



CITY OF REDMOND
2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
Top Priority Issues

- **Affordable Housing:** Redmond will actively work to increase the level of housing affordability in communities across the Puget Sound Region, by seeking options including:
 - State Housing Trust Fund. Fully fund the Housing Trust Fund in the 2019-21 Capital Budget,
 - Condominium Liability Reform. Support legislation that incentivizes the construction of or conversion to condominiums by reducing the liability developers incur for construction defects, while simultaneously continuing to balance consumer protection provisions,
 - Funding Mechanisms for Affordability. Support legislation that authorizes funding mechanisms to improve housing affordability; any county-imposed funding mechanism should require equitable distribution of investments and annual reporting on the geographic distribution of funds, location of facilities, and individuals provided services by jurisdiction.

- **Homelessness, Mental Health, Drug Dependency, and Human Services:** Redmond will actively support initiatives to add services, shelters, and beds to help local communities address growing mental health, drug dependency, and other challenges that contribute to homelessness and increases in property crime, including:
 - Mental health system funding, including allocation of funds associated with the *Trueblood* settlement to decentralize the state mental health system and transition to community-based service delivery,
 - Actions to combat the growing opioid epidemic,
 - Reforms to the criminal justice system that couple penalties with better support services for low-level repeat offenders,
 - Providing job training and placement, and
 - Advancing the Eastside Human Services Forum State Legislative Agenda.

- **Fund and Safeguard State Revenues and Local Options to Better Enable Cities to Address Community Needs:** Redmond supports:
 - Preserve, restore, and increase “state-shared” revenues that fund local government services (e.g. liquor profit and excise tax revenue, marijuana excise tax revenue, indigent defense funding, etc.),
 - Preserve and enhance local option revenue authorities,
 - Support funding for additional classes at the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA),
 - Support funding tools for infrastructure and funding for the Public Works Assistance Account.
 - Replace the 1% cap on property tax with inflation and population growth.

- **Hartman Pool Improvements:** Redmond requests \$3 million towards \$8 million of essential capital improvements, with the City contributing \$5 million. Constructed in 1972 by King County using Forward Thrust bond funding, the pool was transferred to the City in 2010. There are 95,000 annual visits for lessons, open/lap swim, competitive swim, water polo, aquatic classes, and specialized senior programming. Many community groups use the pool including: four high school swim teams, Boy and Girl Scouts, a Muslim women’s group, and seniors. Critically needed improvements include: replacing pool systems, locker rooms, and pool decking; ADA compliance and access; and energy efficiencies.

- **Association of WA Cities and Sound Cities Association:** Redmond supports their legislative efforts.

Support/Oppose Issues

General Government

- Public Records Act (PRA): Redmond is committed to public records openness and transparency. Redmond joins the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and others in monitoring studies and implementation of recent PRA updates.
- Hi-Tech Industry: The City and the Washington Tech Cities Coalition (WTC²) supports initiatives that enhance competitiveness and invest in education and infrastructure to support hi-tech.
- Pension enhancements and system mergers: Redmond opposes pension enhancements or mergers of pension systems that would add new costs to local government.
- Employment liability: Redmond joins AWC 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. Similarly, the city opposes any expansion of those individuals who can bring forward wrongful death claims.
- Small Cell Network Facility Deployment: Redmond opposes proposals that preempt local control to site, regulate, and charge lease rates for the installation of small cell network facilities.
- ADA Infrastructure: Redmond supports proposals incentivizing ADA-compliant infrastructure; however, any proposal should not include cost-prohibitive mandates or otherwise create undue burden.

Environment

- State “Product Stewardship” program: Redmond supports adding new elements to the state’s product stewardship programs, which use manufacturer-financed initiatives to encourage environmentally responsible recycling of items.
- Economic Development: Redmond supports exploring the feasibility of new funding tools for economic development, including the ongoing exploration of a State Infrastructure Bank.
- Culvert, Fish & Habitat Funding: Redmond encourages the State to invest in state and local culvert, floodplain, and fish habitat projects to open habitat on a watershed basis. Additionally, the City supports Department of Fish and Wildlife investments to maintain and increase the Kokanee population in Lake Sammamish.
- Stormwater Funding: Redmond encourages the State to invest in stormwater projects to help jurisdictions meet NPDES permit obligations.
- Reclaimed Water: Redmond joins Cascade Water Alliance in supporting proposals that ensure responsible use of reclaimed water infrastructure.

Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice

- Statewide re-licensing program for Driving While License Suspended (DWLS) offenders: Redmond supports a statewide re-licensing program to enable repeat offenders to pay back their fines over time, while allowing local jurisdictions to maintain existing re-licensing programs.
- Emergency Response: Redmond supports proposals that ensure the state and communities throughout the state are prepared, financially and otherwise, to respond to catastrophic disasters, including earthquakes.

Transportation

- Transportation Funding: Redmond supports the on-time or early delivery of the Overlake Access Ramp, SR 520 Regional Trail Grade Separation, and the Community Facilities District Improvements currently funded in Connecting Washington.

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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, including the Connecting Washington projects and timelines as previously scoped.
- **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.