



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Anita Gallagher, Assistant to the City Manager, City Manager's Office
Clark Mather, Community and Government Relations Manager, Tacoma Public Utilities
COPY: City Council; City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution—State and Federal Priorities for 2021 [December 1, 2020]
DATE: November 23, 2020

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 on September 29 and October 13. The Public Utility Board received a briefing on October 28. On November 18, the Public Utility Board approved a Resolution adopting the State and Federal Legislative Agendas for Tacoma Public Utilities. A briefing was provided to the Joint Study Session of the Public Utility Board and City Council outlining the full citywide legislative agenda on December 1, 2020. The requested Resolution provides the City Council with the opportunity to adopt the citywide legislative agenda for 2021.

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 environmental/climate justice non-governmental organizations, low-income housing advocates, immigrant rights advocates, transportation and transit advocates, and local economic development organizations. The City also incorporated key priorities to support from the Tacoma Anchor Institutions Network, which is actively working to build a unified approach to better serve the most vulnerable in our communities. Community outreach data collected as part of the 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.



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2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility: *(Mandatory)*

As directed by Resolution 40622 as enacted by the City Council, the 2021 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 during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as rental and utility assistance.

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:* 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 number of adults with post-secondary degrees or certifications.

Select an indicator.

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score:* Select Index Score.

Select an indicator.

Select an indicator.

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.

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).

See attached state and federal agendas for details on the 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 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.



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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 for those priorities. Such action is needed prior to the start of the 117th Congress and the 2021 Washington State Legislative Session, which begins on January 11, 2021.



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.			
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?
N/A

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

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?
N/A

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

ATTACHMENTS:

- Federal Legislative Agenda
- State Legislative Agenda