



CITY OF BELLEVUE

2016 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

ECONOMIC VITALITY

Support the Technology Sector: The combined technology sector generates over \$3 billion in sales and B&O taxes per year. 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.

REVENUE/FISCAL ISSUES

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 Assistance Account or establishment of an equivalent stable revenue source for infrastructure funding; increasing the current cap on state-shared revenues for liquor profits; increasing state revenue from non-regressive sources to support education funding, the human services safety net and state and local governments' ability to provide quality services.

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 supports 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.

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, scheduled to be operational in Bellevue in 2016. 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 to the City.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation Investments: The strength of our region's continued economic vitality depends on a multimodal, well-integrated transportation system that reliably moves people and goods within and between significant job centers. Passage of the 2015 statewide transportation package, "Connecting Washington", represents an important step forward in the effort to improve this regional system and addressing the backlog of transportation infrastructure needs across the state. The City will monitor the implementation of the package and supports adjustments to the phasing that would ensure more efficient use of resources and timely delivery of projects.

There is still a need to complete additional critical regional transportation projects, specifically:

- Continued funding for the I-405 Master Plan, including:
 - I-405 NE 8th Street to SR 520 southbound braided ramp
 - I-405 NE 2nd Street interchange
- Funding to complete interchange improvements on SR 520 at NE 124th Avenue NE.

“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.

WORKFORCE HOUSING, HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS

Tools for Workforce Housing: Bellevue supports legislation that would provide a variety of tools jurisdictions could consider adopting to help add workforce housing units, including but not limited to: increasing funding for the Housing Trust Fund; increasing the document recording fee dedicated to affordable housing; 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 workforce housing; and a workforce housing preservation tax exemption.

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.

UTILITIES/ENVIRONMENT

Fund Stormwater: Bellevue supports continued funding for municipal stormwater capacity grants that provide flexibility for cities to implement NPDES requirements. In addition, Bellevue supports continued funding for the Stormwater Financial Assistance Program that provides funding for projects with direct water quality benefits.

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 also supports facilitating greater access to rooftop residential community solar installations that provide greater certainty about financial return for current investors and extending the timeframe for incentives to encourage future installations.

PUBLIC SAFETY

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.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Reform the Public Records Act: Bellevue is committed to open and transparent government and supports legislative reform to enable Bellevue and other agencies to meet their obligations under the Public Records Act without being overwhelmed by requests. Ensure the rights and privacy of victims and witnesses are protected.

Clarify Recreational Immunity: Bellevue supports clarifying recreational immunity for multi-purpose pedestrian and bicycle trails. A recent court case (*Camica vs. Howard S. Wright Construction and City of Mercer Island*) left uncertainty over whether recreational immunity exists for these types of multi-purpose facilities as it does for other recreational facilities such as parks.

FUND CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

Men’s Homeless Shelter: In collaboration with the cities of Kirkland and Redmond, Bellevue is requesting approximately \$2 million in funding to construct a men’s homeless shelter in Bellevue.

Meydenbauer Bay Park: Requesting \$500,000 grant through the State Recreation & Conservation Office Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account to supplement the Phase 1 development project.