



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Alex MacBain, Government Relations Advisor
LaTasha Wortham, Deputy Director, Tacoma Public Utilities
COPY: City Council; City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution — State Legislative Agenda
DATE: November 7, 2024

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A Resolution adopting the citywide state 2025 legislative agenda for the Washington State Legislature.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Victoria Woodards

BACKGROUND:

The City of Tacoma's State legislative agenda is developed through engagement with operational departments and divisions, policymakers, and other stakeholders to determine policy positions and priority issues to which City advocacy resources will be devoted for the coming year.

Each year, the Tacoma Public Utility (TPU) Board and Tacoma City Council adopt a slate of priority issues that the City of Tacoma would like to see addressed by the Legislature. Identifying this set of issues fosters efficient and effective communication to State policymakers and provides transparency to the public about State issues that are most important to the City Council.

A briefing on proposed General Government policy positions and priorities was provided to the City Council on October 1, 2024 and on October 29, 2024. The Public Utility Board will receive a briefing on TPU priorities on November 13, 2024. The proposed citywide legislative agenda will be presented to a Joint Study Session of the Public Utility Board and City Council on November 19, 2024. The requested Resolution provides the City Council with the opportunity to adopt the citywide legislative agenda for 2025.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

Given the broad range of topics discussed in the City's State Agenda, the Government Affairs team received input from many stakeholder groups. Some of these groups included non-governmental organizations, low-income housing advocates, transportation and transit advocates, and local economic development organizations. Community outreach data collected as part of the City's recent budget development process was informative for the state. Input and feedback from state legislators and state agencies was also considered in the development of the agenda.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility: *(Mandatory)*

As directed by Resolution 40622 as enacted by the City Council, the 2025 State Legislative Agenda is developed with the lens of anti-racist systems transformation to achieve a greater level of equity in our community.

Identify which Tacoma 2025 strategic goals your legislation most relates to, and then identify the [Equity Index Score](#) for those goals in the geography your proposal will affect. Select the indicator(s) this legislation is most



related to, then briefly explain how this legislation will impact the selected indicator(s) and/or improve the Equity Index Score. **Use the dropdowns below and refer to guide for more information.**

Economy/Workforce: *Equity Index Score: Very Low Opportunity*

Increase the number of infrastructure projects and improvements that support existing and new business developments.

Increase the percentage of people relocating to the city and affordability of housing compared to neighboring jurisdictions.

Education: *Equity Index Score: Very Low Opportunity*

Increase the availability and accessibility of early childhood education programs.

Increase digital access and equity across the city.

Livability: *Equity Index Score: Very Low Opportunity*

Improve access and proximity by residents to diverse income levels and race/ethnicity to community facilities, services, infrastructure, and employment.

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

The state legislative agenda will allow the Government Relations Office team to advocate for State policies and funding issues that impact these indicators. See the attached state agenda for details on the policy positions and priorities.

ALTERNATIVES:

Presumably, your recommendation is not the only potential course of action; please discuss other alternatives or actions that City Council or staff could take. Please use table below.

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. The City Council does not adopt the state legislative agenda.		Lack of policy direction for staff on how to engage at the state policy levels to achieve the City's objectives. State policymakers would lack awareness of City legislative needs, which could result in fewer funding opportunities and other state assistance.



EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Performance on state advocacy is evaluated based on the progress in achieving the goals stated on the State Legislative Agenda. This includes meaningful progress or passage of policy bills consistent with the City’s plans, increased access to technical assistance and funding programs that help the City achieve its objectives, and funding requests fulfilled.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

The Government Relations team recommends City Council adoption of the State Legislative Agenda. Once approved, staff can solidify the City’s position on issues with the appropriate policymakers and actively lobby for those priorities. Such action is needed prior to the start of the 2025 Legislative Session, which begins on January 13, 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Please provide a short summary of the fiscal impacts associated with the grant, agreement, policy action, or other action.

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. n/a			
2. n/a			
TOTAL			

What Funding is being used to support the expense? n/a

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium’s current budget?

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

THERE ARE NO EXPENDITURES OR REVENUES ANTICIPATED RELATED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

YES

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

Will the legislation change the City’s FTE/personnel counts?

No

ATTACHMENTS:

- State Policy Positions
- State Priorities
- Tacoma Public Utilities Legislative Agenda