

Yellow highlight indicates LOC 2021 legislative priority aligned with City Council preferences.



## LOC Board Approves 2021 Legislative Priorities

This week, the LOC Board unanimously adopted six legislative priorities for cities for the 2021 session. During the spring, a list of 26 priority issues was compiled by the LOC's seven policy committees, and these issues were ranked by the League's 241 member cities through a survey conducted over the summer. The following six issues received the most votes, and were adopted by the LOC Board:

1. **Mental Health Service Delivery** – this received support as a top priority from virtually every region in Oregon.
2. **COVID-19 Economic Recovery Investments** – while there have been recent investments to support small business, these resources have yet to meet current needs, and more resources will be needed to support long term economic recovery for Oregon's communities.
3. **Comprehensive Infrastructure Package** – this priority combines three ballot items: Infrastructure Financing and Resiliency, Broadband Infrastructure and Technical Assistance Funding, and Long-Term Transportation Infrastructure Funding. A comprehensive infrastructure package will help rebuild communities and the economy as we near the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. **Property Tax Reform** – an important, long-standing priority for LOC members, and conversations for 2021 are already underway. To move this issue forward, the LOC will need to work with the business community and other local government partners to identify policy solutions and set the stage for real property tax reform to restore local choice, equity, fairness, and adequacy.
5. **Housing and Services Investment** – the LOC will support increased investments for affordable housing, homeless assistance, and related services, including funding for: shelter, homeless services, case management, rent assistance, the development and preservation of affordable housing, and permanent supportive housing.
6. **Water Utility and Rate Assistance** – unlike the energy utility sector, there are currently no state or federal assistance programs available to ratepayers who may be struggling to afford these utility services. While many municipalities provide funding for low-income utility assistance at the local level, there is a significant unmet need that has been made worse as a result of the economic impacts associated with COVID-19.

### Organizational Policy

In addition, the LOC Board adopted an organizational policy that the LOC's government affairs team will use to screen and evaluate a variety of legislative concepts that may arise in 2021:

COVID-19 has impacted every Oregonian across the state, and because cities play a critical role in supporting their local economies and citizens, the LOC Board adopted an organizational priority that will continue to assert home rule authority and local control, urging the Legislature to respect cities' role in providing essential services to Oregonians. The LOC will advocate for the Legislature to recognize, respect and support cities in the state's efforts to respond to the unique needs of each community, and to avoid implementation of one-size-fits-all solutions. More specifically, cities across Oregon need legislative commitment to the following:

- **Avoiding unfunded mandates.** *During recent legislative sessions, our cities have been inundated with mandates that require them to take on additional work and shift priorities away from locally identified priorities to those that the state deems to be of greater importance.*
- **Preserving local decision-making and problem-solving authority.** *While local communities often face similar challenges, the solutions and tools necessary to address those challenges are rarely the same for each local community. What works in one city, may not work in another.*
- **Preserving local revenue streams.** *Local governments only have a few tools in their toolbox when it comes to sources that fund essential city services. While revenues have taken a hit from the COVID-19 pandemic and communities wait for the economy to bounce back, cities will start to rely more on the finite revenues from state shared revenues, franchise/ROW fees, lodging taxes, property taxes than before. Therefore, these revenue streams should be preserved at all costs.*
- **Serving in a supportive role to provide local tools and resources.** *We recognize that the state budget is severely constrained, and we are committed to recognizing this reality as we pursue legislative and programmatic investments. We ask that the state similarly recognize the budget realities of local governments and work to identify opportunities for targeted investments and tools to address needs at the local level.*
- **Avoiding shifting of additional costs onto local government partners.** *We are concerned that decreased general fund and lottery revenues could result in further shifting of state programmatic costs on local governments. This includes program funding that includes a split of general fund and fees that may be paid by local governments. Any increase in fees to support state programs should be accompanied by an equitable increase in general fund investment. Increased costs to local governments mean increased costs for our citizens, or further cuts to the services they rely on.*

More information can be found in the [legislative priority ballot](#) and legislative priority [survey results](#).

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City of: **City of Wilsonville**

Please mark 4 boxes with an X or check mark that reflects the top 4 issues that your city recommends be added to the priorities for the LOC's 2021 legislative agenda.

**Legislation**

Priorities determined by Wilsonville City Council at work session on July 20, 2020.

A. Beer and Cider Tax Increase	
B. Broadband Infrastructure and Technical Assistance Funding	
C. Building (Reach) Code – Energy Efficiency Local Option	
D. COVID-19 Economic Recovery Investments	
E. Digital Equity and Inclusion	X
F. Expedited Siting for Shelter and Affordable Housing	X
G. Green Energy/Renewables – Expanded Local Option	
H. Housing and Services Investment	
I. Increased Budgetary Flexibility During Budgetary Emergency	
J. Infrastructure Financing and Resilience	
K. Local Climate Action Planning Resources	
L. Local Energy Generation Project Support	
M. Local Speed Setting Authority	
N. Long Term Transportation Infrastructure Funding	
O. Low-Income Energy Efficiency and Affordability Programs	
P. Marijuana Tax Local Rate Limitation Increase	
Q. Mental Health Service Delivery	X
R. Municipal Broadband and Municipal Pole Protection	
S. New Mobility Services	
T. Photo Enforcement Safety Cameras	
U. Property Tax Reform	
V. Reducing Wastewater Impacts from Wipes and Other “Non-Flushables”	
W. Right-of-way/Franchise Fees Authority Preservation	X
X. State Highway Funds Formula	
Y. Tort Liability Reform	
Z. Water Utility Rate and Fund Assistance	

In addition to your ranking of the priorities shown above, please use this space to provide us with any comments (supportive or critical) you may have on these issues, or thoughts on issues or potential legislative initiatives that have been overlooked during the committee process.):

- Support DEQ Drinking Water Services Division proposed funding request for in-state water-testing facility, develop water-utilities communications protocols regarding HABs (harmful algal blooms) and establish an ombudsman position to work directly with water utilities.
- Support Housing and Services Investment (Priority Item H) for increased investments for affordable housing, homeless assistance, and related services.
- Support Tort Liability Reform (Priority Item Y) that protects cities from tort liability.