



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: Request for Council Action – 2023 Legislative Priorities for the League of Oregon Cities (LOC)

Preferred Agenda: June 28, 2022 (Information Only)
July 26, 2022 (Request for Council Action)

Submitted By: Julie Fisher, Administrative Services Manager

Reviewed By: Christy Wurster, City Manager Pro Tem

Type of Action: Resolution ____ Motion ____ Roll Call ____ Other ____

Relevant Code/Policy: Type Code/Policy Here

Towards Council Goal: Vision Statement II. WE ASPIRE to have an effective and efficient local government.

Attachments: 2023 Legislative Priorities Ballot

Purpose of this RCA:

Identify Council prioritization of legislative priorities to help focus LOC's efforts broadly on behalf of Oregon Cities.

Background/Context:

The League of Oregon Cities (LOC) is a primary resource to advocate for City government and allow municipalities to remain current on legislative efforts at the State level. This prioritization exercise is one of the early tools used to organize statewide efforts of LOC, and to help give voice to small to mid-size cities that may otherwise not have legislative influence. LOC provides a host of resources to staff including updates, sample policies, education and training, and updates on proposed legislation along with analysis of how legislation will affect local governments and communities.

The Management Team met to discuss priorities that staff felt weighed heavily on important issues challenging their departments. The top five priorities they collectively identified are: Local Funding to Address Homelessness; Property Tax Reform; Resilient, Futureproof Broadband Infrastructure and Planning Investments; Road User Fee – Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Structure; and Funding for Recovery of Abandoned Recreational Vehicles.

The Challenge/Problem:

Prior to each State Legislative Session, the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) seeks input from member cities to help develop their priorities for the upcoming session. LOC has supplied a list of key priorities identified through their Policy Committee work around the state. They ask that member cities review and recommend their top five issues to help form their Legislative Agenda for 2023, and ensure their priorities reflect the collective priorities of their membership. A response is due to LOC no later than August 5, 2022.

Stakeholders:

- City of Sweet Home – legislative actions can provide a host of services such as broadband, mental health services, and recovery strategies for small business, all effect our community to ensure those in need receive the help they require.
- City Council – legislative efforts can aid the Council in their adopted goals

Issues and Financial Impacts:

The City pays membership dues to the League of Oregon Cities for a variety of benefits including training, advocacy, and access to resources, publications, and information specifically designed to help cities navigate issues. Our ability to help influence Legislative priorities is embedded in our membership and does not require any added financial resources.

Elements of a Stable Solution:

Leverage our regional and state relationships to increase effectiveness in relevant policy arenas.

Options:

1. Option #1 – Make a Motion to direct the City Manager Pro Tem or designee to compile the results of individual Council rankings of all 26 issues to determine the composite top five issues to send as the City Council's formal recommendations for the LOC legislative focus issues.
2. Option #2 – Make a Motion to direct the City Manager Pro Tem or designee to coordinate with the City's Executive Leadership Team to develop and send the City's top five recommended issues for the 2023 Legislative Session.
3. Option #3 – Make a Motion to direct the City Manager Pro Tem or designee to send the following five legislative issues to the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) as the City of Sweet Home's top five recommended legislative issues for the LOC to focus on in 2023. *This includes combined recommendations from the Council and Leadership staff.*
4. Option #4 – Do Nothing.

Recommendation:

1. Option #3 – Make a Motion to direct the City Manager Pro Tem or designee to send the following five legislative issues to the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) as the City of Sweet Home's top five recommended legislative issues for the LOC to focus on in 2023. *This includes combined recommendations from the Council and Leadership staff.*