

CITY OF REDMOND
2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Top Priority Issues

- **Affordable Housing:** Redmond will actively work with the Association of Washington Cities, jurisdictions and other stakeholders to increase the supply of affordable housing and the level of affordability in communities across the Puget Sound Region, by seeking options including:
 - State Housing Trust Fund: Significantly increase funding in the 2017-2019 Capital Budget,
 - Document Recording Fee: Increase the surcharge for affordable housing, and
 - Councilmanic Authority for 0.1% Sales Tax: Support this funding option for affordable housing and mental health facilities, provided legislation requires equitable distribution of investments throughout King County and annual reporting on the geographic distribution of funds, location of facilities, and individuals provided services by jurisdiction.

- **Mental Health, Drug Dependency, Human Services and Homelessness:** Redmond will actively support initiatives to add services, shelters, and beds to help local communities address growing mental health, drug dependency and homelessness challenges, including:
 - Mental health system funding,
 - Actions to combat the growing opioid epidemic,
 - Preserving the Housing and Essential Community Needs Program,
 - Providing job training and placement, and
 - Advancing the Eastside Human Services Forum State Legislative Agenda.

- **Fund and Safeguard State Revenues to Better Enable Cities to Address Community Needs:** Redmond will join the Association of Washington Cities, cities, counties and others to:
 - Preserve “state-shared” revenues that provide direct service to local government,
 - Seek early adoption of a 2017-2019 Capital Budget,
 - Support a supplemental funding request for the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA), and
 - Support any efforts to restructure the 1% property tax limit.

- **Reclaimed Water:** The City is working with a broad consortium of water utility providers, including Cascade Water Alliance, to seek regulatory authority to require reclaimed water providers to:
 - 1) Obtain city approval for the use of reclaimed water prior to its sale and use within the city’s Critical Aquifer Recharge Area (CARA) both within and outside city limits, for any city with a shallow aquifer that supplies drinking water for the city,
 - 2) Ensure city customers will not be financially burdened with additional costs that result from the use of reclaimed water in place of a city water supply, and
 - 3) Coordinate and integrate municipal water supply plans in their development of reclaimed water proposals.

Support/Oppose Issues

General Government

- Public Records Act (PRA): Redmond is committed to public records openness and transparency. Redmond, along with the Association of Washington Cities and others will monitor studies and implementation of recent PRA updates.
- Hi-Tech Industry: The City and the Washington Tech Cities Coalition (WTC²) support initiatives that enhance competitiveness and invest in education and infrastructure to support hi-tech. These initiatives include, but are not limited to, targeted Research and Development (R&D) tax incentives that can help our state keep growing sectors such as space, bio-medical, and life sciences.
- Pension enhancements and system mergers: Redmond opposes pension enhancements or mergers of pension systems that would add new costs to local government.
- “Presumptive Disease” definitions: Redmond will join the Association of Washington Cities and others in opposing any expansion of “presumptive diseases” under Workers’ Compensation that does not adequately address cost concerns and require a sound science foundation for decision-making.

Environment

- State “Product Stewardship” program: Support adding new elements to the program, which uses manufacturer-financed initiatives to encourage environmentally responsible recycling of items.
- Proposals impacting water-supply and stormwater infrastructure: Ensure that any proposed infrastructure investment package for water supply, stormwater, and flood control provides equity between where taxes and fees are collected and where they are invested.
- State Infrastructure Bank: Explore the feasibility of a State Infrastructure Bank to bolster investment in public infrastructure upgrades throughout the state.
- WRIA 8 and related funding: Support funding for habitat, floodplain, and watershed projects.

Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice

- Property crimes: Address the rapid rise in property crimes occurring in the City, region, and state by providing a comprehensive legislative approach that blends increased penalties with better support services for low-level repeat offenders.
- Statewide re-licensing program for Driving While License Suspended (DWLS) offenders: Support a statewide re-licensing program to enable repeat offenders to pay back their fines over time, while allowing local jurisdictions that already have a re-licensing program to maintain their program.
- Fire Training Academy in North Bend, WA: Support funding in the Capital Budget for needed upgrades to the Fire Training Academy in North Bend.

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Guiding Principles:

The City has adopted the following principles to guide the City's Legislative Agenda:

- **Protect home rule and local authority:** The Legislature should refrain from pre-empting the authority of local cities and communities which are closest to the citizens they serve.
- **Refrain from imposing unfunded or "under-funded" mandates:** It is important that the Legislature refrain from imposing new unfunded or "under-funded" mandates upon local jurisdictions unless there is adequate funding provided to implement them.
- **The state should not erode local revenues and local taxing authority:** As "creatures of the state," cities in Washington have only the taxing and revenue authority directly provided to them by the State Legislature. It is vital that lawmakers refrain from making decisions that erode or eliminate those revenues and the local taxing authority that is given to cities.
- **The state should preserve Operating, Capital, and Transportation budget funding that flows to cities:** Redmond urges the Legislature to refrain from cutting or eliminating operational and infrastructure funding for Redmond and other cities.
- **The Legislature should reward jurisdictions that step up to implement the policy goals developed by the state, as it exercises its decision-making, particularly in grant and loan programs:** Redmond is an example of a city doing the right things to implement the Growth Management Act (GMA), accommodate density, ensure the urban centers of downtown and Overlake are conducive to "transit-oriented" and pedestrian-friendly development, embrace "green building", climate-change and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) strategies, etc. As it makes funding and policy decisions regarding grant and loan programs, the state should find ways to reward jurisdictions, such as Redmond, that carry out and embrace these policy objectives.