



DATE: January 9, 2023

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

FROM: Genesee Adkins, Chief of External Affairs, 452-7849
City Manager's Office

SUBJECT: Kickoff and Preview of the 2023 State Legislative Session

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Genesee Adkins, Chief of External Affairs, will share a quick synopsis of the 2023 Washington State Legislative Session and the work the City team has been doing in anticipation.

PREVIEW OF THE NEW SESSION

2023 is a Long Session

The 105-day session, referred to often as a “long session,” is longer than an even-numbered year so that the legislature can build the three biennial budgets as well as consider and pass more involved pieces of policy and regulatory change. While the final cutoff calendars haven’t been adopted as of the materials publication date, looking at the 2021 dates would lead us to generally expect the House of Origin cutoff to be around March 14 or so, Opposite House cutoff around April 9, and on-time adjournment around April 23.

Majorities Remain Largely Status Quo

Democrats continue to hold the majority in the House of Representatives (58-40) and in the Senate (29-20). In the November elections, Democrats added one additional seat in each chamber. In total, over two dozen new individuals were elected to the Legislature.

Working with our 41st and 48th District Legislators

With the council’s adoption of a 2023 State Legislative Agenda in November, staff have been able to meet multiple times with lawmakers about the City’s top priorities in the upcoming session. Staff met with some members in Olympia during the December Committee Assembly and with others over Zoom. Additionally, most of the delegation members joined Bellevue staff and Mayor Robinson last week for a brief conversation. Staff has provided a written summary of recent activities of the Congress and Administration.

The Session Ahead – Ready, Set, Go!

Today marks Day One of the new session, and our legislators are in strong positions as committee members and committee chairs to promote the needs of Bellevue’s constituents. We are advancing our City priorities and looking forward to giving the Council opportunities to play a direct role, including the AWC City Action Days February 15-16 in Olympia.