



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6159
October 3, 2022
Regular Business**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6159: Introduction to Lobbying Team and Discussion on City’s 2023 Legislative Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Receive presentation and provide input.	

DEPARTMENT:	City Manager
STAFF:	Jessi Bon, City Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. City of Mercer Island 2022 Legislative Priorities 2. AWC 2023 Legislative Priorities Focus
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	2. Articulate, confirm, and communicate a vision for effective and efficient city services. Stabilize the organization, optimize resources, and develop a long-term plan for fiscal sustainability.

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to introduce the City’s lobbyist team to the City Council and to begin discussing the City’s State legislative priorities.

- On July 19, 2022, the City Council directed the City Manager to execute a contract for lobbyist services (see [AB 6114](#)).
- The City’s lobbyist team, Nick Federici, Anita Gallagher and Luke Esser, have professional lobbying expertise and experience at the State and Federal level, and bring a strong understanding of the issues in the region and on Mercer Island.
- During the October 3 City Council Meeting, the lobbying team will facilitate a discussion with the Council to inform the development of the City’s legislative priorities for the 2023 State legislative session.

BACKGROUND

At the April 19, 2022 City Council meeting, City Council approved the scope of work and authorized an RFP process to solicit proposals from lobbyists (see [AB 6061](#)). The RFP was issued in late April 2022, closed on May 19, 2022, and yielded submissions from two local firms. An ad-hoc committee of Deputy Mayor Rosenbaum,

Councilmember Jacobson, and Councilmember Weiker, along with City staff, reviewed submissions and conducted interviews with two firms in early June.

The ad-hoc committee selected the lobbying team of Nick Federici, Anita Gallagher, and Luke Esser to represent the City of Mercer Island in State and Federal matters. Their scope of work includes assisting with the development of the City's legislative priorities and requests for the 2023 Washington State Legislative Session and strategies to achieve them. They will also assist with monitoring issues impacting Mercer Island, identifying funding opportunities, representing the City with State and Federal committees and agencies, and providing direct reporting and consultation to the City Council and City staff.

At the July 19, 2022 City Council meeting, the City Council authorized the City Manager to execute a contract with the lobbying team and appropriated funding to initiate services in August 2022 (see [AB 6114](#)). The City is now under contract with the lobbying team of Federici, Gallagher, and Esser, and preparing for the 2023 legislative session.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The City Council will receive a presentation from the lobbying team in preparation for the 2023 legislative session. The discussion will focus on:

- Introduction to the lobbying team
- Brief recap of the 2022 legislative session
- Review of anticipated 2023 legislation impacting Mercer Island
- Discussion and input from the City Council to inform development of the City's 2023 Legislative Priorities
- Review of capital funding requests and support for grant programs

Attached for the City Council's reference are the City of Mercer Island's 2022 Legislative Priorities (Exhibit 1) and the Association of Washington Cities' (AWC's) recommended issues as priorities for 2023 (Exhibit 2). The AWC Board of Directors will take action in late September to finalize and approve their legislative priorities and will then publish informational fact sheets and share more information about potential legislation.

NEXT STEPS

The City Council will provide input and direction to the staff and the lobbying team to inform development of the draft of the City's 2023 Legislative Priorities.

Staff will return to the November 1, 2022 City Council meeting for final review and adoption of the 2023 Legislative Priorities.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive presentation and provide input on the 2023 State legislative priorities.