



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Sonja Hallum, Government Relations Officer
Clark Mather, Community and Government Relations Manager, Tacoma Public Utilities
COPY: City Council; City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution—State and Federal Priorities for 2023
DATE: November 29, 2022

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A Resolution adopting the citywide state and federal priorities for the Washington State Legislature and U.S. Congress.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Victoria Woodards

BACKGROUND:

The City of Tacoma’s State and Federal Legislative Agendas are developed through engagement with operational departments and divisions, policymakers, and other stakeholders to determine a set of priority issues to which City advocacy resources will be devoted for the coming year.

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

Briefings were provided to the City Council at the September 27, 2022 Study Session and October 18, 2022 Committee of the Whole. The Public Utility Board received a briefing at the October 26, 2022 board meeting. A briefing was provided to the Joint Study Session of the Public Utility Board and City Council outlining the full citywide legislative agenda on November 15, 2022. On November 16, the Public Utility Board approved a Resolution adopting the State and Federal Legislative Agendas for Tacoma Public Utilities. The requested Resolution provides the City Council with the opportunity to adopt the citywide legislative agenda for 2023.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

Given the broad range of topics discussed in the City’s State and Federal Agendas, the Government Relations team received input from many stakeholder groups. Some of these groups included non-governmental organizations, low-income housing advocates, immigrant rights advocates, transportation and transit advocates, and local economic development organizations. Community outreach data collected as part of the recent biennial budget development process on the priorities was informative for the state and federal priorities. Input and feedback from state legislators and state agencies was also considered in the development of the agendas.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

As directed by Resolution 40622 as enacted by the City Council, the 2023 State and Federal Legislative Agendas were developed using the theme of anti-racist systems transformation. There are numerous priorities contained in



the agendas to achieve a greater level of equity in our community, from better transportation and transit access to police reform, and requests for aid to help the most vulnerable in our community, such as utility assistance.

Economy/Workforce:

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:

Increase the availability and accessibility of early childhood education programs.

Livability:

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

Decrease the percentage of individuals who are spending more than 45% of income on housing and transportation costs.

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

The Tacoma Citywide 2023 Legislative Agenda includes an array of priorities that affect numerous indicators. See the attached state and federal agendas for details on the priorities.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. The City Council could choose not to adopt the state and federal agendas.		Government Relations team would lack policy direction on how to engage at the state and federal policy levels to achieve the City’s objectives. State and federal policymakers would lack awareness of how to help the City, which could result in less funding coming to the City.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Performance on state and federal advocacy is evaluated based on the progress in achieving the goals stated on the State and Federal Legislative Agendas. This includes meaningful progress or passage of policy bills, modification of federal rules needed to help the City achieve its objectives, and funding requests fulfilled.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

The Government Relations Team recommends City Council adoption of the State and Federal Legislative Agendas. Once approved, staff can solidify the City’s position on issues with the appropriate policymakers and actively lobby



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for those priorities. Such action is needed prior to the start of the first year of the 118th Congress and the 2023 Washington State Legislative Session, which begins on January 9, 2023.



FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to adopting these priority items.

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

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium's current budget? No.

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

No

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

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

No

ATTACHMENTS:

- Citywide State and Federal Agenda