



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

**AB 6178
November 1, 2022
Regular Business**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6178: 2023 Legislative Priorities	<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 2023 State Legislative Priorities.	

DEPARTMENT:	City Manager
STAFF:	Jessi Bon, City Manager Merrill Thomas-Schadt, Senior Management Analyst
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2023 State Legislative Priorities 2023 Association of Washington Cities Legislative Priorities 2022 State Legislative Priorities & AWC Statement on Police Reform
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 adopt the City’s 2023 State Legislative Priorities (see Exhibit 1).

- On July 19, 2022, the City Council directed the City Manager to execute a contract for lobbyist services (see [AB 6114](#)).
- On October 3, 2022, the City Council discussed the development of the City’s legislative priorities for the 2023 Washington State legislative session (see [AB 6159](#)) and provided direction on priorities and other items to track during the session.
- During the November 1, 2022 City Council Meeting, Councilmembers will discuss and finalize the City’s 2023 legislative priorities.
- The 2023 Association of Washington Cities Legislative Priorities (see Exhibit 2) and the City of Mercer Island 2022 State Legislative Priorities (see Exhibit 3) are attached for reference.

BACKGROUND

On October 3, 2022, the City Council and the lobbying team held a discussion to inform the development of the City’s legislative priorities for the 2023 State legislative session.

The discussion included a brief recap of the 2022 State legislative session, a review of anticipated 2023 legislation impacting Mercer Island, consideration of the 2023 Association of Washington Cities' (AWC) adopted priorities (see Exhibit 2), and a review of capital funding requests and support for grant programs.

City Council directed staff to prepare the 2023 legislative priorities and return for adoption at the November 1, 2022 City Council Meeting.

The 2023 Washington State Legislature Regular Session will begin in January 2023 and is scheduled to end in March.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The City's proposed 2023 Legislative Priorities (Exhibit 1) were developed to serve as a guide for working directly with State legislators with support from the City's lobbying team, staff, and City Council.

The 2023 proposed priorities are categorized as follows:

- Funding for Basic Infrastructure and Capital Projects
- Support for Mental and Behavioral Health Services
- Policing for a Safe Mercer Island
- Support for Housing Availability
- Preserving and Protecting the Environment

Established priorities allow the City to proactively engage on issues important to the community, to respond quickly to requests for endorsement letters, and to advocate efficiently in the community's best interests.

NEXT STEPS

Upon adoption, the City's 2023 State Legislative Priorities will be published and shared with the lobbying team, legislators, and other municipalities. They will also be sent to the Association of Washington Cities and the Sound Cities Association.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt the 2023 State Legislative Priorities.