

**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**

State Legislative Update

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*City Manager's Office*

**DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL****INFORMATION  
ONLY**

No action is required; this is an informational briefing. The State Legislature addresses a range of policy issues of interest to the City. Council may wish to provide direction to staff regarding legislative proposals.

**RECOMMENDATION**

N/A

**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS**

The 2022 legislative session will begin on January 10. As the second year of the two-year legislative cycle, the 2022 session will be a “short” session, scheduled to last 60 consecutive days. It remains unclear whether the session will be conducted virtually or in person.

Bellevue staff is supporting City Council in the development of the 2022 Legislative Agenda. As the second year of the legislative biennium, staff recommends making minor adjustments to the 2021 Legislative Agenda such as removing references to bills that passed the Legislature. Staff also recommends removing successes such as the \$2 million received for the Eastgate Supportive Housing Project.

**2022 Session Preview**

During the 2022 session, the Legislature will adopt supplemental budgets to amend the 2021-23 operating, capital, and transportation budgets that were adopted during the 2021 session. While the state is not likely to be facing fiscal challenges, there are limited funding opportunities for new programs and projects in a non-budget year.

All bills introduced but not approved during the 2021 legislative session will continue to be under consideration in 2022. Some of the “hot topics” likely to be discussed include: 1) clarifications to police reform bills enacted in 2021; 2) minor modifications to the Long-Term Care Act; 3) proposals preempting local control on land use, particularly related to single-family neighborhoods and accessory dwelling units; and much more.

Democrats will continue to hold the majority in both the state House of Representatives and the Senate. All members of the House of Representatives and half the members of the Senate will seek re-election

in November 2022, utilizing the new boundaries established through redistricting, which is described below. This political climate will likely curb the advancement of controversial issues.

Legislators are cautioning to not expect significant legislative action during this short session.

Additionally, it is possible that the Legislature will convene in a special session prior to January 2022 for the purposes of enacting a transportation revenue package. At the time of this writing, a special session does not seem likely. If a transportation revenue package is not adopted in a special session, it will be a hot topic in the 2022 legislative session.

The Washington Redistricting Commission is currently redrawing the district boundaries for all 49 legislative districts to ensure that each legislative district includes an equal number of people. The Redistricting Commission will approve a new district map by November 15. These maps become final within 30 days after the beginning of the next regular or special legislative session. The Legislature may amend the boundary lines as long as does not affect more than 2 percent of a district's population and has approval from 2/3 of both legislative chambers.

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

The State Legislature addresses a range of policy issues of interest to the City.

## **OPTIONS**

N/A

## **ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS**

N/A

## **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A