



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

**AB 6557
November 19, 2024
Regular Business**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6557: 2025 State Legislative Priorities Adoption	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Adopt the City of Mercer Island’s 2025 State Legislative Priorities.	

DEPARTMENT:	City Manager
STAFF:	Jessi Bon, City Manager Robbie Cunningham Adams, Sr. Management Analyst
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 State Legislative Priorities City of Mercer Island 2024 State Legislative Priorities 2025 Association of Washington Cities Legislative Priorities 2025 ARCH Legislative Priorities
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	4. Focus efforts and actions to be an environmentally and fiscally sustainable, connected, and diverse community.

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is for the City Council to adopt the City’s 2025 State Legislative Priorities (Exhibit 1).

- The 2025 State Legislative Session is expected to run from January 13 to April 27, 2025.
- The session is anticipated to again focus on topics around housing, public safety, mental and behavioral health services, and the environment, in addition to adopting the 2025-2027 state budget.
- The proposed 2025 Legislative Priorities (Exhibit 1) are presented in text format only. Upon receiving City Council approval, staff will proceed with final design and layout of the document, similar to the look and feel of the 2024 Legislative Priorities (Exhibit 2).
- The approved legislative priorities will be shared with the City’s legislative delegation and used by Council Leadership and staff when engaging with the state legislative session.

BACKGROUND

Each year the City develops legislative priorities to guide advocacy and support for issues important to the Mercer Island community.

2024 Legislative Session

The 2024 State Legislative Session continued a recent trend of an intense volume of bills introduced and considered, especially on issues of housing and land use. City staff and City Council leadership dedicated a significant amount of time to tracking bills, connecting with representatives and elected officials in neighboring communities, and advocating for legislation that aligns with Mercer Island's priorities.

The City Council received a mid-session update on the 2024 Legislative Session at the March 1, 2024 City Council planning session ([AB 6419](#)) and a final recap of the 2024 Legislative Session at the April 16, 2024 City Council meeting ([AB 6449](#)).

During the October 1, 2024 meeting, the City Council directed the City Manager to prepare an emergency capital funding request for replacement of the water supply line for submission to the Washington State Legislature and include this request as part of the City's 2025 State Legislative Priorities. Further, the City Council authorized the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to commence conversations with State legislative representatives about this project and the corresponding capital funding request ([AB 6530](#)).

Attached for reference are the City of Mercer Island's 2024 State Legislative Priorities (Exhibit 2), the Association of Washington Cities' (AWC's) City Legislative Priorities for 2025 (Exhibit 3), and the A Regional Coalition for Housing 2025 Legislative Priorities (Exhibit 4).

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

For the 2025 State Legislative Session, the City Council and City staff will work directly with state legislators using the priorities approved by City Council to advocate for Mercer Island priorities. Establishing priorities allows the City to engage on issues with legislators directly, quickly, and efficiently.

2025 Legislative Session

The City's draft 2025 State Legislative Priorities are included as Exhibit 1 and the proposed priorities are categorized as follows:

- Capital Funding for Emergency Replacement of City's Sole Water Source
- Support for Public Safety
- Increase Resources for Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Prevention
- Support for Affordable Housing
- Sustainable Funding Preservation and Maintenance of Critical Transportation Infrastructure
- Preserving and Protecting the Environment

The 2025 legislative session will be a "long session", meaning a 105-day session rather than the "short" 60-day session that occurs in even years. Long sessions occur during the beginning of the State's two-year budget cycle and include the process of adopting the 2025 to 2027 state budget. While the exact dates of the session are not finalized, staff anticipate the session lasting from January 13 to April 27.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of the text version of the 2025 Legislative Priorities (Exhibit 1), staff will proceed with final design and layout of the document, similar to the look and feel of the 2024 Legislative Priorities (see Exhibit 2).

The 2025 State Legislative Priorities will be published on the City’s website, shared with the community and the City’s legislative delegation, and used by City Council and staff during the state legislative session to guide the City’s advocacy work. The Legislative Priorities will also be sent to the Association of Washington Cities, the Sound Cities Association, ARCH, the Governor’s Office, and other entities and associations.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt the City of Mercer Island 2025 State Legislative Priorities, substantially in the form attached as Exhibit 1 to AB 6557.