

2024 AWC Legislative Session Wrap-up Briefing

Strong Cities | Great State



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2024 Session Overview

- Short 60-day session
- Second year of the biennium
- Election year
- Supplemental budgets
- Status quo economy
- Initiatives to the Legislature





Help recruit and retain police officers for public safety

Provide additional funding tools and resources for officer recruitment and retention to improve public safety.



Revise the arbitrary property tax cap

Revise the arbitrary 1% property tax cap that has been in place for more than 20 years.



Continue investing in infrastructure

Continue strong state investments in infrastructure funding to support operations and maintenance of traditional and non-traditional infrastructure like drinking water, wastewater, and broadband.



Provide behavioral health resources

Create greater access to behavioral health services to include substance use disorder treatment and dual diagnosis treatment facilities.



2024 Significant Issues

- Drug possession & fentanyl crisis
- Affordable housing
- Land use pause to address upcoming deadlines
- Public safety – auto theft & property crime
- Public Records Act addressing vexatious litigation
- Culvert repairs & replacement
- Producer responsibility for packaging
- Revenue options
- Climate – seek CCA funding
- Emergency management
- Water rights
- Liability – protect against new liability and explore tort reform
- Net ecological gain



2024 Budget Outcomes



Operating

- \$4.4 million to eliminate the local government 25% match for Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) training
- \$150 million for utilities to provide one-time bill rebates for low- and moderate-income residential electricity customers
- \$62 million to address housing and services for those who are unhoused
- \$12 million of CCA revenues to support local governments in searching for, accessing, and reporting on federal grant awards and tax incentives
- \$1.5 million for technical assistance for Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) grantees



Transportation

- \$27.2 million for Safe Routes to Schools grants.
- \$18.5 million for Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Programs and grants
- \$5 million to assist local jurisdictions in addressing emergent issues related to safety for pedestrians and bicyclists
- \$15 million for the Clean Alternative Fuel Vehicle Charging and Refueling Infrastructure Program



Capital

- Maintains the Public Works Assistance Account
- \$95.6 million in federal funding for Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program projects
- \$127 million increase for the Housing Trust Fund
- \$4 million of clean energy retrofit dollars dedicated to grants for energy audits to city-owned tier 1 & 2 buildings
- \$50 million for clean energy community decarbonization projects
- \$105 million for Community EV Charging Grants
- \$22 million for the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board

Initiatives to the Legislature

Passed by the Legislature (effective June 6)

- **I-2111** - Prohibits state and local taxes on personal income
- **I-2113** - Removes most restrictions on police pursuits
- **I-2081** - Concerns parental rights relating to their children's public school education

On the November ballot

- **I-2109** - Repeals the capital gains tax
- **I-2117** - Repeals the state's cap and invest program otherwise known as the Climate Commitment Act
- **I-2124** - Allows employees to opt out of the state's long-term care program at any time



Housing bills

Passed

- **HB 1892** – Workforce Housing Accelerator Loan Program
- **HB 1998** – Co-living housing
- **HB 2071** – Building Code Council
- **HB 2321** – Trailer bill to middle housing law
- **SB 5792** – It's (still) not a condo!
- **SB 6173** – Homeownership median income for 1406 funds
- **SB 6175** – Conversion to affordable rental housing



Housing bills

Failed

- **HB 2113** – GMA Housing Element agency approval
- **HB 2160/SB 6024** – Transit-oriented density
- **HB 2276/SB 6191** – REET funding – Affordable Homes Act
- **SB 5334** – Local option short-term rental tax
- **SB 6061** – Housing SEPA categorical exemption (SB 5412 trailer)



Land use & planning bills

Passed

- **HB 2296** – GMA comprehensive plan extension for 2025 jurisdictions
- **SB 5834** – Urban growth area (UGA) land swap
- **SB 6015** – Parking restrictions
- **SB 6120** – Amendments to Wildland Urban Interface Code



Land use & planning bills

Failed

- **HB 2158** – Automatic expansion of UGA
- **HB 2252** – Neighborhood cafes
- **HB 2343** – Reimbursement by/to property owners for street, road, and water or sewer projects
- **HB 2451** – Sets an inflation cap on impact fees
- **HB 2474** – Transitional housing/shelter siting and oversight
- **SB 6285** – Restricts use of impact fees



Environment bills

Passed

- **HB 2301** – Amendments to Organics Management Law
- **SB 5934** – Allowing residential bee hives

Failed

- **HB 1900** – Changing WA's recycling rate goal
- **HB 2049** – ReWRAP Act to improve residential recycling access and accountability by producers
- **HB 2015/SB 5517** – Addressing *Foster* impacts on muni water supply



Budget & finance bills

Passed

- **HB 2044** – Removing non-supplant restrictions on King County jurisdictions for voter-approved property tax levy lid lifts
- **HB 2137** – Tourism promotion fee exemption flexibility
- **SB 5897** – Notice for rate changes to the Business Licensing Service

Failed

- **SB 5770** – Revising the property tax levy limit



Public safety & criminal justice bills

Passed

- **HB 1493** – Impaired driving
- **HB 2153** – Catalytic converter theft
- **HB 2311** – First responder wellness
- **SB 5424** – Part-time work for law enforcement
- **SB 5780** – Rural and underserved area prosecutors and public defenders
- **SB 6105** – Adult entertainment
- **SB 6157** – DACA eligibility for law enforcement positions



Public safety & criminal justice bills

Failed

- **HB 1445** – AG actions against police departments
- **HB 1994** – Judicial dismissal of a misdemeanor
- **HB 2211/SB 6076** – Public safety sales tax councilmanic authority



Behavioral health & human services

Passed

- **HB 2088** – Liability protection for co-responder programs
- **HB 1929** – Young adult housing for post inpatient behavioral health treatment
- **HB 2195** – Capital construction of early learning facilities
- **HB 2247** – Behavioral health workforce
- **SB 5906** – Statewide fentanyl education campaign

Failed

- **HB 2245** – Training for co-responder programs
- **SB 6171** – Childcare for first responders



Broadband & energy bills

Passed

- **HB 1976** – Changing the incentive structure for tier 1 and tier 2 buildings*
- **HB 1982** – Codifying the Community Economic Revitalization Board's Rural Broadband grant and loan program

Failed

- **HB 2313** – Furthering digital equity and opportunity in Washington
- **HB 1422** – Concerning energy labeling of residential buildings
- **SB 5570** – Authorizing consumer-owned utilities to establish energy efficiency revolving loan programs

*\$4,000,000 appropriated in CCA funding to provide grants to cities with qualifying tier 1 and 2 buildings.



Public works & infrastructure bills

Passed

- **SB 6040** – Concerning prompt payment in public works
- **SB 6089** – Eliminating certain minimum requirement equivalencies for electrical inspectors
- **SB 6192** – Addressing additional work and change orders on public and private construction projects

Failed

- **SB 6167** – Concerning local government procurement rules
- **HB 2409** – Addressing underground facilities and safe excavation practices



Transportation bills

Passed

- **HB 2384** - Concerning automated traffic safety cameras.

Failed

- **SB 5383/HB 1428** – Concerning pedestrians crossing and moving along roadways
- **SB 6304** – Implementing certain recommendations of the Transportation Electrification Strategy
- **SB 5594** – Concerning the operation of fully autonomous vehicles



General government bills

Passed

- **HB 1012** – Extreme weather shelter grants
- **SB 6164** – Hazardous spill communication requirement in emergency management plans
- **HB 2022** – Tower crane safety

Failed

- **HB 1932** – Allowing cities to move to even-year elections
- **SB 5993/HB 2250/SB 6156** – Regarding ranked choice voting
- **SB 5059** – Prejudgment interest on tort claims



Open government bills

Passed

- **HB 1105** – Notice requirements for public comment periods

Failed

- **HB 2190** – Study on improving the public records act
- **HB 2307** – Administrative remedy process to limit vexatious lawsuits



Economic development bills

Passed

- **HB 2354** – Addresses concerns of junior taxing districts while maintaining the efficacy of Tax Increment Financing (TIF)



HR & labor relations bills

Passed

- **SB 5778** – Prohibits forcing employees to engage in employer-sponsored political or religious speech.
- **SB 5808** – Interest arbitration for 911 dispatchers.
- **SB 5793** – Expands definition of "family member" for WA Paid Sick Leave law.
- **HB 2467** – Makes WA Cares long term care benefits portable.
- **HB 1905** – Expands Equal Pay & Opportunity Act to all protected classes.



HR & labor relations bills

Failed

- **SB 5924** – Requires employers to provide complete personnel file to employee on request w/in 21 days
- **HB 1959** – Applies PFML premiums to small employers.
- **HB 1893** – Permits striking workers to access unemployment benefits.
- **SB 6072** – Made changes to WA Cares Fund program portability, exemptions, and supplemental insurance.



Pensions

Passed

- **HB 1895** – One time, *ad hoc* 3% COLA capped at \$110/month for PERS 1 retirees.
- **SB 6263** – Increasing funeral benefit for pre-LEOFF firefighters.
- **SB 6197** – Making various changes to LEOFF 2 death benefits, overpayments, and benefits eligibility.



2024 Lessons learned

- Community-driven decision-making is better than one-size-fits-all state mandates.
- It's become easy to blame cities for the state's challenges, so cities must continue to build trust with our residents and legislators.
- Keep track of the local impacts and costs related to legislation and state decisions, because that data is critical in communicating with legislators.
- Don't let others divide us. When cities work together with other local governments, we are more successful.



Looking ahead to 2025

- New legislators taking office
- New statewide officials, including a new Governor
- Biennial budgets – operating, capital, transportation
- Impacts of initiatives
- Transportation package?
- Updates to AWC's Statement of Policy
- AWC's Legislative Priorities Committee
 - Have an idea? Share it with us!



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