

2024 State Legislative Session Mid-Session Update

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For information only





Agenda

1. Bellevue's State Legislative Agenda
2. Status of priorities
3. Olympia engagement: Testimony, city meetings, AWC City Action Days
4. Timeline, Next steps



State Legislative Agenda

- Adopted in October
- This is our compass
- The primary lens we use to assess both funding opportunities as they arise, as well as develop strategies to get traction on important 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

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.



Affordable Housing & Land Use

Continues to be a major area of policy focus

A number of policy bills in motion, post-Jan. 31 cutoff:

- Transit-oriented development
- Lot-splitting
- Housing element
- Co-living
- Green building & setbacks

Also a discussion of funding tools:

- REET Legislation (HB 2276/SB 6191)



Services and Infrastructure for a Growing Community

Electric Fire Engine and Charging Infrastructure

- Follows partial awards from the Dept. of Ecology
- \$800K total request will help Bellevue and Redmond:
 - Remove two diesel engines from service
 - Purchase two electric fire engines
 - Purchase and install charging infrastructure at two locations: Bellevue Fire Station 1 & Redmond Fire Station 12



Signature Transportation Investments

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail “Gap” in Bellevue

- Need funding sequenced so that Bellevue can use federal grant funds via PSRC that must be obligated by June 2025
- Governor’s proposed budget makes that shift – good news!

I-405 Funding Gap

- WSDOT shared the 2023 Updated Financial Plan Report with the Legislature
- Preparing to work post-session on a corridor strategy for long session
- Potential transportation funding mechanism very possible in 2025





Olympia Engagement

Everyday bill analysis

Councilmembers testimony

“Bellevue Day” - Feb. 2

AWC City Action Days –
Feb. 7-8

Ongoing delegation work



Next steps

Budget Steps

- Revenue and economic forecast February 14
- Expecting to see budgets from House and Senate Feb. 22 or 23
- That will leave about two weeks for three supplemental budgets to be negotiated before Sine Die (adjournment)

Key Dates

- Committee cutoffs: **Jan 31** policy committees, **February 5** fiscal
- House of Origin cutoff: **February 13**
- On-time adjournment: **March 7**



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