



2011
Session

City of Spokane

State Legislative Agenda

The City of Spokane recognizes it has a valuable role to play in supporting economic development. How the city focuses its resources and develops its regulations can provide the building blocks for future economic development as well as community development.

- Support continued efforts to develop the University District into a vital research and health sciences campus. This includes support for the construction of the WSU Biomedical and Health Sciences Building and the operating funds necessary to advance program development, partnerships and staffing.
- Seek a renewable energy designation in state law that will maintain the value and economic development potential of the energy produced by the Spokane Regional Waste to Energy Facility.
- Support the efforts of the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to amend existing state law to allow larger cities to benefit from the Main Street Tax Credit. This would allow the City of Spokane an additional strategy and revenue source to promote urban revitalization.
- Continue to support state investment in worker education and re-training programs to insure that both workers and businesses have access to the resources and skills necessary for economic recovery and job growth.
- Support the continued funding of the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB).
- Support the findings of the Clean Energy Leadership Council that identifies the importance of the emerging clean energy technology sector as a means of job creation, business expansion and export opportunities for Spokane and the state.

The City of Spokane continues to experience the fiscal pressures related to the ongoing economic downturn and its effect on the ability of the city to provide services to citizens. The city is seeking expanded flexibility within current revenue and regulatory structures as a means of responding to these current conditions.

- Preserve existing state shared revenue mechanisms, avoid creating additional unfunded mandates and oppose any legislation that may preempt existing local authority.
- Modify current public record statutes to address cost and compliance issues associated with the ever increasing volume, scope and frequency of public record requests.
- Revise current criteria related to binding interest arbitration to include qualification standards for arbitrators, consideration of a local government's ability to pay, and expansion of "comparable standards" to include regional characteristics, such as median household income.
- Amend current state law to allow greater local discretion of use of the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)
- Amend existing state law to allow for the creation of a municipal fire district, replacing an existing municipal fire department

Adopted by
the Spokane
City Council
December 6, 2010

The City of Spokane maintains a significant system of streets and sidewalks serving commerce, transit, cars, bicycles and pedestrians. This system is one of our most valuable assets providing important connectivity. It is also one of our most costly systems to build and to maintain. We are seeking additional local authority and additional resources to preserve and enhance this asset.

- Support legislation that would allow a local jurisdiction the authority to create a street maintenance utility. Creation of this utility would require local voter approval.
- Support efforts to complete the multi-modal North Spokane Corridor.
- Support the prioritization and procurement of construction funding for the Hwy 195 overpass at the Cheney-Spokane Road interchange.
- Support legislation to eliminate the use of studded snow tires.
- Advocate for the dedication of 1% of the State Department of Transportation budget to be designated for purposes of developing non-motorized transportation projects.

One of the fundamental responsibilities of the City of Spokane is to provide, maintain and operate major public infrastructure systems related to sewer, water, storm water, solid waste and streets. These systems provide an essential foundation that allows citizens and business to live and prosper in a safe and predictable manner.

- Actively support legislation to establish a funding source dedicated to assisting municipalities in meeting federal and state clean water requirements to insure that our water resources are protected and safe.
- Maintain the financial viability of the Public Works Trust Fund as a means of obtaining low interest loans that enable the City to leverage additional dollars to build essential infrastructure.
- Allow greater flexibility regarding the use of impact fees.
- Support legislation requiring joint planning between cities and counties, with municipalities in the lead, regarding infrastructure investment in those areas due to be annexed in the future.

The ability to provide public safety services, maintain safe neighborhoods, provide access to affordable housing, and support the public health infrastructure is both a responsibility of local government and in the best interest of all of the citizens of Spokane.

- Seek authority for municipalities to obtain administrative warrants allowing for limited access to private property for the purpose of investigation and abatement of solid waste nuisance. This legislation focuses on exterior areas of property, predominately in residential settings.
- Support legislation that will strengthen current gang laws and provide additional funding for local solutions for gang prevention and intervention.
- Support legislation that would allow for a simple majority vote threshold for Fire Department EMS levies.
- Support continued investment in the Housing Trust Fund to keep pace with the growing need for safe and affordable housing.
- Support the preservation of existing levels of public health funding while working to identify a stable revenue source that will allow local public health services and infrastructure to be maintained.

Capital Projects

- Request capital funding for replacement of the 1940 era Peaceful Valley Community Center. The \$1.4 million project will provide up to 5,000 square feet of new space for youth after-school and summer programs, a child care facility for preschool children, and services for low-income adults and families.

The City of Spokane will pursue critical funding issues, support projects sponsored by other Spokane regional interests, and monitor a wide range of issues that could impact the City and its citizens.

City of Spokane Elected Officials

Mary B. Verner
Mayor

Joe Shogan Council
President

Bob Apple
Steve Corker
Nancy McLaughlin
Richard Rush
Jon Snyder
Amber Waldref

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