



# STAFF REPORT

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**Meeting Type:** City Council Work Session  
**Meeting Date:** August 21, 2023  
**From:** Jeff Aprati, Interim Deputy City Manager  
**Subject:** Legislative Session Debrief and Government Relations Priorities

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## **PURPOSE / OBJECTIVE:**

To discuss the results of the 2023 regular session of the Oregon Legislature with the City's government relations consultant, Nellie deVries; and to outline priorities and strategies for government relations efforts going forward.

## **BACKGROUND / CONTEXT:**

The City contracted with DeVries in late 2022 to spearhead Sandy's lobbying priorities. In recent months, the City's primary priority has been to secure over \$14 million in state funding for the Drinking Water System Reinvestment Project from the Legislature during its 2023 session. Despite unprecedented efforts, Sandy's funding request has thus far been unsuccessful for reasons Ms. deVries will outline in her presentation.

As the Council is aware, two of the most prominent factors that defined the Legislature's 2023 session were a strong emphasis on housing and homelessness, and a walkout that occurred in the Senate that stalled many pieces of legislation for a prolonged period. While Sandy's government relations team focused on leveraging the state's housing priorities into an argument for more state investment in local infrastructure projects like ours, the particular political dynamics at play during the session, which were out of the City's control, ultimately played a key role in lessening Sandy's chances for success.

There have been some discussions, so far unconfirmed, of a special session of the Legislature later this year that could provide a new opportunity to pursue funding.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Council use this work session to discuss the outcomes of the 2023 session and provide input on priorities and strategies for government relations in the future. This might include continued efforts to secure financial support for our infrastructure projects, as well as other regional or county-level priorities.

## **LIST OF ATTACHMENTS / EXHIBITS:**

- Memorandum from Nellie deVries
  - 2023 Legislative Session Recap