



# City of Tacoma Federal Legislative Policy Positions and Priorities

Study Session  
February 11, 2025

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## Federal Government Relations Team



- **Sonja Hallum**, Interim Deputy City Manager, City of Tacoma
- **Andrea Roper**, Senior Government Affairs Officer, City of Tacoma
- **LaTasha Wortham**, Deputy Director of Customer Experience & External Affairs, TPU
- **Lauren Adler**, Federal Affairs Manager, TPU
- **Jennifer Covino**, Lobbyist, Covino Smith & Simon
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## 2025 Federal Legislative Agenda

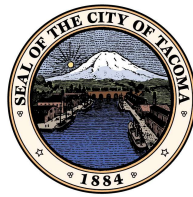


### Agenda

- Introductions
- Federal Update from Jennifer Covino, Covino Smith & Simon
- General Government Federal Legislative Agenda
- Tacoma Public Utilities Federal Legislative Agenda
- Discussion and Q&A

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## 2025 General Government Federal Policy Positions



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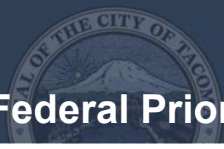
## 2025 General Government Policy Positions Document Updates

### 2025 Federal Policy Positions Document

- Mirrors State Policy Positions Document
- Notable Change from State Policy Document:
  - Tax Reform: Adds language encouraging federal lawmakers to create a fair tax code that supports families and individuals, promotes homeownership and the creation of affordable housing, and preserves key financing tools for local governments to construct critical infrastructure.

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## 2025 General Government Suggested Federal Priorities

- **Infrastructure Funding**
  - *Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge*
  - *Portland Avenue Freight Access Improvement Project*
- **Housing**
  - *Expand programs and flexible financing tools to support affordable housing access and development*
- **Community Safety**
  - *Ensure continued DOJ funding and advocate for policies expanding federal grant eligibility to include alternative response programs.*
  - *Maintain robust support for first responder grants, enabling equipment upgrades and facility modernizations*
- **Supporting Human Rights and Dignity**
  - *Support policies that empower communities to uphold the rights of our residents while promoting transparency and trust*

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**2025  
TPU  
Federal Policy Positions**



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## 2025 TPU Federal Priorities

**Utility-Wide Priorities**


**Infrastructure Financing Tools**  
*Maintain legislation that supports the availability of tax-exempt municipal bonds including legislation that restores tax-exempt status of advance refunding bonds*

**Limited Income Programs**  
*Support policies and additional funding for programs that help limited-income customers*

**Supply Chain Solutions**  
*Support policies that adequately address supply chain challenges that affect utility operations and customers*

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## 2025 TPU Federal Priorities

### Power Priorities

**BPA's Competitiveness**  
*Continue to support federal proposals to maintain and improve BPA's cost competitiveness.*

**Carbon Reduction Policies**  
*Actively engage in and support proposals that decarbonize the economy at reasonable costs to customers.  
 Ensure policies recognize hydropower as a carbon-free generating resource.*


**Zero Emission Transportation Infrastructure**  
*Support additional funding for zero emission transportation infrastructure.*

**Maintain Pole Attachment Authority**  
*Support legislation which ensures that municipally owned utilities maintain their historic authority to safely manage attachments on utility poles.*

**Refine and Update Re-Licensing Policies**  
*Support streamlining the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's hydropower relicensing policies.*

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## 2025 TPU Federal Priorities

### Water Priorities

**Howard Hanson Dam**  
*Support federal approval, funding, and actions to complete the Dam and the additional storage project while ensuring existing cost-share agreements are upheld.*

**Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)**  
*Support appropriations to fully fund the legislation.*

**Drinking Water State Revolving Fund**  
*Support adequate appropriations for the fund.*

**PFAS Liability**  
*Support legislation that exempts drinking water systems from CERCLA liability related to PFAS.*

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## 2025 TPU Federal Priorities



### Rail Priorities

#### Infrastructure Funding

*Pursue funding opportunities for investments in locomotive modernization, track upgrades, decarbonization projects, and other improvements.*

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## Contact Information



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