



CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

2020 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The City of Mercer Island supports the following legislative priorities for 2020:

1. TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

The Puget Sound Region needs funding for transportation projects to reduce congestion, enhance traffic safety, and increase mobility. We support policies and legislation that:

- a. Pursues a comprehensive transportation bill or grants that provide new resources and options for local government actions;
- b. Engages regional groups (e.g. SCA) with the development of any statewide transportation package; and
- c. Delivers solutions to relieve congestion on I-90 and I-405.

2. SUSTAINABLE LOCAL FUNDING

Stable tax revenues for local government are essential for providing quality, predictable services to the public. City revenue streams are limited and not structured to keep-up with rising costs. We support legislation to:

- a. Preserve city fiscal health with secure funding sources such as replacing the annual 1% cap on property tax revenues with a growth limit whose maximum is inflation plus the rate of population growth and removing restrictions on REET revenues;
- b. Retain State-shared revenues and curtail unfunded mandates;
- c. Identify funding source for emergency response and disaster recovery; and
- d. Fully fund the Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF).

3. MAINTAINING LOCAL CONTROL

Preserve local control around local land use planning (e.g. implementation of GMA-related items, housing, concurrency, etc.) by:

- a. Extending the timeline/grant cycle for HB 1923 to include another round in 2020;
- b. Extending the timeline for approving a "Qualifying Local Tax" under HB 1406 so that cities can choose to put a levy on the ballot after enacting the tax; and
- c. Identifying funding options for long range planning work related to GMA major updates.

4. PROTECTING OUR HEALTH

The health of our community is tied to our residents' individual health. We encourage legislation that:

- a. Supports mental health counseling and social emotional learning in all schools; and
- b. Continue to pursue new resources and policies to increase affordable housing both at the state and local level.

5. PRESERVING AND PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

It is essential to preserve and protect the environment today and for future generations. We encourage legislation and partnerships that support progressive clean energy, climate protection, or other environmental health measures to achieve the following:

- a. A statewide price on carbon pollution that reinvests a substantial share of revenues into efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- b. Reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions by supporting access to public transit, fleet electrification, commute reduction programs, and cleaner fuel standards;
- c. Support an accelerated timeline to retire fossil fuel energy supplies from Puget Sound Energy's portfolio, maximizing replacement with new renewable energy sources;
- d. Expand incentives for distributed solar energy generation; and
- e. Strengthen Washington State Energy Code encouraging "net-zero emissions" buildings.