



COBURG CITY COUNCIL

ACTION ITEM

League of Oregon Cities Legislative Priorities for 2025-26 Session

Meeting Date	Staff Contact	Email
September 10, 2024	Adam Hanks, City Administrator	Adam.Hanks@ci.coburg.or.us

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

As a member of the League of Oregon Cities (LOC), Coburg has been asked to review a list of 23 legislative policy priorities developed by seven statewide elected and appointed City officials and LOC staff and submit a vote for its five highest ranking priorities from the list of 23 policy priorities provided below and attached.

Suggested Motion

I move to accept the staff recommendation for the City of Coburg's top legislative priorities to submit to the League of Oregon Cities to support the LOC efforts on behalf of its member jurisdictions in the upcoming two-year Oregon Legislative cycle.

BACKGROUND

In advance of the upcoming Oregon Legislature's 2025-26 Legislative Session in February of 2025, the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) assembles a comprehensive list of issues from its local government municipal membership. This is accomplished with the creation of seven statewide policy committees, comprised of elected and appointed officials from local governments across the state with a focus on representation from cities small, mid and large, as well as from all regions of the state. LOC staff facilitates the policy committee meetings, provides the initial policy framework, supports the committees with background materials, context of prior legislative history and other valuable technical information that aids in the committee's discussion and final recommendations within its committee scope.

The seven committees for this cycles policy development process include:

- Community and Economic Development
- General Government
- Energy and Environment
- Finance and Taxation
- Broadband, Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence and Telecommunications
- Transportation
- Water and Wastewater Committee

City Staff (City Administrator) represented the City of Coburg with membership on the Water and Wastewater Committee providing input on local challenges, needs and concerns relating to the operation, maintenance, regulatory framework and infrastructure improvements of both water and wastewater facilities and delivery/collection systems.

Local governments throughout the State (and nationally) are experiencing significant financial challenges hampering their ability to meet the expectations of their communities as well as to maintain acceptable levels of operations and maintenance services levels to meet regulatory requirements.

Selecting and submitting Coburg's top legislative priorities allows LOC to carry our local voice forward, along with the many other cities that share similar concerns and have similar challenges to face. As the 2025-26 Legislative session gets underway, staff will continue to monitor and take advantage of opportunities to work with LOC and other similar local government focused groups to voice concerns and issues important to Coburg.

Below is a list of the 23 legislative priorities available to narrow to Coburg's selection of its five top choices to submit back to LOC: (the full title and background of each item is available in the attached Voting Guide)

Community and Economic Development Committee

- Infrastructure Funding (Co-Sponsored by Water and Wastewater Committee)
- Shelter and Homeless Response
- Employment Lands Readiness and Availability
- Full Funding and Alignment For Housing Production

General Government Committee

- Restoration of Recreational Immunity
- Behavioral Health Enhancements
- Continued Addiction Policy Reform

Energy and Environment Committee

- Building Decarbonization, Efficiency, and Modernization
- Investment in Community Resiliency and Climate Planning Resources
- Address Energy Affordability Challenges from Rising Utility Costs

Finance and Taxation Committee

- Lodging Tax Flexibility
- Marijuana Tax
- Alcohol Tax

Broadband, Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Telecommunications Committee

- Digital Equity and Inclusion
- Cybersecurity & Privacy
- Resilient, Futureproof Broadband Infrastructure and Planning Investment

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Transportation Committee

- 2025 Transportation Package
- Funding and Expanding Public and Inter-Community Transit
- Shift from a Gas Tax to a Road User Fee
- Community Safety and Neighborhood Livability

Water and Wastewater Committee

- Infrastructure Funding (Co-Sponsored by Community and Economic Development Committee)
- Place-Based Planning
- Operator-in-Training Apprenticeships

RECOMMENDATION

The Staff recommended top five legislative priorities are as follows:

- Infrastructure Funding
- 2025 Transportation Package
- Restoration of Recreational Immunity
- Community Safety and Neighborhood Livability
- Employment Lands Readiness and Availability

BUDGET / FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no fiscal impacts associated with this agenda item and submittal to LOC, however, the recommended priorities all contain potential future state/federal funding resources that would benefit Coburg and its delivery of core services to the community.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

No specific public involvement has occurred with this agenda item. As noted, City Staff did participate in the process that LOC utilized to develop the priority list and highlights of those committee meetings have been shared by the City Administrator with the Finance/Audit Committee, Citizen's Budget Committee and City Council as part of local financial discussions relating to Coburg's budget and capital infrastructure needs.

NEXT STEPS

Upon Council selection of its top five priorities, Staff will submit the final list to LOC prior to their deadline of September 27, 2024

ATTACHMENTS

1. LOC – 2024 LOC Member Voter Guide
2. LOC – 2024 Legislative Wins Summary