

2022 City Legislative Priorities

In addition to the [above three priorities](#), AWC has identified several significant issues to work on during the 2022 session including, but not limited to:

- **Law enforcement use of force** – Support clarification of the civil standards for use of force requirements so law enforcement can better understand the state requirements and know when they can use force to intervene in a situation, including a mental health crisis where a crime is not being committed. [Read the fact sheet.](#)
- **Blake decision** – Advocate for direct funding for cities to administer diversion programs related to misdemeanor drug possession cases handled by city law enforcement and now adjudicated in municipal courts, as well as Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) services, therapeutic courts, and a diversion tracking database.
- **Open Public Meetings Act** – Support a permanent policy that allows greater flexibility for local governments to hold virtual meetings without a physical location during an emergency.
- **Zoning mandates** – Actively defend against preemption of local land use authority, but support policies that help cities provide more equitable access to housing in our cities.
- **Growth Management Act (GMA)** – Engage in the GMA reform conversation and look to secure dedicated planning funding in recognition of potential new responsibilities in areas that cities can support.
- **Revenue options** – Support efforts to review and revise both state and local tax structures so they rely less on regressive revenue options. Changes to the state tax structure should not negatively impact cities' revenue authority.
- **Property tax** – Revise the property tax cap to tie it to inflation and population growth factors so that local elected officials can adjust the local property tax rate to better serve their communities.
- **Culverts** – Seek state resources to correct locally owned culverts as a part of the state's overall resolution to the culvert injunction.

AWC's advocacy is guided by the following core principles from our [Statement of Policy](#):

- Local decision-making authority
- Fiscal flexibility and sustainability
- Equal standing for cities
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Strong Washington state partnerships
- Nonpartisan analysis and decision-making

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