

2027-28 LOC Legislative Priorities

Council-friendly summary of the League of Oregon Cities proposed priorities. Each city may select five priorities for the LOC legislative agenda.

Broadband, Cybersecurity, AI & Telecommunications		
Legislative Priority	What LOC is asking for	Why it matters to cities
Promote the Equitable Development of Sustainable Telecom Infrastructure	Support affordable, reliable broadband, cellular service, and other telecom infrastructure across Oregon, including rural areas.	Better internet and cell service support residents, businesses, emergency services, and economic development.
Maintain Local Control of a Safe, Modern Right of Way	Protect cities' authority to manage public rights-of-way and require utilities to be responsible for their work and costs.	Helps cities protect streets, sidewalks, public safety, and local taxpayers.
Support Equitable Access to Technology	Support programs that improve access to technology, digital skills, broadband, and accessible websites.	Helps more residents use online city services and participate in the digital economy.
Support Responsible Municipal Use of Technology	Support reasonable rules for city use of AI and new technology while avoiding unfunded mandates.	Allows cities to use new tools to improve efficiency while protecting data and managing risks.
Support Municipal Cybersecurity Proficiency	Provide cities with funding, training, technical support, and cybersecurity resources.	Cities hold financial and personal information and need stronger protection from cyberattacks.
General Government		
Legislative Priority	What LOC is asking for	Why it matters to cities
Administrative Procedures Act Reform	Modernize Oregon's state rulemaking process and make agency rules more consistent, transparent, and accountable.	Cities spend time and money complying with state rules. Clearer rules can reduce confusion and conflicting requirements.
Public Meetings Law Clarity	Simplify Public Meetings Law, allow correction of honest mistakes, reduce personal liability, and change training requirements.	Gives elected officials and staff clearer rules and reduces risk from minor or accidental errors.
Housing, Land Use & Community Development		
Legislative Priority	What LOC is asking for	Why it matters to cities
Funding and Coordination for Shelter and Homeless Response	Continue state funding for shelters, eviction prevention, rehousing, outreach, and regional homeless programs.	Cities generally do not have enough funding to provide these services on their own.
Full Funding and Streamlining for Housing Production	Increase housing funding and simplify state programs and requirements that affect housing development.	Could help cities create more affordable, workforce, middle-income, and other needed housing.
Land Availability and Land Use Streamlining ★	Simplify land-use laws, wetland rules, UGB expansions, land swaps, and related processes.	Helps cities make land available for housing, businesses, and industrial development more quickly.

Energy & Environment

Legislative Priority	What LOC is asking for	Why it matters to cities
Invest in Community Energy Resilience/Disaster Planning	Provide funding and technical help for backup power, generators, solar, storage, microgrids, and disaster planning.	Helps cities keep essential services operating during wildfires, outages, floods, and other emergencies.
Support Expedited Local Renewable Energy Generation	Support local renewable energy projects and make development easier while protecting local control.	Gives communities more options to meet energy needs and improve reliability.
Support Increased Energy Transmission Capacity	Support projects that increase Oregon's ability to move electricity where it is needed.	More transmission capacity can support growth, reliability, and future energy demand.
Maintain Affordable Energy While Supporting Grid Hardening and Modernization	Improve and strengthen the electrical grid while keeping rate increases manageable.	Cities and residents need reliable power, but large rate increases can create financial pressure.
Resource Programs for Energy Efficiency Planning and Project Development	Continue funding and incentives for energy efficiency, solar, storage, rebates, and electrification projects.	Helps cities complete energy projects without relying entirely on local funding.
Support Administrative Capacity	Increase state agency staffing and resources to help cities with energy and climate programs.	Cities need technical assistance to understand and meet changing state and federal requirements.

Finance, Taxation & Economic Development

Legislative Priority	What LOC is asking for	Why it matters to cities
Targeted Prevailing Wage Changes ★	Update prevailing wage rules and thresholds and provide more flexibility for certain housing, childcare, and infrastructure projects.	Could help reduce construction costs and allow limited public dollars to complete more projects.
Alcohol Revenue Modernization	Increase alcohol-related revenue shared with cities and consider allowing local alcohol taxes.	Cities have public safety and other costs related to alcohol use and could receive additional revenue to help cover them.
Emergency Communication System Resources	Increase the state 9-1-1 tax and provide more funding for emergency dispatch systems.	Current state funding covers only part of dispatch costs, leaving local governments to pay the difference.
Strengthening Economic and Workforce Development ★	Protect and increase funding for Enterprise Zones, LTREZ, SIP, industrial infrastructure programs, and workforce training.	Gives cities tools to attract businesses, create jobs, support growth, and develop a skilled workforce.

Transportation

Legislative Priority	What LOC is asking for	Why it matters to cities
2027 Transportation Package ★	Create a statewide transportation funding package that supports maintenance, safety, transit, grants, and city roads.	Cities depend heavily on State Highway Fund dollars and state transportation programs to maintain local streets.
Cautious Adoption of Autonomous Vehicles	Allow autonomous vehicles to be introduced carefully while protecting city authority to regulate their local use.	Cities need the ability to address safety, traffic, emergency response, and local infrastructure impacts.
City Supported Street Sign Traditions	Allow city-supported community, holiday, and fundraising signs on light poles even when visible from state highways.	Gives cities more flexibility to support community events and local organizations.

Water & Wastewater

Legislative Priority	What LOC is asking for	Why it matters to cities
Infrastructure Funding ★	Increase state funding and low-cost financing for drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and water reuse projects.	Water infrastructure is necessary for housing, economic growth, public health, and reliable city services.
Water Reuse	Provide funding, technical assistance, and clearer regulations for water reuse projects.	Helps cities make better use of available water supplies and plan for long-term growth.
Ratepayer Assistance	Create state-supported assistance for residents who struggle to pay water and wastewater bills.	Helps residents while allowing cities to maintain financially stable utility systems.
Water Workforce Development	Support recruitment, training, certification, apprenticeships, and retention of water and wastewater workers.	Cities need qualified employees to safely operate increasingly complex water and wastewater systems.

Suggested Boardman Top Areas

The areas below appear especially relevant to Boardman's current governance, housing, land-use, infrastructure, and utility needs.

Priority	Why it is a strong fit for Boardman
Administrative Procedures Act Reform	Supports clearer, more consistent state rules and stronger accountability, which can reduce conflicting requirements, staff time, and compliance costs for cities.
Public Meetings Law Clarity	Provides clearer rules for elected officials, allows cities to correct honest procedural mistakes, and reduces personal liability for minor administrative errors.
Full Funding and Streamlining for Housing Production	Supports funding and simpler state processes to help communities produce affordable, workforce, middle-income, and other needed housing.
Land Availability and Land Use Streamlining	Supports clearer and faster land-use processes, including UGB expansion, land swaps, wetland rules, and land availability for housing, commercial, and industrial growth.
Infrastructure Funding	Supports state funding and low-cost financing for drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and reuse projects needed for housing, growth, and economic development.
Water Reuse	Provides funding, technical assistance, and clearer regulatory pathways so cities can develop local water reuse projects and stretch available water supplies.
Ratepayer Assistance	Supports state assistance for residents who struggle with water and wastewater bills while helping city utilities remain financially stable.
Water Workforce Development	Supports recruitment, training, certification, and retention of qualified water and wastewater professionals needed to operate critical city systems.

Source: League of Oregon Cities, 2026 Member Voter Guide - 2027-28 LOC Legislative Priorities, pages 4-20. Summary language is simplified for Council discussion and does not replace the full LOC recommendations.