



**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 2024  
**DATE:** December 5, 2023

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**SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:**

A Resolution adopting the citywide state and federal 2024 legislative agenda 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 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 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.

A briefing on proposed General Government policy positions and priorities was provided to the City Council on October 3, 2023. The Public Utility Board received a briefing on TPU priorities on October 11, 2023. The proposed citywide legislative agenda was presented to a Joint Study Session of the Public Utility Board and City Council on November 7, 2023. On November 15<sup>th</sup>, the Public Utility Board approved U-11419 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 2024.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:**

Given the broad range of topics discussed in the City’s State and Federal Agendas, 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 2024 capital and community facilities assessment and recent biennial budget development process 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: (Mandatory)**

As directed by Resolution 40622 as enacted by the City Council, the 2024 State and Federal Legislative Agendas are



developed with the lens of anti-racist systems transformation to achieve a greater level of equity in our community.

**Economy/Workforce:** *Equity Index Score:* Select Index Score.

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:* Select Index Score.

Increase the availability and accessibility of early childhood education programs.

Increase digital access and equity across the city.

**Livability:** *Equity Index Score:* Select Index Score.

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).**

See attached state and federal agendas for details on the priorities.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. The City Council does not adopt the state and federal agendas.		Lack of policy direction for staff 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 City legislative needs, which could result in fewer funding opportunities and other state/federal assistance.

**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



**City of Tacoma**

**City Council Action Memorandum**

for those priorities. Such action is needed prior to the start of the second year of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress and the 2024 Legislative Session, which begins on January 8, 2024.



**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Adoption of the legislative priorities has no direct fiscal impact on the City's finances. However, some grant programs or other assistance provided by state or federal governments may have some fiscal requirements. These requirements could be in the form of matching funds or other monetary requirements. Staff will provide updates, should such requirements become necessary.

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

**ATTACHMENTS:**

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