

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

2023-2024 Federal Priorities

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City Manager's Office

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL**ACTION**

Staff is asking the council to consider the draft 2023-2024 Federal Priorities and adopt the Priorities at this meeting or a subsequent meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the 2023-2024 Federal Priorities, as drafted.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

Adoption of the Federal Priorities allows the City to convey to our congressional delegation and federal agencies Bellevue's highest level vision and principles, as well as a clear sense of what Bellevue will be asking for, applying for, or supporting in 2023-2024.

Current Context: the 118th Congress and Biden Administration

The Congress is currently closely divided, with Republicans reclaiming the majority in the House in the fall 2022 election. Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R, California) became the new Speaker of House after a historic 15 rounds of votes and a long and very public display of intraparty feuding. Meanwhile the Senate Democrats have a one seat majority (51 Democrats to 49 Republicans). The one-seat majority may help them move appointments and confirmations more easily and without the need to call in Vice President Harris to break a tie.

Washington state's congressional delegation this year mostly remained on the committees they have served on in the past. A very notable change was the ascension of Senator Murray to the chair position of the Senate Appropriations Committee, as well as her election by her colleagues to become the first woman Senate President Pro Tempore, placing her third in line to the presidency. In addition, Rep. Rick Larsen took the ranking member position of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers became chair of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Senator Cantwell will continue to hold the gavel of the Senate Commerce Committee. For Bellevue, Rep. Adam Smith will be ranking member on the House Armed Services Committee, and Rep. Suzan DelBene sits on Ways & Means, the chief committee overseeing tax and revenue issues.

A list of Bellevue's delegation leadership and committee assignments is below:

BELLEVUE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION – 2023 Committee Assignments	
Sen. Patty Murray	Senate President Pro Tempore Appropriations Committee, Chair Chair of Subcommittee Military Construction & Veterans Affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Energy and Water Development</u> • <u>Defense</u> • <u>Homeland Security</u> • <u>Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies</u> • <u>Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies</u> Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee Budget Committee Veteran's Affairs Committee
Sen. Maria Cantwell	Commerce, Science and Transportation, Chair Energy and Natural Resources Finance Indian Affairs Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Bellevue's House Members	
Rep. Suzan DelBene (D, WA-1)	Ways & Means New Democrat Coalition, Chair Women's High-Tech Coalition, Co-Chair
Rep. Adam Smith (D, WA-9)	House Committee on Armed Services, Ranking Member

Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Appropriations

Through the course of May, tensions grew around the nation's debt ceiling, which it had been projected to exceed by approximately June 5. In mid-May, subcommittees considered and approved four spending bills: Homeland Security, Agriculture, Military Construction-Veterans Affairs, and Legislative Branch, but full committee markups were put on hold temporarily while debt ceiling negotiations took

center stage. In the Senate, where a more bipartisan approach is being used to craft spending bills, movement is slower than the House.

The White House and Congressional leaders did broker a spending agreement, which President Biden signed into law on June 3. The deal suspends the debt ceiling through January 1, 2025, and lays out caps on federal spending for both defense and non-defense programs Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and 2025. The measure also sets 302(a) allocations for discretionary spending starting at \$1.62 trillion in fiscal 2026 and increasing to \$1.67 trillion in fiscal 2029. Congressional appropriators will divide those amounts among the 12 spending bills; however, unlike the spending caps for fiscal 2024 and 2025, the limits wouldn't be enforced through sequestration.

With the agreement now in place, appropriations work is proceeding with certainty in both the House and Senate. Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Kay Granger said in a statement that her committee will resume its May work, intending to markup the four spending bills mentioned above either the week of June 12 or the week of June 19. Senator Murray has indicated that markups in the Senate could begin soon, with spending levels now set through the end of the next calendar year.

Bellevue submitted four earmark requests for consideration as part of the FY 2024 appropriations process. Three of the four requests have been submitted by Bellevue's congressional delegation to the full Appropriations Committee for further consideration. Senator Murray, Bellevue's senior senator and Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, visited Bellevue in late May to tour the Bellevue and Redmond hybrid-electric fire engine project.

Below is information about the three project proposals that have advanced to the Appropriations Committee. The one proposal that did not advance was a \$1.5 million request for Eastside Net-Zero Low-Income Housing Retrofits.

CITY OF BELLEVUE - FY 2024 Requests Advanced to Committee		
Bellevue and Redmond Electric Fire Engines & Charging Infrastructure <i>Submitted by Rep. DelBene</i>	This is a joint request by Bellevue and Redmond for funds to help with each city's funding gap to purchase two electric fire engines and the necessary charging infrastructure for Bellevue Fire Station 1 and Fire Station 10 and Redmond Fire Station 12. Both cities have state grants and local funding committed.	\$1.885M

<p>Bellevue Police Department Body-worn Camera Program</p> <p><i>Submitted by Senator Cantwell and Rep. DelBene</i></p>	<p>This funding request is for the acquisition of body camera technology. The program will enhance the Police Department's patrol operations, incident investigation, incident response, and crime prevention.</p>	<p>\$1.095M</p>
<p>Digital Equity for Affordable Housing</p> <p><i>Submitted by Rep. Smith</i></p>	<p>This pilot project would launch Bellevue's Digital Equity for Affordable Housing Initiative by providing free direct internet access to 600 subsidized affordable housing units.</p> <p>The two pilot locations are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cascadian Apartments in Crossroads • Eastgate campus: Men's shelter, permanent and supportive housing, and workforce housing apartments 	<p>\$1.5M</p>

Draft 2023-2024 Federal Priorities

The attached document represents Bellevue's federal interests to our congressional delegation, federal agencies, and stakeholders. It connects our highest-level objectives to the tactical-level, timely items for this and the following year (as the federal government budget cycles are not calendar-year). It is structured around the council's seven Strategic Target Areas, listed below. The goal is to convey Bellevue's vision and principles, but also provide a clear sketch of what Bellevue will be asking for, applying for, or supporting in 2023-2024.

The Strategic Target Areas, around which the Federal Priorities are structured, are as follows:

- Transportation and mobility
- High performance government
- Achieving human potential
- Great places where you want to be
- High quality built and natural environment
- Economic development
- Regional leadership and influence

Timeline and Next Steps

Adoption of Federal Priorities in June would be well-timed for the City's objectives. As noted above, Bellevue currently has three earmark requests moving forward in the Appropriations process. There are also three grant applications currently pending at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the US Department of Transportation (USDOT). Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis and city staff are also traveling to Washington, DC later in June to promote those earmarks and grant applications. A key mission for that delegation visit will be updating the congressional offices on Bellevue's revised application for the

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant, B-SAFE (Bellevue: Safe Access For Everyone). The application deadline is July 10, and City representatives will ask our delegation to register their support with USDOT.

During the balance of the year, staff and city officials will continue to promote our Federal Priorities in a variety of ways. Staff will work with NLC to track federal grant opportunities as well as associated trainings offered by NLC or other resource groups. Staff will continue to offer our congressional delegation chances to visit Bellevue projects during in-state work periods or the August recess, both to educate members about burgeoning needs but also to demonstrate the success of and gratitude for federal partnership in our community. Bellevue will collaborate with other governmental, community, and private partners on evolving grant availability as well as ideas for the next round of congressionally directed spending (earmarks).

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

An adopted set of Federal Priorities serves as an important messaging document for the City, encapsulating the most important federal-level policy positions for Bellevue in 2023-2024. Congress and federal agencies' actions can have a wide range of impacts on the City, and it is important that the City be clear in articulating the City's needs and following through on strategic opportunities.

Fiscal Impact

Federal funds are a significant consideration for a number of city programs. Federal funds come to the City through a variety of avenues, from formula funds that flow to the City through Metropolitan Planning Organizations or state agencies, to competitive programs, overseen and awarded either directly by federal agencies themselves or at the regional level at the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC).

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the 2023-2024 Federal Priorities, as drafted.
2. Do not adopt the Federal Priorities and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Draft 2023-2024 Federal Priorities

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A