



Preparing for the 2026 Legislative Session

City of Tacoma | City Manager's Office

City Council Study Session
October 14, 2026



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GG Government Relations Team



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Presentation Overview



Agenda

- Introductions
- Schedule
- 2026 State Session Preview
- General Government State Legislative Agenda
- 2026 119th Congress Preview
- General Government Federal Legislative Agenda
- Questions and Discussion

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Schedule



October 14: Presentation of Draft GG Legislative Priorities

October 28: Joint Study Session with TPU

November: City Council consideration of Resolution to adopt the 2026 citywide state and federal legislative agenda

December: Legislative delegation briefing

January 3: Start of 119th Congress, second session

January 12: Start of Washington State Legislative Session (short session)

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2026 State Session Preview



60-Day Session

- Second year of the biennium
- Political makeup similar to 2025
- All 2025 bills carry over
- Mid-biennial budget adjustments
 - Limited funding opportunities
- Forthcoming 2026 elections



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2026 State Session Preview



• Emerging State Themes

- Response to federal actions
- Ongoing budget challenges
- Continued tax policy discussions

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2026 State Legislative Priorities & Positions

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2026 Draft State Priorities

Draft Legislative Priorities

- Preservation of Services Amid Federal Cuts
- Fiscal Sustainability
- (Capital Request) North End Treatment Plant Trickling Filter Project

Other Issues of Importance

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Nutrient Regulation
- Transfer of State Obligations
- Sidewalk Utility
- Continued Advocacy for Transportation Projects (Transportation Request)

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2026 Draft State Policy Positions



• Safety

- Updated language on police recruitment and retention and public defense funding
- Continued language on alternatives to traditional law enforcement and problem-solving courts
- Updated language on funding and resources to address substance abuse and behavioral health
- Added language regarding funding for life support services that will be impacted by changes to the federal Medicaid program

• Housing & Homelessness

- Strengthened language around expanded homeownership opportunities
- Updated language related to state funding for affordable housing and emergency shelters

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2026 Draft State Policy Positions



• Jobs

- Maintaining language around skills training and economic development tools
- New language supporting opportunity zones

• Access

- New language regarding development of solutions to ensure food and pharmacy access in all neighborhoods
- New language supporting efforts to maintain and improve vote-by-mail elections
- Updated language regarding efforts to improve traffic safety outcomes consistent with Vision Zero

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2026 Draft State Policy Positions



• Health

- New language supporting efforts to backfill key federal programs such as SNAP and Apple Health
- Updated language regarding the regulation of wastewater treatment plant nutrients

• Other

- Continue language regarding state-shared revenue and fiscal sustainability
- Continue language regarding transfer of state obligations
- Updated language regarding support for health, safety, and welfare of individuals detained at NWIPC

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2026 Federal Government Preview



119th Congress, Second Session

- Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations
- Midterm Elections on Horizon
- Expiring Authorizations
 - Farm Bill, NFIP, TANF, ACA subsidies (2025)
 - Surface Transportation Reauthorization (2026)

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2026 Federal Government Preview

Emerging Federal Themes

- Legislative Priorities
 - Fiscal Responsibility
 - Housing
 - Public Safety
 - Immigration Reform

- Administration Priorities
 - Compliance with Executive Orders
 - Shifting Domestic Policy Agenda
 - Public Safety
 - Housing and Homelessness
 - Infrastructure

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2026 Federal Legislative Priorities & Positions

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2026 DRAFT FEDERAL PRIORITIES

- **Preserving Critical Funding for Residents**
 - Affordable Care Act & Medicaid
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance & Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program
- **Infrastructure**
 - Surface Transportation Reauthorization Requests - Safety
 - Safe Streets and Roads for All
- **Affordable Housing and Homeownership**
 - HOME Investment Partnerships Program & Community Development Block Grants
- **Community Safety**
 - Expanding Grant Eligibility for Alternative Response
 - Funding for Violence Prevention
 - Support for Frontline Workers
- **Supporting Human Dignity**
 - Comprehensive Immigration Reform

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Federal Policy Priority Highlights

2026 Federal Policy Positions Document

- Mirrors State Policy Positions Document
- Notable Changes for 2026:
 - Updated language to reflect passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act
 - Added additional language under Health to support funding for Medicaid and permanently extending health insurance premium subsidies under the Affordable Care Act
 - Added reference and support of Opportunity Zones
 - Added language urging Congress to advance comprehensive immigration reform that provides a clear pathway to status and citizenship, stabilizes our local workforce, and promotes family unity. Also updated language regarding enforcement professionalism.

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