi-modal transportation network to commute in Bellevue each day



**20 Percent**

of Washington's export technology projects the Innovation Triangle in Bellevue-Redmond

Invest in **Bellevue**

A GREAT RETURN  
FOR ALL OF WASHINGTON

**\$1.2 Billion**  
Tax Revenue

Returned to the state government in 2021 by Bellevue businesses and residents

Million  
tax

greatest producer  
in the state

**\$233 Million**  
B&O Tax

Million  
cool  
tax

**\$162 Million**  
REET Tax

ENT

**3 Billion**

te investment in Bellevue  
ght rail

000

used the region's multi-  
transportation network to  
into Bellevue in 2019

percent

n's exports originate  
side

tion

rs came to Bellevue  
\$1.79 billion in  
ic impact



City of Bellevue



# Association of Washington Cities Legislative Priorities

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- Help recruit and retain police officers for public safety
- Revise the arbitrary property tax cap
- Continue investing in infrastructure
- Provide behavioral health resources

Adopted at the end of September:

<https://wacities.org/advocacy/City-Legislative-Priorities>

City Action Days: Feb. 7-8, 2024 in Lacey



# Engagement, Timeline, Next Steps

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- Meetings with 41<sup>st</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> District lawmakers to brief them on Bellevue's legislative priorities
- Discussions with AWC and other cities, as well as other stakeholders, on key emerging issues
- Identify key dates in the upcoming session when Bellevue will plan to be on the ground
- Plan to attend City Action Days on February 7-8, 2024
- Hit the ground running on Monday, January 8!



# Direction

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For information only

