



# City of Tacoma

## General Government

### 2026 Federal Legislative Priorities

**Preserving Critical Funding for Residents:** The City urges Congress to protect and strengthen key federal programs that support health, food security, and general well-being, which are vital for community stability and local economic health. Specifically, Congress must maintain robust funding for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid to ensure affordable healthcare and avoid shifting uncompensated care costs to the local level, including critical emergency medical and life support services provided by the Tacoma Fire Department, which rely on Medicaid reimbursements to cover a significant share of medical transportation costs. Furthermore, the City stresses the importance of preserving funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), which are essential anti-hunger measures that improve maternal and child health and reduce food insecurity. The City also calls for continued support of critical Social Services Block Grants (SSBG) that fund local services, ultimately preventing local service demand from overwhelming city and county resources.

**Infrastructure:** As Congress focuses on federal surface transportation reauthorization, the City urges lawmakers to provide sustained, predictable funding that strengthens safety and supports commerce. We seek investment in local safety measures including technology and facility upgrades that prevent fatalities and injuries, and continued infrastructure funding for freight movement essential to our trade-dependent economy. This includes federal support to complete Phase II of the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge replacement, a critical corridor for freight mobility, emergency response, and Port access. We also urge increased formula funding directly to local governments and continued access to competitive programs like Safe Streets and Roads for All to advance Vision Zero goals.

**Affordable Housing and Home Ownership:** With the enactment of the budget reconciliation law, the City looks to leverage tax provisions to address the housing shortage and invest in underserved communities, including the expansion of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) and second round of Opportunity Zone designations. Building upon those recent legislative victories, the City urges Congress to maintain critical formula funding administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to fully realize the potential of the reconciliation measure. The City advocates for increasing appropriations for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program as important gap financing for LIHTC projects to increase the supply of affordable housing, and the Community Development Block Grant to advance economic development goals, maintain public infrastructure, and provide services to low-moderate income residents. The City urges lawmakers to maintain housing vouchers and funding for programs and strategies that prevent and address homelessness.

**Community Safety:** The City of Tacoma is committed to a multi-layered public safety approach in 2026, prioritizing crime reduction and effective response with a federal-local partnership. We seek increased federal funding to support the full spectrum of public safety personnel that have contributed to year-over-year reductions in crime in Tacoma, specifically by expanding eligibility for non-sworn personnel—such as behavioral health co-responders and Community Service Officers—who lead successful alternative response and non-violent incident programs, freeing up sworn law enforcement officers to focus on violent crime and apprehension of offenders. Funding must be directed toward general violence reduction initiatives, including evidence-based strategies focused on prevention, intervention, and positive youth development. Finally, recognizing the strain on our emergency services, we advocate for increased federal investment to support our frontline workers like Fire/EMS with necessary equipment, wellness programs, and fleet and facility modernization.

**Supporting Human Rights and Dignity:** The City of Tacoma remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting and valuing all individuals in our community, ensuring all Tacomans are afforded human rights and dignity, and fostering trust across all city operations, including participatory budgeting and neighborhood planning. We urge Congress to advance comprehensive immigration reform that provides a clear pathway to status and citizenship, stabilizes our local workforce, and promotes family unity. The City of Tacoma will continue to partner with state and federal entities to seek sustained support, resources, and policy changes that uphold the rights and well-being of every member of our community.