



## CITY OF BELLEVUE

### **DRAFT 2017 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

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#### **ECONOMIC VITALITY**

**Support the Technology Sector:** The combined technology sector generated over \$3.1 billion in taxable gross receipts in 2016. 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 Trust Fund or establishment of an equivalent stable revenue source for infrastructure funding; removing the cap on state-shared revenues for liquor profits; and increasing state revenue from non-regressive sources to support education funding, safeguarding the human services safety net and the ability of state and local government 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 a balanced, phased funding solution for K-12 education. As the Legislature develops a plan to meet its obligations under *McCleary*, the City urges 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, now being used by Bellevue businesses. The City opposes state administration of the local B&O tax as it would reduce local flexibility to tailor the tax to local conditions and reduce revenues that fund critical services.

#### **TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

The strength of our region's economy depends upon a multimodal, well-integrated transportation system that reliably moves people and goods within and between significant job centers. The success of this system is predicated on the local and regional highway networks performing effectively. Bellevue supports adjustments to the phasing of the "Connecting Washington" transportation package that would deliver projects sooner to meet the needs of SOV, HOV, transit and non-motorized users. Bellevue also supports efforts to ensure the regional transportation system uses new and smart technologies that increase efficiency. In addition to the projects in Connecting Washington, Bellevue supports funding to:

- Work with city, state and regional partners to improve the performance of I-405, particularly projects that address traffic congestion at SR 522 and implementation of bus rapid transit along this important regional corridor.
- Complete the I-405 Master Plan, including the NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street to SR 520 southbound braided ramp and the NE 2<sup>nd</sup> interchange.
- Construct interchange improvements on SR 520 at NE 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE.
- Develop a multi-modal regional trail system that provides north/south connectivity on the Eastside Rail Corridor, including funding for the Wilburton Trestle rehabilitation, and east/west connectivity on the Mountains to Sound Greenway.
- Explore options to provide more funding and coordinated planning of the regional road network.
- Urge state and regional transportation agencies to work in close collaboration to get maximum benefit from public investments in the region's transportation system.

**Water and Storm Water Funding:** Bellevue supports continued funding for municipal storm water capacity grants that provide flexibility for cities to implement NPDES requirements. In addition, Bellevue supports continued funding for the Storm water Financial Assistance Program that provides funding for projects with direct water quality benefits. Additionally, ensure that any proposed infrastructure investment package for water supply, storm water, and/or flood control provides equity between where taxes and fees are collected and where they are invested.

#### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING, HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS**

**Tools for Affordable Housing:** Bellevue supports legislation to provide tools that jurisdictions could consider adopting to add affordable housing units, including but not limited to: increasing funding for the Housing Trust Fund; eliminating the sunset provision and increasing the document recording fee dedicated to affordable housing/homelessness assistance; a sales tax exemption on construction of units affordable to 30% AMI; a hotel tax on short-term rentals; and an affordable 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.

#### **ENERGY/TECHNOLOGY**

**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 supports incentives to speed the transition to cleaner energy sources, including electric cars, "smart city" and green building technologies that save energy. Specifically, the City supports greater certainty on the financial return for current solar investors and extending the time frame for incentives to encourage future solar energy installations.

**Small Cell Wireless Facilities Siting:** The City supports legislation that protects its authority and ability to control use of its rights-of-way when siting small cell wireless facilities and associated equipment. The City strongly opposes legislation that would impact its ability to control costs, permitting and land use processes in the siting of these facilities. The City further strongly opposes legislation that would encroach upon its rights as a property owner to negotiate any and all terms of leases of its property for use by other parties, including for the siting of small cell wireless facilities.

#### **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**

**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.

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

#### **FUND THE CITY'S CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS**

**Men's Homeless Shelter:** \$2 million to fund construction of a men's homeless shelter in Bellevue.

**Meydenbauer Bay Park:** \$1 million to fund continued improvements at the park.

**Youth Athletic Facilities:** \$250,000 to renovate the Wilburton Sports Field synthetic turf.

**Recreational Trails Program:** \$150,000 to renovate ½-mile of trail in the Coal Creek Natural Area.

**Wilburton Trestle Project:** Support King County request for \$5 million for trestle rehabilitation.

**Highland Village Apartments:** Support state request for \$2 million for acquisition costs.