



**CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA BILL**
City Council Regular Meeting - 07 Dec 2015

NEW
AB 7057 -
Consent
Calendar

2016 State Legislative Agenda

Proposed Council Action:
Refer to Council Committee Work Session

DEPARTMENT OF	Finance Department, Diane Marcotte
COUNCIL COMMITTEE LIAISON	n/a
OTHER COUNCIL MEETINGS	n/a
EXHIBITS	A. Proposed Agenda

POLICY & BUDGET INFO		Expenditure Required
Comp Plan Policy Nos.	n/a	\$ n/a
Consistent:	n/a	Amount Budgeted
Other Policies	n/a	\$ n/a

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The 2016 Legislative Agenda marks the fourth year that the City has prepared a Legislative Agenda. The Agenda serves to communicate with the State Legislature as well as the Governor the issues that are of importance to the City. The Agenda is divided into two sections as follows:

- | The "Top-Priority Issues" are those the City deems most critical to ongoing operations and implementation of the community's short and long-term vision. We focus our lobbying efforts and advocacy on these issues.
- | The "Support/Oppose List" includes important items, and comprises issues where we will join with others in strongly supporting helpful legislation or opposing legislation that would result in adverse impacts.

The Agenda also includes a reference to the pertinent issues that have been identified by the Association of Washington Cities (AWC). During the legislative session we work very closely with AWC on issues of joint interest.

The adoption of the Legislative Agenda is particularly important given the fiscal challenge at the state level this coming year. It is important for our voice to be heard.

Consistency With Comprehensive Plan:

n/a

Administration's Recommendation:

Approve the 2016 State Legislative Agenda as presented.

Update:

n/a

Alternative(s):

n/a

RECOMMENDATION

Administration/Finance Director:

MOVE TO: Refer AB 7057 to the December 14, 2015 Council Committee Work Session for review and recommendation, returning to the full Council on December 21, 2015.



2016 State Legislative Agenda

2016 State Legislative Agenda

The City of Issaquah's 2016 State Legislative Agenda is organized as follows:

- 1) The "Top-Priority Issues" are those the City deems most critical to ongoing operations and implementation of the community's short and long-term vision. Issaquah will focus most of its direct lobbying and advocacy time on these issues.
- 2) The "Support/Oppose List" includes important items, and comprises issues where Issaquah will join others in strongly supporting helpful legislation or opposing legislation that would result in adverse impacts.

The Association of Washington Cities' legislative priorities are marked "(AWC1)." In establishing priorities for each session of the Washington State Legislature, Issaquah strives to ensure that its top priorities are in alignment with those adopted by the Association of Washington Cities and the Sound Cities Association (SCA). SCA does not currently have a formal legislative agenda, but should it adopt one in the future, the City of Issaquah will strive to align with it.

TOP PRIORITY ISSUES:

- ***Fiscal Issues***

Issaquah will focus considerable time and energy on ensuring that the state restores and maintains its investments in key state-shared revenue distributions and other assistance.

A. Restore Growth in Liquor Profit Distributions Revenues (AWC1)

Under current statute and through actions of the 2012 Legislature, the liquor revolving account ("liquor profit") distributions to cities and counties are capped at Fiscal Year 2011 levels. The City will support a coalition effort led by AWC to remove statutory caps and gradually restore distributions to historic levels, as was done through initial versions of ESHB 2156 during the 2015 Session.

B. Protect State-Shared Revenues (AWC1)

In finding new funds for K-12 education funding needs, or in addressing voter-passed Initiative 1366, the Legislature must refrain from cuts or diversions in state-shared revenues that are critical to assisting local governments with public safety and day-to-day operations. Issaquah will join others in ensuring state-shared revenues are preserved in this "off-budget" year; particularly critical to the City is the Streamlined Sales Tax (SST) mitigation funding, which equates to about \$800,000 a year in the City's Operating Budget.

SUPPORT/OPOSE LIST

▪ *Budget, Tax-Revenue*

A. Sustainable Funding for Locals, Local Revenue Options (AWC1)

Along with preserving existing authority, such as local Business & Occupation taxing authority, Issaquah supports providing cities additional options and flexibility to explore new, more sustainable revenue sources.

B. Oppose Legislation to Undermine, Remove, or Pre-Empt Local Authority and Local Revenues. (AWC1)

Issaquah feels strongly that local revenue options must be protected. For example, Issaquah will join AWC and several individual cities to strongly oppose legislation that would pre-empt and remove local authority over the collection of municipal Business and Occupation taxes.

▪ *Public Safety, & Criminal Justice, Court, Fire-EMS*

A. Human Trafficking

Issaquah will strongly support additional and continued legislative initiatives to prevent and address human trafficking.

B. Marijuana (AWC1)

Issaquah will work to ensure that legislation to continue implementation of the Initiative 502 recreational marijuana system and medical marijuana is coordinated and enforceable.

C. Body Cameras (AWC1)

The City will support legislation to make use of body cameras more feasible by setting up reasonable public records standards for release and by resolving issues surrounding storage and retention. Issaquah also believes this legislation should also address times during which an officer should have the camera turned on or off.

D. De-criminalizing of 3rd Degree Driving While License Suspended (DWLS-3):

Issaquah will work to ensure any legislative initiative to decriminalize DWLS-3 is specifically tied to relicensing requirements.

E. Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) (AWC1)

The City will support efforts to preserve current funding for Basic Law Enforcement Academy.

F. Fourth Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Offense a Felony

Issaquah will support legislation to make a fourth Driving Under the Influence (DUI) offense a felony.

G. Fireworks

Issaquah will join others in opposing legislation to remove local control on fireworks limits and bans such as SB 5914 from the 2015 Session (AWC1).

Issaquah will support legislative efforts to provide "emergency" ban authority on fireworks (AWC1).

- ***Economic Development/Infrastructure***

- **A. Innovative Partnership Zones**

- Issaquah was recently awarded an Innovation Partnership Zone (IPZ) designation for sports medicine-related businesses. The City believes it is important for the State to partner with IPZs and will work to build a coalition to pursue Fiscal Biennium 2017-19 funding for this key economic development program.

- **B. Tourism Promotion**

- The City will support efforts by the Washington Tourism Alliance to establish in statute an industry-funded statewide tourism and marketing program.

- **C. Public Works Assistance Account (PWAZ) (AWC1)**

- Issaquah will support efforts to develop changes to update the PWAA. This could possibly involve looking to develop a next iteration of an infrastructure grant or loan program to help fund water, sewer, stormwater, and transportation infrastructure needs in local communities.

- **D. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)**

- Issaquah will support updates and revisions to this 25-year-old program that funds outdoor recreation and conservation needs. Issaquah will specifically support proposals to fund more development projects within the Local Parks category, but will want to ensure that the basic structure and integrity of WWRP remains intact.

- **E. Flood Control/Water Supply/Stormwater Infrastructure Package (AWC1)**

- Issaquah will express concerns with and opposition to this Legislative package of infrastructure funding options unless it is crafted more equitably in terms of who pays and where investments are made.

- ***Fiscal (includes Personnel)***

- **A. Mandated State Deferred Compensation Participation**

- The City of Issaquah will join a collation of cities, counties, ports and other in opposing any bill that would mandate local agencies to require employees participation in the state deferred compensation program.

- ***Environment/Natural Resources***

- **A. Financing Mechanisms and Tools to Help Retire Coal-Generation Facilities**

- Issaquah is prepared to support legislation that provides financing mechanism and tools to help retire coal-generation facilities in 2016.

- ***Human Service and Housing***

- **A. Tools to Help Jurisdictions Manage Mental Health, Human Services, and Affordable Housing Issues (AWC1)**

- Issaquah will support funding and policy efforts to help local communities address growing burdens in providing facilities, beds, and shelter for those with mental health issues and for the homeless, including tools jurisdictions can use to boost their stock of affordable housing and for mobile crisis response.

B. Provide a Variety of Tools to Help Jurisdictions Add Affordable Housing Units

Issaquah supports the establishment of discretionary tools that can help local jurisdictions increase the number of affordable housing units in communities across the Puget Sound Region, including but not limited to: Transit Oriented Development (TOD) incentives; a third one-quarter of one percent Real Estate Excise Tax (REET 3) dedicated to affordable housing; increasing the amount of funding for the Housing Trust Fund; and a demolition tax with revenue targeted towards affordable housing.

▪ ***Land Use and Growth Management Act***

A. Legislation to make changes to vesting laws (AWC1)

Issaquah will join the AWC and individual cities in opposing any changes to vesting laws during the 2016 Session.

▪ ***Local Government (including Public Records Act)***

A. Recreational Immunity:

Issaquah will join others in support of any effort to clarify the recreational immunity statutes as they relate to multi-purpose trails.

B. Electronic Signatures

The City will support legislative efforts, if pursued, to clarify local ability to use digital and electronic signatures for contracts and official city documents.

C. Emergency Management

The City will support efforts to find a sustainable funding mechanism for the Washington State Emergency Management Division, which will help free up federal pass-through funding for local Emergency Management efforts that are critical to communities across the state.

D. Public Records (AWC1)

Issaquah will support efforts to strengthen the Public Records Act in a way that provides additional tools to resolve conflicts outside the courtroom, the authority to charge a reasonable fee for electronic and commercial requests, and continues to address impacts that changing technology has on public records.

▪ ***Transportation/Transit***

A. Electric Vehicle

Issaquah supports efforts to incentivize electric vehicles use and electric vehicles charging station infrastructure.