

TO: City Council
FROM: Kelly Adams, Assistant City Administrator
DATE: April 28, 2026
SUBJECT: Legislative Session Review

1) Recommended Action:

This is a discussion item about the recent Legislative session.

2) Background:

The City annually adopts a Legislative Agenda to guide policy and funding requests for the State Legislature. Requests are developed by reviewing the City's adopted plans, trending issues at the Legislature, emergent policy issues, Association of Washington Cities (AWC) legislative issues, and regional legislative initiatives. The legislative agenda both guides City requests for Legislative action and assists staff in knowing how to respond to requests of the City's position on policy issues.

Katie Whittier of CFM Advocates and Brian Enslow of Arbutus Consulting serve as the City's contracted legislative advocates. This discussion will include a review of the City's requests, the conditions and events of the session, and suggestions for future strategies.

Council's legislative priorities for the 2025-26 session included:

- Restoration of \$2M in funding for prairie habitat acquisition to support the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) development; and
- Support funding for brewery district redevelopment planning; and
- Support funding for design of the E Street connection.

A draft handout (Attachment A) provides information on the above items and shares the City's support for AWC and regional priorities from the Thurston Shared Legislative Agenda Partnership. The Partnership worked to advance regional priorities for the recent Legislative session.

3) Policy Support:

2026-2032 Strategic Plan

Focus Area: Growth and Development

Goal: Pursue Targeted Community Development Opportunities

- Facilitate Brewery Redevelopment
- Facilitate Capitol Boulevard Corridor Redevelopment

Focus Area: Community Mobility

Goal: Create and Maintain a Transportation system Safe for All Modes of Travel

- Design and build the E Street Connection

Focus Area: Environmental Stewardship

Goal: Be a Leader in Environmental Sustainability

- Bush Prairie HCP Carbon Sequestration
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4) Alternatives:

N/A

5) Fiscal Notes:

There is no specific cost to the Legislative Agenda, although specific projects may have costs reflected in various City plans and budgets.

6) Attachments:

A. Tumwater 2026 Legislative Priorities