



City of Tacoma

General Government

2026 State Legislative Priorities

Preservation of Services Amid Federal Cuts: The City encourages Washington State to preserve and sustain critical state programs in the face of reductions in federal funding, including backfilling key programs such as food assistance, Medicaid, behavioral health, and other programs integral to the state's social safety network.

Fiscal Sustainability: Like the state, the City has faced budget challenges that have led to service reductions. As the state develops its supplemental budgets, the City encourages the Legislature to refrain from reducing state revenues that are distributed to cities. Additionally, the City supports proposals that would provide local governments with a sustainable, progressive, and equitable tax system, including revenue tools and flexibility with existing revenues.

Capital Requests:

North End Treatment Plant (NETP) Trickling Filter Project

Funding to construct a new trickling filter, which is an essential component of the NETP's wastewater treatment process that provides the second stage of contaminant removal and allows the NETP to reliably meet its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit regulations.

Request Amount: \$2 Million

Other Issues of Importance

- **Wastewater Treatment Plant Nutrient Regulation:** The City is requesting legislative engagement on wastewater treatment plant nutrient regulations being proposed by the Department of Ecology to ensure that the regulations balance water quality and housing affordability.
- **Transfer of State Obligations:** The City is requesting legislation to update the statutory framework for the process WSDOT uses to transfer state property to local jurisdictions,

in order to allow more input from local jurisdictions and to require appropriate due diligence prior to the transfer.

- **Sidewalk Utility:** The City is interested in the development of new tools for local infrastructure needs related not just to expansion and growth, but also for maintenance of aging systems. The City will be asking the Legislature to explore options for additional revenue sources for sidewalks and infrastructure needs, including creation of sidewalk utilities.
- **Continued Advocacy for Transportation Projects (Transportation Request):** The City is dedicated to building out a local transportation network that supports all modes and is well-maintained and safe. As such, the City supports: Increased funding and local revenue options to maintain and preserve local bridges, roadways, ferries, sidewalks, parks, and trails. The City requests the state's partnership to respond to the worsening condition of the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge. The bridge provides freight mobility, emergency response, and access for the Port of Tacoma, the cities of Tacoma and Fife, and the Puyallup Tribe.