



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 5619
October 15, 2019
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5619: Draft 2020 Legislative Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Review draft 2020 State Legislative Priorities and provide direction to staff.	<input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

DEPARTMENT OF:	City Manager	Ali Spietz, Assistant to the City Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a	
EXHIBITS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Draft City of Mercer Island 2020 State Legislative Priorities2. Association of Washington Cities 2020 Legislative Priorities3. Sound Cities Association 2020 Legislative Agenda Discussion Memo4. City of Mercer Island 2019 State Legislative Priorities	
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a	

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

SUMMARY

The Legislative Priorities serves as a guide for 2020 work with area legislators. The adopted Legislative Priorities allow the City to respond quickly and efficiently to issues of interest that arise in Olympia during the Washington State Legislative Sessions. This also allows the Mayor, Council, and staff to respond to requests for endorsement letters and other opportunities to advocate for the City's Legislative Priorities.

2020 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2020 Washington State Legislative Regular Session will begin on January 13, 2020 and is scheduled to end on or by March 13, 2020. The Legislature works within the framework of a two-year cycle.

The entire 2019-2020 Session is considered the 64th Session of the Legislature and consists of at least two regular sessions. The "long" session will be held in 2019 (105 days), and the "short" session will be held in 2020 (60 days). There could also be any number of special sessions called by the Governor during each two-year cycle, none of which can last longer than 30 days.

PROPOSED MERCER ISLAND 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The draft 2020 State Legislative Priorities for the Council to discuss at the meeting (see Exhibit 1), which have been updated to reflect current conditions, interests, and goals of the City Council, are as follows:

1. Transportation Funding
2. Sustainable Local Funding
3. Maintaining Local Control
4. Protecting Our Health
5. Preserving and Protecting the Environment

Attached for the Council's reference are Association of Washington Cities' 2020 Legislative Priorities (Exhibit 2) and the Sound Cities Association's Public Issues Committee's memo regarding the development of their 2020 Legislative Agenda (Exhibit 3). The Eastside Transportation Partnership and the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration's (K4C) have not yet developed their 2020 priorities.

2019 LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES

For comparison, the City's priorities for the 2019 are attached as Exhibit 4. Below are a few of the successes the City has with its legislative priorities:

- **Aubrey Davis Park Trail Upgrade Project:** \$500,000 state grant in the 2019-2021 Capital Budget to help fund the trail upgrade project as part of King County Wastewater Division's North Mercer Sewer Interceptor project.
- [EHB 1074](#): Increasing the Minimum Legal Age of Sale of Tobacco and Vapor Products to 21
- [ESSB 5160](#): Concerning property tax exemptions for service-connected disabled veterans and senior citizens.
- [EHB 1219](#): Providing cities and counties authority to use real estate excise taxes to support affordable housing and homelessness projects.
- [E2SSB 5116](#): Supporting Washington's clean energy economy and transitioning to a clean, affordable, and reliable energy future.

NEXT STEPS

Following Council's feedback on the draft priorities, staff will prepare the final version for adoption on November 4. Due to the Council's schedule this fall, a meeting with the 41st Delegation has not been scheduled; however, staff will ensure the final priorities are communicated to the legislators and their staff. The final priorities will also be sent to the Association of Washington Cities and the Sound Cities Association.

RECOMMENDATION

Review the draft 2020 State Legislative Priorities and provide comments and direction to staff for final review and adoption at the November 4, 2019 City Council meeting.