



City of Tacoma

General Government

2024-2025 Federal Legislative Policy

The City of Tacoma has identified strategic priorities for the City based on a community designed vision developed by Tacoma residents in [Tacoma 2025, the Strategic Plan for the City of Tacoma](#). Based on these community priorities, the Tacoma City Council has identified the City's [current priority areas](#) of focus.¹

Integral to these priorities is the City's commitment to equity. The City Council adopted [Resolution 40622](#) affirming the City Council's dedication and commitment to comprehensive and sustained transformation of all of the institutions, systems, policies, practices, and contracts impacted by systemic racism and directing the City Manager to work with the Mayor and City Council to build a legislative platform at the local, state, and federal levels that works to transform institutions impacted by systemic racism for the greater equity and wellbeing of all residents of Tacoma.

In addition to the City priorities, the City will continue to collaborate and coordinate with community partners, organizations, educational institutions, nonprofits, local businesses, service providers, and other local governments on issues of importance to our city and region. The City will support legislative efforts and partner initiatives that are consistent with City policy positions.²

Consistent with these priorities, the following are the City of Tacoma positions on federal legislative issues and concerns.

Safety

Public safety is a priority for the City. The City objectives include reducing the number of crimes occurring, particularly firearm related offenses, and increasing effectiveness of our response by enhancing coordination with appropriate behavioral health services. The City objectives also include

¹ The City has prioritized increasing belief and trust within the community. Focus on increasing belief and trust is a core part of all of the City priorities. Because it is integral to the plans in every area it cannot be divided out into a separate section and is incorporated into priorities of every section. A few examples of efforts to increase belief and trust include participatory budgeting, neighborhood planning with community input, improving the clarity and frequency of communication, providing increased transparency, reducing use of force incidents, and improving community survey results.

² Members of the Joint Municipal Action Committee, serving the Tacoma/Pierce County region, align common community initiatives under three strategic themes: 1) Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI); 2) public health and safety; and 3) community wealth building. Areas of legislative interest include, but are not limited to, leveraging the collective impact of local purchasing, removing barriers to government contracts, connecting youth pipelines to careers, ending homelessness, and dismantling systems that perpetuate systemic racism.

increasing the percentage of residents who feel safe and decreasing response times for 911 calls for assistance.

In furtherance of these objectives, the following are specific policy positions related to safety:

Law Enforcement

• **Alternatives to Traditional Law Enforcement Response:** Programs that provide responses that are alternatives to traditional law enforcement are critical to improving public safety. In situations involving individuals experiencing behavioral health issues, programs such as behavioral health co-responder, diversion, and other alternative programs improve outcomes for the community and law enforcement. The City supports funding and programs to assist local jurisdictions with the establishment, expansion, and operation of alternative response programs, such as co-responder, diversion and other models that provide options beyond law enforcement for responding to situations involving individuals experiencing from behavioral health issues.

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- **Recruitment and Retention:** The City of Tacoma, like most jurisdictions in the country, faces a critical shortage of officers in our law enforcement agency, the Tacoma Police Department (TPD). While the TPD is making progress in hiring officers and is using data-driven strategies along with creative alternatives such as creating a unit of non-commissioned civilian officers, there remains a gap in staffing that is detrimental to public safety. The City supports adequate funding levels for programs that help cities recruit, ~~and retain,~~ and train local law enforcement personnel. The City also supports efforts to expand federal law enforcement grant eligibility to include community service officers responding to low-risk calls.

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- **Public Defense Funding:** Criminal indigent defense is a constitutional right. While Congress has historically funded public defenders through the appropriations process, additional funding is needed to provide appropriate public defense services, particularly as demand increases due to new prosecution initiatives and expanded jurisdiction over certain offenses on tribal land.

Alternative Response Court Alternatives

- **Alternatives to Traditional Law Enforcement Response:** Programs that provide responses that are alternatives to traditional law enforcement are critical to improving public safety. In situations involving individuals experiencing behavioral health issues, programs such as behavioral health co-responder, diversion, and other alternative programs improve outcomes for the community and law enforcement. The City supports funding and programs to assist local jurisdictions with the establishment, expansion, and operation of alternative response programs, such as co-responder, diversion and other models that provide options beyond law enforcement for responding to situations involving individuals experiencing from behavioral health issues, including cognitive decline.

- **Problem Solving Courts:** Problem-solving courts differ from traditional courts in that they focus on a type of offense or the person committing the offense. They offer therapeutic and interdisciplinary approaches to addressing issues underlying the criminal behavior. The City supports maintaining funding and programs, such as the Bureau of Justice Assistance Adult Treatment Court Program, that provide assistance to local governments to plan, implement, and enhance the operations of adult treatment courts.

Community Violence

- **Violence Reduction Programs:** The City has implemented, or is in the process of implementing, programs and services focused on reducing community firearm violence. The City supports funding opportunities to allow the implementation of community and law enforcement programs to address firearm violence and to provide programs for young people with the goal of violence prevention.
- **Community Safety:** The City is developing a community safety action strategy that will include city actions to support public safety, including actions beyond traditional police and fire responses, and will identify opportunities to support additional community and legislative actions that further enhance community safety. The City supports federal efforts to address the root causes of poverty which will increase community safety, consistent with the City's plans.

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Specific Criminal Offenses

- **Hate Crimes:** In light of the number of hate crimes targeting marginalized communities in Tacoma and across the nation, including the recent surge in hate crimes against specific communities in Tacoma and across the country, including the Asian American community following the COVID-19 pandemic, the City supports federal initiatives that address and prevent hate crimes and hate incidents.
- **Fentanyl Use:** Opioid-related overdoses are the most common cause of accidental death in Pierce County, taking more lives than traffic or firearm fatalities,³ due largely to increased use of fentanyl. Opioid deaths in Washington are growing most quickly among people ages 18-24. The City supports additional resources and technical assistance from the federal government to help federal, state, and local law enforcement address the substance addiction crisis in cities.
- **Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault:** The City supports funding for programs and services to support survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The City also supports funding for domestic violence and sexual assault prevention education programs.

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Fire

- **Support Tacoma Fire Department:** The Tacoma Fire Department's (TFD) call volume has increased by approximately 42% since 2006; of these, 80% have been for Emergency Medical Services. TFD personnel provide essential services in dangerous and crisis situations. The City supports policies, programming and resources that assist municipal fire departments to provide services and training, purchase technology and equipment, and address the mental health needs of first responders. These include, but are not limited to, protecting public safety grant programs, FirstNet reauthorization, and legislation similar to the HERO Act.
- **Battery Fires:** Lithium-ion battery fires pose unique risks to users and first responders. The City supports a study of fires related to electric batteries to inform policies and practices to reduce risk and improve opportunities for safer disposal. The City supports federal legislation that would require the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to create, in a timely manner, a

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³ <https://www.tpchd.org/i-want-to/public-health-data/overdose-data>

federal safety standard for rechargeable lithium-ion batteries used in micromobility devices, such as e-bicycles, e-scooters, and hoverboards.

Housing and Homelessness

Housing and homelessness are issues impacting cities across the state and nation. Homelessness is a complex situation that will require short-term and long-range efforts to address immediate needs such as shelter, while also addressing housing availability and affordability in our community. The City of Tacoma has been operating under a Declaration of State of Public Health Emergency since 2017 to address the health and safety concerns caused by growing encampments and has subsequently extended the ordinance several times.

The City has prioritized focusing on addressing housing and homelessness issues within the City and recognizes that affordable and diverse housing types are the long-term solution to the homelessness crisis. The City priorities include providing diverse shelter options to meet the needs of our unhoused community; reducing unsanctioned encampments and issues associated with these encampments; increasing units of permanent supportive housing; creating new units of affordable housing through production of new units of affordable housing; preserving existing affordable housing; and preventing the displacement of longtime Tacoma residents.

In furtherance of these objectives, the following are specific policy positions related to housing and homelessness:

Housing

- **Federal Flexibility:** Cities are on the frontlines of addressing the affordable housing crisis and as such, are best suited to determine how to best deploy federal assistance to serve the neediest communities. The City urges the Administration and lawmakers to maintain increased flexibility in the administration of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant programs, including the extension of the use of HOME Community Housing Development Organization funds and increased administrative allowance for HOME funds, to most effectively respond to project and program oversight requirements.
- **Reducing Displacement:** Many of the efforts to increase the housing supply impact the ability of individuals on limited incomes to remain housed, including senior residents. The City has adopted an Anti-Displacement Strategy which includes 21 policy and program actions to prevent and mitigate displacement of Tacoma residents from their homes and communities. The City supports increased federal funding for programs such as rental and housing assistance and home repairs for low-income homeowners, as well policies to reduce displacement and provide opportunities for those on limited incomes to remain housed, including allowing senior residents to age in place.

Affordable Housing The City of Tacoma lacks affordable housing. Nearly 33,000 households in Tacoma pay at least 30 percent of their income on housing costs each month, reducing their ability to pay for other necessities. The cost of rental homes increased by nearly 40 percent and home values nearly

doubled since 1990, and within the last few years, these costs have begun to accelerate. In response to this urgent need, the City developed the [Affordable Housing Action Strategy](#) to guide its efforts to dramatically increase investments in new rental and homeownership opportunities and establish broader anti-displacement measures. While this effort has resulted in an increase in affordable housing units, there is a significant demand that will continue to increase.

- **Federal Funding:** The City supports robust annual appropriations in the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (T-HUD) spending bill to fully fund housing programs, including tenant- and project-based rental assistance, public housing operating and capital funds, the HOME Investment Partnerships program, and the Section 202 Aging in Place program.
- **Area Median Income Calculation:** Many state and federal housing programs utilize a percentage of area median income (AMI) to calculate eligibility. WAMI is generally calculated using county data. However, the AMI for the City is significantly different from Pierce County as a whole. The City supports statutory changes, clarifications, and other state and federal efforts to allow AMI to be calculated by city or metropolitan area.

Housing Financing Homeownership

- **Low Income Housing Tax Credit [LIHTC]:** LIHTC is the primary tool for building low and moderate-income rental units in the United States. The City supports legislation that will expand this tool to promote housing development, such as the [Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act](#).

Access to Housing

- **BIPOC Homeownership:** Homeownership is the primary tool for building wealth and for Black families it plays a bigger role in creating wealth than for white families. However, homeownership has failed to benefit Black homeowners as much as white homeowners. The City supports federal efforts to enhance homeownership opportunities among Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities by providing assistance to homebuyers, modifying existing federal programs to support homeownership or fair housing practices, addressing bias in the market, and expanding access to credit and counseling for disadvantaged home buyers. The City also supports federal policies that incentivize local governments to eliminate or reform exclusionary housing policies, including bills like the [Yes in My Backyard Act](#).

Federal Funding

- **Community Investment:** Community development investments build stronger and more resilient communities. The City supports robust funding for programs that support economic development at the local level, such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program that provides significant financial resources to local governments working to address a variety of needs such as infrastructure, economic development, public facilities, community centers, housing rehabilitation, small business assistance, homeowner assistance, and more.

Homelessness Services

- **Funding for Shelters:** With over 1600 people experiencing homelessness in Tacoma, the City has implemented a Homelessness Strategy to respond to this crisis. This strategy includes implementation and operation of temporary shelters to address immediate needs while also encouraging development of affordable housing in our community as a long-term strategy to mitigate incidences of homelessness. The City's strategy to transition envisions transitioning from our current investment in shelter beds to deeper support of permanent and supportive housing as well as the intervention and stabilization services described in the strategy. Even with this shift in funding, the City will need to explore revenue options to support services that are currently supported with one-time funds.

- The City supports flexible federal funding that can be utilized to maintain operations and to continue implementation of the strategy to move towards more permanent solutions for people experiencing homelessness.
- The City supports federal funding for programs and services to assist people experiencing homelessness, including mental health and substance use disorder treatment services.

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Infrastructure

- **Infrastructure Investments:** The City supports state infrastructure investments aimed at reducing housing construction costs and accommodating growth. The City has embraced growth and increased density throughout its planning code. To successfully accommodate this growth, the City supports increased federal resources for infrastructure such as sidewalks, street lighting, green spaces, electric vehicle charging stations, broadband, and other infrastructure integral to urban living. Additionally, investing funding in water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure necessary to the development can help offset rising housing constructions costs to make housing more affordable.

Jobs

A City goal is that Tacoma be a growing economy where residents can find livable wage jobs in key industry areas and for Tacoma to be a place of choice for employers, professionals, and new graduates. To achieve these goals the City has prioritized workforce development and increasing the number of livable wage jobs in Tacoma. The City also prioritizes increasing the number of small businesses surviving and thriving in the City, including increasing the number of BIBOC owned businesses and the diversity of types of small businesses.

In furtherance of these objectives, the following are specific policy positions related to jobs:

Livable Wage Jobs: Tacoma has established alignment between the City and local workforce development board, allowing us to braid funding across initiatives to increase impact while leveraging the expertise of the private sector, labor, and technical colleges that make up the workforce board, with the goal of increasing the pool of skilled workers who can compete for high wage jobs. The federal government should encourage and support similar programs. The City supports additional federal assistance for local workforce efforts including, but not limited to:

- **Skills Training:** Support for upskilling/reskilling workers to meet the evolving demands of emerging industries and workforce gaps.
- **Apprenticeship Programs:** Fully funding apprentice, pre-apprentice programs and other workforce development programs, and reauthorizing the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.
- **Cross-Sector Partnerships:** Support for cross-sector initiatives involving labor, business, workforce providers, governments, education, and training entities to develop strategies prepare workers for high-wage jobs.
- **Barriers to Employment:** Support for programs that remove barriers to employment for vulnerable populations, including barriers to employment for refugees and immigrants.
- **Anchor Networks:** Tacoma has invested in developing increased community impact through the development of the Tacoma Anchor Network (TAN), where the City plays the role of the Backbone organization. Anchor institutions are Anchor institutions are public, non-profit, and private organizations that are rooted in place and wield significant economic influence, including purchasing power, hiring and workforce development, and place-based investments. The City supports federal programs and funding in support of public-private partnerships with the goal of increasing positive community impacts.

Economic Development Tools and Supports: To achieve the City goals for the economy and workforce, there must be support for large and small businesses, and increased economic development tools and supports. The City supports strategies and partnerships that advance these areas including, but not limited to, the following:

- **Small and Medium-Sized Businesses:** Funding and policies that support small and medium-sized businesses, including subsidies and incubators to support disadvantaged businesses struggling with rising market-rate rents and workforce challenges.
- **Small Business Technical Assistance:** Funding and policies that provide technical assistance and financial literacy programs to assist small businesses access capital and available grants.
- **Minority Businesses:** Funding and policies to support minority-owned businesses, including federal support of the Minority Business Development Agency.
- **Economic Development Tools:** Expanding and creating economic development tools, including expanding commercial and industrial development tools.
- **Advanced manufacturing and jobs in the Green Economy:** With the adoption of the City's Green Economic Development Strategy, the City supports support for the siting and expansion of manufacturing, research and development activities that support the creation of tradable sectors jobs in the emerging Green Economy and expansion of manufacturing tax incentives to assist with these efforts.

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- **Green Jobs:** Developing green jobs including in urban forestry growth, renewable energy growth, natural storm water infrastructure, urban farming, and green technology development, making sure that these jobs are promoted within highly vulnerable communities.
- **Career Pathways:** Establishing career pathways to livable wage jobs in the community, including identifying apprenticeship opportunities to support the public sector.

- **Support for Workers:** The City supports direct aid to workers whose employment is impacted as a result of global trade agreements, such as Trade Act Assistance.

Equity and Diversity: It is important to ensure there is an emphasis on equity and diversity in efforts to support, expand, and strengthen workforce development activities, including retraining for emerging industry sectors.

Access

A City goal is to ensure that all residents are treated equitably and have access to services, facilities, and financial stability. The City has prioritized using data to make decisions, direct funding, and develop strategies to address disparate outcomes. The data-driven [City Equity Index](#) is utilized to identify, track, and close disparities, as well as to prioritize investments based on access to opportunity. Utilizing an equity lens to inform investments will increase access including language access, and increasing access to transportation and mobility.

In furtherance of these objectives, the following are specific policy positions related to access:

Tax Reform: As the 119th Congress considers a tax package to succeed the *Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017*, we encourage lawmakers to create a fair tax code that supports families and individuals, invests in our community, promotes homeownership and the creation of affordable housing, and preserves key financing tools for local governments to construct critical infrastructure and advance community and economic development strategies. The Council recommends the following tax policies:

- restoring the fully refundable Child Tax Credit expansion as authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act for families to claim up to \$3,600 per child under age 6 and up to \$3,000 per child ages 6 to 17 without a cap as a proven measure to lift families out of poverty;
- increasing the cap of the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction to provide relief to taxpayers;
- preserving the federal tax exemption of interest on state and locally issued bonds and protecting preferential status for other bonds that municipalities utilize to fund critical infrastructure development, including Private Activity Bonds (PABs) and Build America Bonds (BABs);
- expanding and modernizing the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) to incentivize the development of affordable housing; and
- maintaining the mortgage interest deduction to help ensure that homeownership is affordable for and accessible to families and individuals.

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Equity and Empowerment: The City supports federal initiatives that address the disparate impacts of systems and institutions on communities of color. The City supports policies that bolster gender and racial equity including, but not limited to the following:

- **Tax Credits:** Federal tools such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit, which support low and moderate-income earners. The City supports continuing and expanding these tools.
- **Guaranteed Income:** Many Tacoma families struggle with financial instability. Tacoma launched a guaranteed income pilot program in 2021, Growing Resilience in Tacoma (GRIT), which granted 100 needy families a monthly, no-strings attached payment. The City supports a national guaranteed income program to stabilize needy families and interrupt cycles of poverty. It is important that the guaranteed income policy proposals include specific language that mitigates any impact additional income may have on the recipient's eligibility for other public assistance programs.
- **Reparations:** The City supports federal efforts to acknowledge and address the impacts of discriminatory laws and policies on formerly enslaved people and their descendants.
- **Voting Rights:** Voting is fundamental to democracy. The City supports legislation to protect and expand access to voting.

Transportation and Infrastructure: The City is strategically guiding investment to develop a safe, accessible, and multimodal transportation system that prioritizes safety, equity, sustainability, and public health. The City has prioritized safety including through committing to Vision Zero and the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries in the City of Tacoma by 2035. The City is working to improve access and proximity by residents of diverse income levels and race or ethnicity to community facilities, services, and infrastructure. The City appreciates the historic, once in a generation investments available to local governments in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The City will seek federal support for projects of importance to the City, such as Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge Phase II and Portland Avenue Freight and Access Improvements. -

- **Public Transit:** Fund public transportation programs as authorized levels in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in the annual T-HUD appropriations bill.
- **Safety:** The City supports funding increases for existing transportation safety programs, including but not limited to the Highway Safety Improvement Program, Safe Routes to School, Safe Streets and Roads for All, and the Transportation Alternatives Program.
- **Funding:** While infrastructure financing programs provide flexible funding for major transportation projects and help local governments to leverage private and other nonfederal investments, the City recognizes that limited budget capacity, authorities, and delays in the federal approval process limit the effectiveness of these programs, particularly in disadvantaged communities. The City supports greater technical support at the USDOT Build America Bureau and flexibility for their approving multimodal and jurisdictional projects that can take advantage of favorable federal financing. The City also recommends raising the federal population cap for communities accessing the best available borrowing rates to ensure growing communities can appropriately utilize financing options.

- ***Pedestrian and Bike Accessibility:*** The City supports maintaining and expanding sustainable funding sources for bicycle and pedestrian trails and facilities, such as the Transportation Alternatives set asides in the Surface Transportation Block Grant program.
- ***Bridges:*** The City supports maintaining the Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation program with sufficient funding to repair bridges that are structurally or operationally deficient. Off-system bridges should continue to be eligible for federal bridge funds, and the discretionary bridge program should be preserved. The City will seek federal funding for design and construction of the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge Phase II project.
- ***Harbor Maintenance and Dredging:*** The Port of Tacoma is an economic driver for the City and the South Sound, with over 42,000 jobs and \$2.84 billion in income across the Washington state economy. The City supports policies and appropriations that will maintain the competitiveness of the Port of Tacoma, such as legislation to allow Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund dollars to be spent on port infrastructure uses beyond dredging.

Telecommunications

- ***Preserving City Right of Way:*** The City supports policies that retain local government authority to manage rights-of-way to ensure the siting of cell towers and small cells is safe and appropriate. The City opposes legislation that seeks to preempt local land use and zoning authorities on broadband deployment projects, such as [H.R. 3557](#).
- ***Franchise Fees:*** The City supports reversal of an FCC order to allow franchise fees and EG Fees to be calculated as they have been for over 35 years as monetary-only fees.
- ***Digital Access:*** Access to the Internet is essential for education and employment opportunities, business development, healthcare, government services, and community involvement. The City supports action by the federal government to provide matching grants, technology grants, tax credits, subsidies and other types of aid that would increase broadband deployment and affordability. The City also supports sustained funding of programs such as E-Rate, ReConnect, and other programs that support the buildout of broadband infrastructure. The City urges the federal government to ensure that these and other broadband grant programs are accessible to all communities, whether large or small, rural or urban, as well as municipal broadband network owners and operators.
- ***High Speed Broadband:*** The City supports the extension of pandemic-era initiatives including the Affordable Connectivity Program to promote broadband access in qualified low-income households, including 38,000 eligible households in Tacoma.

Childcare

- ***Access to Childcare:*** Access to childcare is important to Tacoma residents. The City supports policies to expand access to affordable, quality childcare and preschool, including Universal Pre-Kindergarten and early childhood mental health services.

Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy

- **Access to Arts:** Tacoma Creates is a voter-approved initiative to increase access to arts, culture, heritage, and science experiences throughout Tacoma by reducing barriers to access and expanding offerings, particularly to underserved youth. The City supports federal funding and policies to increase access to arts, culture, heritage, and science experiences.
- **Creative Economy:** The City supports federal funding and policies that support the growth of the arts and the creative economy.

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Health

Health of Tacoma residents includes physical and behavioral health, which includes both mental health and substance use disorder; however, it also includes factors that impact the health and well-being of residents including environmental and safety issues. The Council prioritizes improving health outcomes in these various areas and reducing disparities.

In furtherance of these objectives, the following are specific policy positions related to health that impact the physical and behavioral health of residents, as well as the health of the environment:

Health

- **Healthcare:** The City supports the right to access reproductive and gender affirming care.
- **Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault:** The City supports policies, programs, and funding to assist people impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault. We urge Congress to fully fund programs authorized by the Violence Against Women Act as reauthorized in 2022.

Behavioral Health

- **Access to Services:** The City supports programs that provide funding to increase access to mental health and substance abuse services.
- **Community Health Centers:** Adequately fund community health centers, which play a critical role in providing uninsured and underinsured people with health care services, including mental health and substance abuse treatment.
- **Programs to Support Vulnerable Populations:** The City supports funding for programs that serve our most vulnerable populations.
- **988 Suicide Crisis Lifeline** The City supports increased federal coordination with state, county, and local officials on 988 mental health line implementation to ensure coordinated access to service providers
- **Behavioral Health Workforce:** The City supports policies and funding that assist local efforts to build out a behavioral health work force. This includes reducing the barriers posed by regulations/certifications on workforce entry into behavioral and medical health fields without

improperly impacting quality of care, and investing in local workforce development systems to directly support upskilling and reskilling workers on behalf of behavioral healthcare providers.

Environment The City is appreciative of the Inflation Reduction Act's historic level of environmental funding ever enacted by an American government. The City will seek federal support for local climate and green initiatives. Tacoma declared a [climate emergency](#) in 2017 and adopted a [local climate action plan](#). The City supports continuing efforts to take bold steps to advance transformative climate policies.

The City supports efforts that will improve the health of our environment and align with the City climate action goals including, but not limited to, the following:

- **Climate Mitigation and Adaptation:** The City supports federal financial and technical assistance to support local government vulnerability assessments and climate change mitigation and adaptation implementation efforts to ensure that cities have the information, resources and tools to adequately plan for and respond to climate change effects.
- **Environmental Justice:** The City encourages the federal government to recognize that historically underrepresented, underserved, and vulnerable communities are expected to experience the first and worst impacts of climate change. The City supports programs and funding that equitably support these communities by ensuring parity in accessing new technologies.
- **Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities:** The City supports the Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities formed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to coordinate housing, community development, transportation, energy, and environmental policies that will help local communities create better and more affordable places to live, work and raise families. The City urges Congress to pass legislation to officially authorize the partnership and to continue funding.
- **Superfund Sites:** The City supports federal actions to assist local governments in Superfund site identification and remediation, such as reauthorization of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA, also known as Superfund) to ensure that existing hazardous waste disposal sites can continue to be identified, evaluated and cleaned up. Congress should increase the size of the Hazardous Substance Response Trust Fund that supports the Superfund program so it will be adequate to clean up sites already on the National Priority List (NPL) as well as any additional sites added to the list.
- **Brownfields:** The City calls on Congress to reauthorize and fully fund the EPA Brownfields program, which supports the assessment, cleanup and redevelopment of sites that are contaminated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant. The economic redevelopment and environmental restoration of these properties is essential to revitalizing communities and protecting public health.
- **Reuse and Recycling:** The City supports investments in domestic infrastructure, support for local and regional recycling programs and education efforts, and policy changes will ensure recycling remains environmentally and economically sustainable.

- **Landfills:** The City requests that any new federal mandates that retroactively reclassify specific segments of waste, thus requiring new and more costly disposal methods and/or retrofitting of existing and closed disposal facilities be accompanied by financing to assist local government with compliance.
- **PFAS Contamination:** The City supports federal policies that ensure that the parties responsible for PFAS contamination, including the federal government but excluding local governments, are held fully liable for costs of cleanup and mitigation and to ensure that sites are cleaned up in a timely manner. The City supports PFAS clean up standards that are sufficiently stringent to permit reuse of the site and to obviate the need for additional cleanup and mitigation costs by affected local governments.

Additional Policy Positions

Civil Rights

- **Discrimination:** The City supports federal legislation to expand protections to include discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, such as the Equality Act.
- **Equal Pay:** The City encourages the federal government to enact legislation to close gender pay gaps, such as the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Other

- **Immigration** Tacoma supports comprehensive immigration reform legislation and other policy reforms that better protect human dignity and promote a welcoming environment in our community including, but not limited to:
 - Limiting transfers to the Northwest ICE Processing Center
 - Adequate health and safety in detention
 - Limiting local cooperation with federal immigration agencies
 - Banning private detention facilities
 - Ending mandatory detention
 - Policies to provide DREAMERS with a path to citizenship
 - Policies that support refugee and asylum seekers
- **Joint Base Lewis McChord:** Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM) is one of twelve joint bases in the United States and the largest DOD installation west of the Mississippi River, with over 52,000 service members and their families. The installation accounts for \$5 billion in local payroll and a total of \$9.2 billion in regional economic activity. Any downsizing at JBLM would have serious economic consequences for Tacoma and the Puget Sound region. The City opposes any Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) considerations for JBLM. The City supports federal initiatives that support the health and well-being of our service members and their families.

- **Reconciling Federal and State Cannabis Policy:** Retail cannabis is a multi-million dollar industry in Pierce County, which drives wealth building, economic opportunity, and entrepreneurship. However, local cannabis retailers are not able to access traditional banking services as cannabis remains classified as a controlled substance at the federal level. The City supports legislation that will facilitate local retailers’ access to federal financial institutions and business products, including the SAFE Banking Act.

- ~~**Trade Act Assistance:** The City supports direct federal aid to workers whose employment is impacted as a result of global trade agreements.~~

- **Community Project Funding/Community Directed Spending:** The City supports Congressionally Directed Spending and Community Project Funding that provides a singular influx of federal funds for important local projects and requests our Congressional delegation’s continued support of these requests and their participation in this process.

- **Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP):** The City supports continued appropriations for the LIHWAP program to aid low-income water utility ratepayers.

- **Local control:** The City prioritizes public input and community engagement in local decision-making. The federal government should honor local decision-making authority and the public processes that support local decision-making.

- **Daylight Savings:** The City supports legislation that would make U.S. Daylight Saving Time permanent.

- *Entheogens: The City encourages the full decriminalization of entheogen-related activities at the federal level in light of growing research indicting potential medical uses for the substances and the number of local jurisdictions and states that are decriminalizing entheogen-related activities.*

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