



*Where Life is Sweet*

Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**STAFF REPORT**  
For the Meeting of July 11, 2022

**Title/Subject**

League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Legislative Priorities Discussion and Recommendation

**Summary and Background**

Each even-numbered year the LOC appoints members to serve on the following seven policy committees:

- Community Development
- General Government
- Energy and Environment
- Finance and Taxation
- Telecommunications/Broadband
- Transportation
- Water and Wastewater

These policy committees are the foundation of the LOC's policy development process. Composed of city officials, these committees are charged with analyzing policy and technical issues and recommending positions and strategies for the LOC.

Each committee provides a list of recommended policy positions and actions for the LOC to take in the coming two year legislative cycle. This year, each of the seven committees identified 3 to 5 legislative policy priorities to advance to the full membership and LOC Board of Directors for a total of 29 policy priorities. Each city is now being asked to review these recommendations from the seven policy committees and provide input to the LOC Board of Directors as it prepares to adopt the LOC's 2023 legislative agenda.

Attached you will find first a full list of all 29 policy priorities listed by committee. Second, you will find a copy of the last council goal setting report. I worked to try to find ties to the council's adopted values and goals in the list of policy priorities that I highlight below. At the end of each summary there is a page number referring to LOC document followed by a statement of the **applicable values** and if possible the **applicable council goal areas**.

Finally, out of the ten policy priorities that I have placed in this report, I have **highlighted** the five that I suggest might be the most important.

## 1. **Infrastructure Funding to Support Needed Housing**

**Legislative Concept:** *The LOC will support state funding for infrastructure needed to support needed housing. (page 2) (Livability) (Housing)*

## 2. **Economic Development Incentives**

**Legislative Recommendation:** *The LOC will support legislation to preserve and strengthen discretionary local economic development incentives including the Enterprise Zone (EZ), Long Term Rural Enterprise Zone (LTREZ) and Strategic Investment Program (SIP). (page 2, 6) (Fiscal Prudence) (Workforce Development)*

## 3. **Address Measure 110 Shortcomings**

**Legislative Recommendation:** *Restore criminal justice incentives for seeking treatment for addiction while ensuring a path for expungement for successfully completing a treatment program. (page 4) (Partnerships)*

## 4. **Property Tax Reform**

**Legislative Recommendation:** *The LOC will advocate for constitutional and statutory reforms to the property tax system to enhance local choice, equity, fairness, and adequacy. (page 5) (Fiscal Prudence)*

## 5. **Alcohol Revenues**

**Legislative Recommendation:** *The LOC will advocate for enhanced revenues from the sale of alcohol to mitigate the impact of recent legislative changes that will otherwise reduce this crucial revenue source. (page 7) (Fiscal Prudence)*

## 6. **Digital Equity and Inclusion**

**Legislative Recommendation:** *The LOC will advocate for legislation and policies that help all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy, and economy. (page 7) (Livability/Inclusive) (Digital Infrastructure)*

## 7. **Resilient, Futureproof Broadband Infrastructure and Planning Investment**

**Legislative Recommendation:** *The LOC will support legislation that will ensure broadband systems are built resiliently and futureproofed while also advocating for resources to help cities with broadband planning and technical assistance through direct grants and staff resources at the state level. The LOC will support legislation that addresses issues with the inconsistency of regulations applied to traditional and nontraditional telecommunications service as more entities move to a network based approach instead of what services are being provided. LOC will oppose any preemptions on local rights-of-ways, and municipalities right to own poles and become broadband service providers. (page 8) (Livability/Inclusive) (Digital Infrastructure)*

## 8. **Transportation Safety Enhancement**

**Legislative Recommendation:** *The LOC supports legislation that improves the overall safety of the transportation network in communities. The LOC will achieve this outcome by*

expanding authority for establishing fixed photo radar to all cities, increasing flexibility for local speed setting authority, and increased investment in the “safe routes to schools” and expansion of the “great streets” programs. (page 9) (Livability) (Transportation)

## 9. Water Utility Rate and Fund Assistance

**Legislative Recommendation:** The LOC will collaborate with members of the bipartisan work group to continue the proposed legislative purpose of the Low-Income Household Water Assistance (LIHWA) program. (page 10) (Fiscal Prudence/Livability) (Water)

## 10. Infrastructure Financing and Resilience

**Legislative Recommendation:** The LOC will advocate for an increase in the state’s investment in key infrastructure funding sources, including, but not limited to, the Special Public Works Fund (SPWF), Brownfield Redevelopment Fund, Regionally Significant Industrial Site loan program, and set asides through the SPWF for seismic resilience planning and related infrastructure improvements to make Oregon water and wastewater systems more resilient. (page 11) (Partnerships/Livability) (Water)

### Tie-In to Council Goals

See the above list.

### Fiscal Information

N/A

### Alternatives and Recommendation

#### Alternatives

1. Adopt City of Hermiston recommended policy priorities as presented
2. Amend and adopt City of Hermiston recommended policy priorities
3. Request additional information and delay action.

#### Recommended Action/Motion

Adopt City of Hermiston recommended policy priorities as presented

**Submitted By:** Byron D. Smith