



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

**AB 6371
November 7, 2023
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6371: Approve 2024 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 2024 State Legislative Priorities	

DEPARTMENT:	City Manager
STAFF:	Jessi Bon, City Manager Robbie Cunningham Adams, Management Analyst Merrill Thomas-Schadt, Sr. Management Analyst
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Draft 2024 State Legislative Priorities City of Mercer Island 2023 State Legislative Priorities 2024 Association of Washington Cities Legislative Priorities 2024 ARCH Legislative Priorities 2024 Washington Cities Insurance Authority Legislative Priorities
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	4. Focus efforts and actions to be an environmentally and fiscally sustainable, connected, and diverse community.

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 2024 State Legislative Priorities (Exhibit 1).

- On October 17, 2023, the City Council held a discussion to inform the development of the City’s legislative priorities for the 2024 state legislative session ([AB 6360](#)).
- During the November 7, 2023 City Council meeting, Councilmembers will finalize and adopt the City’s 2024 State Legislative Priorities.
- Attached for reference are the City of Mercer Island’s 2023 Legislative Priorities (Exhibit 2), AWC’s City Legislative Priorities for 2024 (Exhibit 3), ARCH’s 2024 Legislative Priorities (Exhibit 4), and WCIA’s Legislative Priorities for 2024 (Exhibit 5).

BACKGROUND

During the October 17, 2023, City Council meeting, staff and City Council held a discussion to inform the development of the City’s legislative priorities for the 2024 state legislative session ([AB 6360](#)). The Council

directed staff to make several edits to the draft legislative priorities document and return to Council for adoption.

The discussion included a brief recap of the 2023 State legislative session, a review of anticipated 2024 legislation impacting Mercer Island, and consideration of legislative priorities of partner organizations such as the Association of Washington Cities (AWC), A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH), and the Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA).

Attached for reference are the City of Mercer Island’s 2023 Legislative Priorities (Exhibit 2), AWC’s City Legislative Priorities for 2024 (Exhibit 3), ARCH’s 2024 Legislative Priorities (Exhibit 4), and WCIA’s Legislative Priorities for 2024 (Exhibit 5).

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

For the 2024 State Legislative Session, the City Council, City staff, and the City’s lobbying team will work directly with State legislators using the priorities approved by City Council to advocate for Mercer Island priorities. Establishing priorities allows the City to engage on issues with legislators directly, quickly, and efficiently.

2024 Legislative Session

The City’s draft 2024 State Legislative Priorities are included as Exhibit 1 and the proposed priorities are categorized as follows:

- Maximize Resources for Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Prevention
- Support for Affordable Housing
- Capital and Grant Support for Essential Public Services
- Preserving and Protecting the Environment
- Support Public Safety Measures on Auto Theft and Property Crime
- Opposition to Expansion of Tort Law Liability
- Revising the Property Tax Cap

The 2024 legislative session will be a “short session”, meaning a 60-day session rather than the “long” 105-day session that occurs in odd years. Short sessions occur during the mid-biennium of the State’s two-year budget cycle. While the exact dates of the session are not finalized, staff anticipate the session lasting from January 8 to March 8.

NEXT STEPS

Upon adoption, the City’s 2024 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, the Sound Cities Association, and the Governor’s Office.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt the City of Mercer Island 2024 State Legislative Priorities, substantially in the form attached as Exhibit 1 to AB 6371.