



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

**AB 6910  
April 21, 2026  
Consent Agenda**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6910: Approval of Letter of Appreciation to 41st Legislative District Delegation for Support of State Funding for Mercer Island Community and Event Center HVAC Replacement Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Authorize the Mayor to sign letters of appreciation to 41 <sup>st</sup> Legislative District Delegation for support of state funding for Mercer Island Community and Event Center HVAC Replacement Project	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	City Manager
<b>STAFF:</b>	Mayor Rosenbaum, Mayor Jessi Bon, City Manager Robbie Cunningham Adams, Senior Management Analyst
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	n/a
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Letter of Appreciation to Senator Wellman 2. Letter of Appreciation to Representative Zahn 3. Letter of Appreciation to Representative Thai
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	n/a

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ n/a

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this agenda item is to authorize the Mayor to sign letters of appreciation recognizing the 41<sup>st</sup> Legislative District Delegation for supporting the state funding request for the Mercer Island Community and Event Center HVAC Replacement Project (Exhibits 1-3). The adopted state capital budget [includes \\$1 million dollars](#) in funding for construction costs for the project.

**BACKGROUND**

**Mercer Island Community and Event Center HVAC Replacement Project**

Several major components of the current Mercer Island Community and Event Center (MICEC) HVAC system have started experiencing performance issues as the system equipment approaches the end of its useful life. A health assessment of the existing HVAC system was completed (2025) that provided design recommendations to replace aging equipment, ensure operational efficiency, and support energy use

reduction. Full system replacement is recommended in order to ensure another 25-35 years of effective climate control, improve energy efficiency with newer boiler and chiller equipment, and improve access to equipment to promote easier maintenance procedures. Estimated cost for replacing the existing, natural gas heated hydronic HVAC system with an electric, Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) system is (\$3,490,000). Staff is prepared to begin design in Q3 of 2026 in preparation for construction to start in 2027.

The proposed HVAC system upgrade directly supports the intent of the Clean Buildings Performance Standard (CBPS) law by significantly improving building energy performance, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and modernizing the building systems that contribute most to overall energy use. The existing central hydronic HVAC system is original to the 2005 construction and as a natural gas system, it no longer aligns with current energy code or the goals of the CBPS.

The system upgrade would replace the two gas-fired furnaces with a high-efficiency VRF heat-pump system, decarbonizing the building's heating system while also reducing overall building energy use. The proposed design would also implement energy recovery units to greatly reduce energy losses and further improve energy efficiency. This system replacement should result not only in lower ongoing energy costs and improved comfort for building users, but it is also expected to decrease ongoing maintenance costs, as ongoing maintenance for VRF systems is less intensive than maintenance for hydronic systems.

As one of the City's largest and most used facilities, electrifying the MICEC's HVAC system will also result in a significant reduction in municipal greenhouse gas emissions. In 2024, the natural gas usage for the MICEC alone accounted for 5% of the City's municipal GHG emissions.

The closure of City Hall in 2023 also led to the loss of the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The Mercer Island Community Center is the interim location for the City's EOC, and the functionality of core building systems is essential for emergency response operations, as well as an emergency shelter during major events. Inflationary increases in construction costs in the HVAC industry are pushing the cost of this project beyond what is budgeted for in the City capital improvement plan. Without state support, the City may have needed to significantly delay this critical infrastructure improvement, risking failure of the HVAC system and impacts to services at the community center.

The community center is the home of community events, a gym, athletic courts, senior and youth recreation and health programming, the City's Council Chambers, and used as the City's shelter during emergencies (Bomb cyclones and wind events, cooling and warming shelter, etc.). In many ways this facility is the center of the Mercer Island community.

## ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The adopted state capital budget [includes \\$1 million dollars](#) in funding for construction costs for the Mercer Island Community and Event Center HVAC Replacement Project.

Included as exhibits to this agenda bill are letters for City Council approval and signature by the Mayor, thanking the members of the 41<sup>st</sup> legislative district, Senator Wellman (Exhibit 1), Representative Zahn (Exhibit 2), and Representative Thai (Exhibit 3), for supporting this funding request.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Following City Council authorization, the Mayor will sign the letters, and with the assistance of staff will deliver the letters to the 41<sup>st</sup> Legislative District Delegation.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Authorize the Mayor to sign letters of appreciation to 41<sup>st</sup> Legislative District Delegation for support of state funding for Mercer Island Community and Event Center HVAC Replacement Project