



# City of Tacoma

## General Government

### 2026 Federal Legislative Policy

The City of Tacoma’s legislative agenda reflects the strategic priorities adopted by the City Council to improve the quality of life for all residents. These priorities include community safety, housing and homelessness, livable wage jobs, access to facilities and services, human and environmental health, and belief and trust.

In advancing these priorities, the City will continue to collaborate with community partners, educational institutions, nonprofits, local businesses, service providers, and governments at all levels on issues of importance to our City and region. We support legislative actions and partnerships that align with these priorities and advance Tacoma’s vision for a thriving and resilient future.

The following outlines the City of Tacoma’s positions on key federal legislative issues and priorities.

#### Safety

Public safety is a priority for the City. The City’s objectives include reducing the number of crimes occurring, particularly firearm-related offenses, and increasing the effectiveness of our response by enhancing coordination with appropriate behavioral health services. The City objectives also include increasing the percentage of residents who feel safe and decreasing response times for 911 calls for assistance.

In furtherance of these objectives, the following are specific policy positions related to safety:

#### Law Enforcement

- **Recruitment and Staffing:** Like many jurisdictions across the country, the City of Tacoma is working to increase the number of officers in our law enforcement agency, the Tacoma Police Department (TPD). The department is making strong progress in hiring and is employing data-driven strategies along with innovative approaches such as establishing a unit of non-commissioned civilian officers. Continued investment is needed to fully meet staffing levels that support public safety. The City supports adequate funding for programs that help cities recruit, train, and develop local law enforcement personnel, as well as efforts to expand federal grant eligibility to include community service officers responding to low-risk calls.

- **Public Defense Funding:** Criminal indigent defense is a constitutional right. While Congress has historically funded public defenders through the appropriations process, additional funding is needed to provide appropriate public defense services, particularly as demand increases due to new prosecution initiatives and expanded jurisdiction over certain offenses on tribal land.

#### Alternative Response

- **Alternatives to Traditional Law Enforcement Response:** Programs that provide responses that are alternatives to traditional law enforcement are critical to improving public safety. In situations involving individuals experiencing behavioral health issues, programs such as behavioral health co-responder, diversion, and other alternative programs improve outcomes for the community and law enforcement. The City supports funding and programs to assist local jurisdictions with the establishment, expansion, and operation of alternative response programs, such as co-responder, diversion and other models that provide options beyond law enforcement for responding to situations involving individuals experiencing from behavioral health issues, including cognitive decline.
- **Problem Solving Courts:** Problem-solving courts differ from traditional courts in that they focus on a type of offense or the person committing the offense. They offer therapeutic and interdisciplinary approaches to addressing issues underlying the criminal behavior. The City supports maintaining funding and programs, such as the Bureau of Justice Assistance Adult Treatment Court Program, that provide assistance to local governments to plan, implement, and enhance the operations of adult treatment courts.
- **Violence Reduction Programs:** The City has implemented, or is in the process of implementing, programs and services focused on reducing community firearm violence. The City supports funding opportunities to allow the implementation of community and law enforcement programs to address firearm violence and to provide programs for young people with the goal of violence prevention.
- **Community Safety:** The City is developing a community safety action strategy that will include city actions to support public safety, including actions beyond traditional police and fire responses, and will identify opportunities to support additional community and legislative actions that further enhance community safety. The City supports federal efforts to address the root causes of poverty which will increase community safety, consistent with the City's plans.

#### Specific Criminal Offenses

- **Hate Crimes:** The City supports federal initiatives that address and prevent hate crimes and hate incidents. We are committed to fostering a safe community where every resident is treated with dignity and respect.

- Substance Use: Opioid-related overdoses are the most [common cause of accidental death](#) in Pierce County, taking more lives than traffic or firearm fatalities,<sup>1</sup> due largely to increased use of fentanyl. Opioid deaths in Washington are growing most quickly among people ages 18-24. The City supports additional resources and technical assistance from the federal government to help federal, state, and local law enforcement address the substance addiction crisis in cities.
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault: The City supports funding for programs and services to support survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The City also supports funding for domestic violence and sexual assault prevention education programs. The City supports legislation requiring the surrender of firearms in cases involving domestic violence or sexual assault, including following conviction and related to orders for protection and no-contact orders.

## Fire

- Support Tacoma Fire Department, including TFD Emergency Medical Services: The Tacoma Fire Department's (TFD) call volume has increased by over 40% since 2006; of these, 80% have been for Emergency Medical Services. TFD personnel provide essential services in dangerous and crisis situations. The City supports policies, programming and resources that assist municipal fire departments to provide services and training, purchase technology and equipment, and address the mental health needs of first responders. These include, but are not limited to, protecting public safety grant programs, increasing funding and reimbursement options for emergency medical response and patient transport, and providing resources for responding to emerging hazards such as electric vehicle and battery fires.
- Support for Life Support Services: TFD is a critical provider of Basic and Advanced Life Support Services. The city strongly advocates for maintaining vital Medicaid funding, as these federal resources cover a significant portion of our medical transportation fees. This sustained support is essential for ensuring the costs of these critical services are reliably managed through the program
- Battery Fires: Lithium-ion battery fires pose unique risks to users and first responders. The City supports a study of fires related to electric batteries to inform policies and practices to reduce risk and improve opportunities for safer disposal. The City supports federal legislation that would require the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to create, in a timely manner, a federal safety standard for rechargeable lithium-ion batteries used in micromobility devices, such as e-bicycles, e-scooters, and hoverboards.

## Housing and Homelessness

Housing and homelessness are challenges affecting communities across the state and nation and addressing them requires both immediate action and long-term solutions. Since 2017, the City of Tacoma has operated under a Declaration of State of Public Health Emergency to respond to

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://tpchd.org/info/data/overdose/>

health and safety concerns associated with growing encampments, extending the ordinance several times as conditions have evolved.

The City has prioritized a comprehensive approach to housing and homelessness, recognizing that increasing the availability of affordable, diverse housing types is key to long-term solutions. Guided by the [City's Homelessness Strategy](#), Tacoma advocates for policies, investments, and partnerships that address the full spectrum of need—from emergency response and shelter to permanent supportive housing and prevention. Through initiatives like Home in Tacoma, the City is also pursuing policies and zoning changes that support more housing options, encourage thoughtful growth, and help prevent displacement of longtime residents.

The City's priorities include expanding resources to meet the needs of unhoused community members, reducing unsanctioned encampments and their impacts, increasing permanent supportive housing, producing and preserving affordable housing, and preventing displacement.

Tacoma also recognizes that housing and homelessness are regional challenges that require collaboration across jurisdictions. We are committed to working with local, regional, and federal partners to align policies and leverage resources to create lasting, systemic solutions.

In support of these goals, the following are specific policy positions related to housing and homelessness:

### Housing

- **Federal Flexibility:** Cities are on the frontlines of addressing the affordable housing crisis and as such, are best suited to determine how to best deploy federal assistance to serve the neediest communities. The City urges the Administration and lawmakers to preserve and strengthen federal funding for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs, which are essential to producing, preserving, and maintaining affordable housing. In addition, the City supports maintaining increased flexibility in the administration of HUD grant programs, including the extension of the use of HOME Community Housing Development Organization funds and increased administrative allowance for HOME funds, to most effectively respond to project and program oversight requirements.
- **Reducing Displacement:** Many of the efforts to increase the housing supply impact the ability of individuals on limited incomes to remain housed, including senior residents. The City has adopted an Anti-Displacement Strategy which includes 21 policy and program actions to prevent and mitigate displacement of Tacoma residents from their homes and communities. The City supports increased federal funding for programs such as rental and housing assistance and home repairs for low-income homeowners, as well policies to reduce displacement and provide opportunities for those on limited incomes to remain housed, including allowing senior residents to age in place.

**Affordable Housing:** The City of Tacoma lacks affordable housing. 37-percent of households in Tacoma pay at least 30 percent of their income on housing costs each month, reducing their ability

to pay for other necessities. The cost of rental homes increased by 78-percent since 2015, and home values have increased 58 percent since 2018. In response to this urgent need, the City developed the [Affordable Housing Action Strategy](#) to guide its efforts to dramatically increase investments in new rental and homeownership opportunities and establish broader anti-displacement measures. While this effort has resulted in an increase in affordable housing units, there is a significant demand that will continue to increase.

- **Federal Funding:** With the enactment of the budget reconciliation law, the City looks to leverage tax provisions to addressing housing shortage and invest in underserved communities, including the expansion of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit 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
- **Area Median Income Calculation:** Many state and federal housing programs utilize a percentage of area median income (AMI) to calculate eligibility. WAMI is generally calculated using county data. However, the AMI for the City is significantly different from Pierce County as a whole. The City supports statutory changes, clarifications, and other state and federal efforts to allow AMI to be calculated by city or metropolitan area.

### Homeownership

- **Low Income Housing Tax Credit [LIHTC]:** LIHTC is the primary tool for building low and moderate-income rental units in the United States. The City is supportive of the expansion of LIHTC included in the reconciliation bill.
- **Expanding Homeownership Opportunities:** Homeownership is the primary tool for building intergenerational wealth and an option to help people stay rooted in their communities. The City supports federal efforts to enhance home ownership opportunities, especially among underserved communities, through assistance to homebuyers, modifying existing federal programs to support homeownership or fair housing practices, addressing bias in the market, and expanding access to credit and counseling for homebuyers.

### Federal Funding

- **Community Investment:** Community development investments build stronger and more resilient communities. The City supports robust funding for programs that support economic development at the local level, such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program that provides significant financial resources to local governments working to address a variety of needs such as infrastructure, economic development, public facilities, community

centers, housing rehabilitation, small business assistance, homeowner assistance, and more.

### Homelessness Services

- **Funding for Shelters:** The City has implemented a [Homelessness Strategy](#) to respond to the homelessness crisis. This strategy includes implementation and operation of temporary shelters to address immediate needs while also encouraging development of affordable housing in our community as a long-term strategy to mitigate incidences of homelessness. The City’s strategy to transition from our current investment in shelter beds to deeper support of permanent and supportive housing as well as the intervention and stabilization services described in the strategy.
  - The City supports flexible federal funding that can be utilized to maintain operations and to continue implementation of the strategy to move towards more permanent solutions for people experiencing homelessness.
  - The City supports federal funding for programs and services to assist people experiencing homelessness, including mental health and substance use disorder treatment services.

### Infrastructure

- **Infrastructure Investments:** The City supports infrastructure investments aimed at reducing housing construction costs and accommodating growth. The City has embraced growth and increased density throughout its planning code. To successfully accommodate this growth, the City supports increased federal resources for infrastructure such as sidewalks, street lighting, broadband, and other infrastructure integral to urban living. Additionally, investing funding in water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure necessary to the development can help offset rising housing constructions costs to make housing more affordable.

<b>Jobs</b>
-------------

A City goal is that Tacoma be a growing economy where residents can find livable wage jobs in key industry areas and for Tacoma to be a place of choice for employers, professionals, and new graduates. To achieve these goals, the City has prioritized workforce development and increasing the number of livable wage jobs in Tacoma. The City also prioritizes increasing the number of small businesses surviving and thriving in the City, including increasing business ownership among historically underrepresented communities, and fostering a greater array of the types of small businesses that call Tacoma home.

In furtherance of these objectives, the following are specific policy positions related to jobs:

**Livable Wage Jobs:** Tacoma has established alignment between the City and local workforce development board, allowing us to braid funding across initiatives to increase impact while leveraging the expertise of the private sector, labor, and technical colleges that make up the workforce board, with the goal of increasing the pool of skilled workers who can compete for high

wage jobs. The federal government should encourage and support similar programs. The City supports additional federal assistance for local workforce efforts including, but not limited to:

- **Skills Training:** Support for upskilling/reskilling workers to meet the evolving demands of emerging industries and workforce gaps.
- **Apprenticeship Programs:** Fully funding apprentice, pre-apprentice programs and other workforce development programs, and reauthorizing the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.
- **Cross-Sector Partnerships:** Support for cross-sector initiatives involving labor, business, workforce providers, governments, education, and training entities to develop strategies prepare workers for high-wage jobs.
- **Barriers to Employment:** Support for programs that remove barriers to employment for vulnerable populations, including barriers to employment for refugees and immigrants.

Economic Development Tools and Supports: To achieve the City goals for the economy and workforce, there must be support for large and small businesses, and increased economic development tools and supports. The City supports strategies and partnerships that advance these areas including, but not limited to, the following:

- **Small and Medium-Sized Businesses:** Funding and policies that support small and medium-sized businesses, including subsidies and incubators to support disadvantaged businesses struggling with rising market-rate rents and workforce challenges.
- **Small Business Technical Assistance:** Funding and policies that provide technical assistance and financial literacy programs to assist small businesses access capital and available grants.
- **Advancing Workforce Opportunity:** It is critical to support, expand, and strengthen workforce development activities, including retraining for emerging industry sectors, by ensuring fair access and maximum participation for all individuals. We emphasize building comprehensive and effective programs that connect every individual with the skills needed to succeed in high-demand, high-wage careers, thereby fostering a highly skilled and competitive national workforce
- **Economic Development Tools:** Expanding and creating economic development tools that will assist the City in developing solutions for the community, including around issues related to food and pharmacy access in all neighborhoods.
- **Advanced Manufacturing and Emerging Industries:** Building on the City's Economic Development Strategy, Tacoma supports the siting and expansion of manufacturing, research, and development activities that create high-quality, tradable-sector jobs in next-generation industries. The City also supports the strategic use of manufacturing tax incentives to attract new investment and accelerate growth in these sectors.

- **Future-Focused Job Growth:** Expand opportunities in growing sectors such as renewable energy, urban forestry, natural stormwater management, urban agriculture, and green technology. These efforts will strengthen Tacoma’s economy, support innovation, and ensure that residents in historically underserved neighborhoods have access to quality jobs in these emerging fields.
- **Career Pathways:** Establishing career pathways to livable wage jobs in the community, including identifying apprenticeship opportunities to support the public sector.
- **Support for Workers:** The City supports direct aid to workers whose employment is impacted as a result of global trade agreements, such as Trade Act Assistance.
- **Opportunity Zones:** Opportunity Zones provide a tax incentive for investors to re-invest their unrealized capital gains into dedicated Opportunity Funds., as encouragement for long-term investments in economically distressed areas. The City supports efforts to maximize Opportunity Zones in the City and their impacts

## Access

A key City goal is to ensure that all residents are treated fairly and have access to essential services, community facilities, and opportunities for financial stability. The City is committed to using data to guide decisions, direct resources, and develop strategies that close gaps in access and improve outcomes for residents. This approach also informs how the City prioritizes investments — including expanding language access, improving transportation and mobility options, and ensuring that services reach the communities that need them most.

In furtherance of these objectives, the following are specific policy positions related to access:

**Fostering Community Strength and Opportunity:** The City supports federal initiatives that promote the safety, well-being, and upward mobility of all our residents by addressing systemic challenges that have historically created barriers in certain communities. The City supports policies that bolster opportunity and full participation in the American economy, including, but not limited to the following:

- **Tax Credits:** Federal tools such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit, which support low and moderate-income earners. The City supports continuing and expanding these tools.
- **Guaranteed Income:** Many Tacoma families struggle with financial instability. Tacoma launched a guaranteed income pilot program in 2021, Growing Resilience in Tacoma (GRIT), which granted 100 needy families a monthly, no-strings attached payment. The City supports a national guaranteed income program to stabilize needy families and interrupt cycles of poverty. It is important that the guaranteed income policy proposals include specific language that mitigates any impact additional income may have on the recipient’s eligibility for other public assistance programs.



- **Reparations:** The City supports federal efforts to acknowledge and address the impacts of discriminatory laws and policies on formerly enslaved people and their descendants.
- **Voting Rights:** Voting is fundamental to democracy. The City supports legislation to protect and expand access to voting, including efforts to maintain and improve vote-by-mail elections

Transportation and Infrastructure: The City is strategically guiding investment to develop a safe, accessible, and multimodal transportation system that prioritizes safety and public health, while focusing resources to serve the historically underserved communities that depend most heavily on accessible infrastructure. The City has prioritized safety including through committing to Vision Zero and the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries in the City of Tacoma by 2035. The City will seek federal support for projects of importance to the City, such as Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge Phase II.

- **Public Transit:** Fund public transportation programs as authorized levels in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in the annual T-HUD appropriations bill.
- **Safety:** The City supports funding increases for existing transportation safety programs, including but not limited to the Highway Safety Improvement Program, Safe Routes to School, Safe Streets and Roads for All, and the Transportation Alternatives Program.
- **Funding:** While infrastructure financing programs provide flexible funding for major transportation projects and help local governments to leverage private and other nonfederal investments, the City recognizes that limited budget capacity, authorities, and delays in the federal approval process limit the effectiveness of these programs, particularly in disadvantaged communities. The City supports greater technical support at the USDOT Build America Bureau and flexibility for their approving multimodal and jurisdictional projects that can take advantage of favorable federal financing. The City also recommends raising the federal population cap for communities accessing the best available borrowing rates to ensure growing communities can appropriately utilize financing options.
- **Pedestrian and Bike Accessibility:** The City supports maintaining and expanding sustainable funding sources for bicycle and pedestrian trails and facilities, such as the Transportation Alternatives set asides in the Surface Transportation Block Grant program.
- **Bridges:** The City supports maintaining the Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation program with sufficient funding to repair bridges that are structurally or operationally deficient. Off-system bridges should continue to be eligible for federal bridge funds, and the discretionary bridge program should be preserved. The City will seek federal funding for design and construction of the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge Phase II project.
- **Harbor Maintenance and Dredging:** The Port of Tacoma is an economic driver for the City and the South Sound, with over 42,000 jobs and \$2.84 billion in income across the Washington state economy. The City supports policies and appropriations that will

maintain the competitiveness of the Port of Tacoma, such as legislation to allow Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund dollars to be spent on port infrastructure uses beyond dredging.

### Telecommunications

- **Preserving City Right of Way:** The City supports policies that retain local government authority to manage rights-of-way to ensure the siting of cell towers and small cells is safe and appropriate. The City opposes legislation that seeks to preempt local land use and zoning authorities on broadband deployment projects, such as [H.R. 3557](#).
- **Franchise Fees:** The City supports reversal of an FCC order to allow franchise fees and EG Fees to be calculated as they have been for over 35 years as monetary-only fees.
- **Digital Access:** Access to the Internet is essential for education and employment opportunities, business development, healthcare, government services, and community involvement. The City supports action by the federal government to provide matching grants, technology grants, tax credits, subsidies and other types of aid that would increase broadband deployment and affordability. The City also supports sustained funding of programs such as E-Rate, ReConnect, and other programs that support the buildout of broadband infrastructure. The City urges the federal government to ensure that these and other broadband grant programs are accessible to all communities, whether large or small, rural or urban, as well as municipal broadband network owners and operators.
- **High Speed Broadband:** The City supports the extension of pandemic-era initiatives including the Affordable Connectivity Program to promote broadband access in qualified low-income households, including 38,000 eligible households in Tacoma.

### Childcare

- **Access to Childcare:** Access to childcare is important to Tacoma residents. The City supports policies to expand access to affordable, quality childcare and preschool, including Universal Pre-Kindergarten and early childhood mental health services.

### Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy

- **Access to Arts:** Tacoma Creates is a voter-approved initiative to increase access to arts, culture, heritage, and science experiences throughout Tacoma by reducing barriers to access and expanding offerings, particularly to underserved youth. The City supports federal funding and policies to increase access to arts, culture, heritage, and science experiences.
- **Creative Economy:** The City supports federal funding and policies that support the growth of the arts and the creative economy.

## Health

Health of Tacoma residents includes physical and behavioral health, which includes both mental health and substance use disorder; however, it also includes factors that impact the health and well-being of residents including environmental and safety issues. The Council prioritizes improving health outcomes in these various areas and reducing disparities.

In furtherance of these objectives, the following are specific policy positions related to health that impact the physical and behavioral health of residents, as well as the health of the environment:

### Health

- **Healthcare:** The City supports maintaining robust funding for Medicaid and permanently extending the enhanced health insurance premium subsidies under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The City supports the right to access reproductive and gender affirming care.
- **Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault:** The City supports policies, programs, and funding to assist people impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault. We urge Congress to fully fund programs authorized by the Violence Against Women Act as reauthorized in 2022.

### Behavioral Health

- **Access to Services:** The City supports programs that provide funding to increase access to mental health and substance abuse services.
- **Community Health Centers:** Adequately fund community health centers, which play a critical role in providing uninsured and underinsured people with health care services, including mental health and substance abuse treatment.
- **Programs to Support Vulnerable Populations:** The City supports funding for programs that serve our most vulnerable populations.
- **988 Suicide Crisis Lifeline** The City supports increased federal coordination with state, county, and local officials on 988 mental health line implementation to ensure coordinated access to service providers.
- **Behavioral Health Workforce:** The City supports policies and funding that assist local efforts to build out a behavioral health work force. This includes reducing the barriers posed by regulations/certifications on workforce entry into behavioral and medical health fields without improperly impacting quality of care and investing in local workforce development systems to directly support upskilling and reskilling workers on behalf of behavioral healthcare providers.

Environment: The City is committed to responsible environmental stewardship as a key component of building a stronger and more resilient local economy. We will seek federal partnership and support to modernize our local infrastructure and advance initiatives that ensure clean air and water for all residents.

The City supports continuing efforts to take practical, results-driven action to improve the health of our environment and align with the City's local goals, including:

- **Climate Mitigation and Adaptation:** The City supports federal financial and technical assistance to support local government vulnerability assessments and climate change mitigation and adaptation implementation efforts to ensure that cities have the information, resources, and tools to adequately plan for and respond to climate change effects.
- **Local Health and Opportunity:** The City recognizes that areas designated as Opportunity Zones and other economically distressed communities are often disproportionately impacted by poor air quality, which affects the health and workforce productivity of residents. The City supports federal programs to drive the deployment of clean air technologies and modern infrastructure within these key economic areas. We encourage federal efforts that ensure these investments lead to measurable public health improvements and create local jobs by ensuring full parity in accessing new technologies and infrastructure upgrades.
- **Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities:** The City supports the Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities formed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to coordinate housing, community development, transportation, energy, and environmental policies that will help local communities create better and more affordable places to live, work and raise families. The City urges Congress to pass legislation to officially authorize the partnership and to continue funding.
- **Superfund Sites:** The City supports federal actions to assist local governments in Superfund site identification and remediation, such as reauthorization of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA, also known as Superfund) to ensure that existing hazardous waste disposal sites can continue to be identified, evaluated and cleaned up. Congress should increase the size of the Hazardous Substance Response Trust Fund that supports the Superfund program so it will be adequate to clean up sites already on the National Priority List (NPL) as well as any additional sites added to the list.
- **Brownfields:** The City calls on Congress to reauthorize and fully fund the EPA Brownfields program, which supports the assessment, cleanup and redevelopment of sites that are contaminated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant. The economic redevelopment and environmental restoration of these properties is essential to revitalizing communities and protecting public health.
- **Reuse and Recycling:** The City supports investments in domestic infrastructure, support for local and regional recycling programs and education efforts, and policy changes will ensure recycling remains environmentally and economically sustainable.
- **Landfills:** The City requests that any new federal mandates that retroactively reclassify specific segments of waste, thus requiring new and more costly disposal methods and/or

retrofitting of existing and closed disposal facilities be accompanied by financing to assist local government with compliance.

- **PFAS Contamination:** The City supports federal policies that ensure that the parties responsible for PFAS contamination, including the federal government but excluding local governments, are held fully liable for costs of cleanup and mitigation and to ensure that sites are cleaned up in a timely manner. The City supports PFAS clean-up standards that are sufficiently stringent to permit reuse of the site and to obviate the need for additional cleanup and mitigation costs by affected local governments.

#### Additional Policy Positions

##### Civil Rights

- **Discrimination:** The City supports federal legislation to expand protections to include discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, such as the Equality Act.
- **Equal Pay:** The City encourages the federal government to enact legislation to close gender pay gaps, such as the Paycheck Fairness Act.

##### Other

- **Human Dignity and Immigration Reform:** The City calls on Congress to take decisive action on comprehensive immigration reform to create a more functional, humane, and orderly system that upholds human dignity. Key priorities for this reform include:
  - **Accountable and Humane Custody:** Ensuring all federal detention facilities maintain adequate health and safety standards and prioritize the wellbeing of individuals in custody. The City urges Congress to eliminate financial incentives for detention by ending the use of private detention facilities and by narrowing the scope of mandatory detention to reserve incarceration for exceptional cases, while expanding cost-effective alternatives.
  - **Enforcement Professionalism:** Requiring all law enforcement officers and agents of the Department of Homeland Security involved in civil immigration enforcement to clearly display official identification and insignia when detaining or arresting individuals. We support policies that prohibit the use of unapproved, non-tactical masks to ensure accountability and public confidence in official actions.
  - **Economic Stability and Status:** Establishing a clear pathway to legal status or citizenship for long-term residents, including individuals known as DREAMERS. Such a framework is vital for maintaining economic stability and securing the American workforce.
  - **Systemic Efficiency and Support:** Reforming the asylum and legal immigration processes to eliminate backlogs and create safe, orderly, and efficient avenues for legal entry, and enacting policies that support refugee and asylum seekers.

- **Joint Base Lewis McChord:** Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM) is one of twelve joint bases in the United States and the largest DOD installation west of the Mississippi River, with over 52,000 service members and their families. The installation accounts for \$5 billion in local payroll and a total of \$9.2 billion in regional economic activity. Any downsizing at JBLM would have serious economic consequences for Tacoma and the Puget Sound region. The City opposes any Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) considerations for JBLM. The City supports federal initiatives that support the health and well-being of our service members and their families.
- **Reconciling Federal and State Cannabis Policy:** Retail cannabis is a multi-million dollar industry in Pierce County, which drives wealth building, economic opportunity, and entrepreneurship. However, local cannabis retailers are not able to access traditional banking services as cannabis remains classified as a controlled substance at the federal level. The City supports legislation that will facilitate local retailers' access to federal financial institutions and business products, including the SAFE Banking Act.
- **Community Project Funding/Community Directed Spending:** The City supports Congressionally Directed Spending and Community Project Funding that provides a singular influx of federal funds for important local projects and requests our Congressional delegation's continued support of these requests and their participation in this process.
- **Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP):** The City supports continued appropriations for the LIHWAP program to aid low-income water utility ratepayers.
- **Local Control:** The City prioritizes public input and community engagement in local decision-making. The federal government should honor local decision-making authority and the public processes that support local decision-making.
- **Daylight Savings:** The City supports legislation that would make U.S. Daylight Saving Time permanent.

**Entheogens:** The City encourages the full decriminalization of entheogen-related activities at the federal level in light of growing research indicting potential medical uses for the substances and the number of local jurisdictions and states that are decriminalizing entheogen-related activities.