

2025 Legislative Update

Medina City Council

February 10, 2025

General Background

- 2024 was a major election year in Washington State. Half of the Senate, all of the House of Representatives and all of the Statewide Elected Offices were up for election.
- The Democrats gained one seat in the House and one in the Senate. The Democratic majority in the Senate will be 30-19. The Democratic majority in the House will be 59-39.
- There has been significant legislative turnover:
 - The Senate has 12 new members.
 - The House has 22 new members.

More General Background

- The 48th legislative district is now represented by Senator Slatter, Representative Walen and Representative Salahuddin. There will be a special election in the Fall.
- The 2025 legislative session started on January 13th and is a 105-day session, ending on Sunday, April 27, 2025.
- It is the first year of the biennium. The Legislature must adopt a two-year budget by June 30, 2025, to avoid a shut-down of any part of state government.

Gubernatorial Transition

- Governor Bob Ferguson (D)
 - New Senior Staff, most are from the Attorney General's Office.
 - Almost an entirely new policy staff and a new budget office director.
 - Relevant New Agency Appointments:
 - Secretary of Transportation—Julie Meredith
 - Director of Department of Commerce—Joe Nguyen
 - Director of Department of Children Youth and Families—Tana Senn

Budget Outlook

- The Office of Financial Management (OFM) recently indicated that the General Fund Operating Budget deficit is between \$10 and \$12 billion over the four-year outlook.
- Governor Ferguson directed state agencies to provide him options for cutting 6% from state agency budgets.
- The State Transportation Budget shortfall for the 2025-27 biennium is \$1 billion.
- Senator Slatter and Representative Walen submitted our request for the next stage of the Expansion Joint Noise Mitigation study.

Proposed Legislation of Interest

- HB 1096 (Barkis)–Lot Splitting
- SB 5604 (Lias)–Transit Oriented Development
- HB 1491 (Reed)–Transit Oriented Development
- SB 5184 (Bateman)–Minimum Parking Requirements

Questions