



# CITY OF MERCER ISLAND - **DRAFT**

## 2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### 1. **PRESERVE LOCAL DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY**

Cities possess strong local knowledge and authority to keep communities safe and healthy, and to improve their communities' quality of life. Therefore, it is critical that cities maintain the authority to provide these necessary services and retain local control over land use planning.

### 2. **ECONOMIC SUPPORT**

The City encourages legislation to continue supporting the economic recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic including funding for local businesses, mental health counseling, and emergency assistance to address food and housing insecurity.

### 3. **CLARIFICATIONS TO 2021 LAW ENFORCEMENT REFORMS**

The City supports and strongly urges the legislature to pursue clarifications to the police reform legislation adopted in 2021 (see attached – Association of Washington Cities 2022 Police Reform Statement). City officials and law enforcement officers need clarity and a better understanding of what is expected of them. Cities also need time and resources to provide appropriate training on the new regulations.

### 4. **SUSTAINABLE AND FLEXIBLE LOCAL FUNDING**

As the region continues to recover from the COVID-19 Pandemic, stable tax revenues for local government are essential for providing quality, predictable services to the communities we serve. The City supports legislation to:

- a. Provide flexible State and Federal funds to help cities finance basic infrastructure, such as water and sewer projects.
- b. Preserve city fiscal health with secure funding sources such as replacing the annual 1% cap on property tax revenues with a growth limit whose maximum is inflation plus the rate of population growth and removing restrictions on REET revenues; and,
- c. Maintain State shared revenue distributions to cities and ask the State to look for other opportunities to expand revenue sharing, particularly during this time of economic recovery.

### 5. **TRANSPORTATION FUNDING**

The Puget Sound Region needs funding for transportation projects to reduce congestion, enhance traffic safety, replace aging infrastructure, and increase mobility. The City supports a comprehensive transportation bill that provides new resources and options for local government actions and legislation that delivers solutions to relieve congestion along I-90 and I-405. The City also supports full funding of the Public Works Trust Fund as well as additional local revenue options for cities.

### 6. **PRESERVING AND PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT**

It is essential to preserve and protect the environment today and for future generations with equity in mind. The City encourages legislation and partnerships that support progressive clean energy, carbon reduction and climate protection, and other environmental health measures.