



## **CITY OF REDMOND**

### **2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

#### ***Top Priority Issues***

**148<sup>th</sup> Bicycle and Pedestrian Overpass Funding:** The City encourages the Legislature to adopt a transportation revenue package to invest in projects throughout the state. Within the package, Redmond requests \$27 million to construct a bicycle and pedestrian overpass on 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE across SR 520 to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety. This project supports significant growth and investments in the region - including the Overlake Light Rail Station, the Microsoft Refresh project, and significant housing development including affordable units.

**Affordable Housing and Preventing Homelessness:** Redmond developed a Housing Action Plan to identify actions needed to improve housing affordability. The City supports funding and local option tools to diversify the housing supply, including targeted investments at the lowest income level, as well as funding the Housing Trust Fund (HTF) and the Housing Essential Needs (HEN) program. In response to challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, Redmond supports policies, programs, and rental, mortgage, and utility assistance to ensure residents remain housed as the eviction moratoria ends.

**Environmental Sustainability:** Redmond has declared a climate emergency and is supportive of policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and advance environmental health, including decarbonizing the economy, green building codes, energy efficiency requirements, renewable energy, electric vehicle infrastructure, climate resiliency and planning, wildfire risk reduction and protection, reducing the waste stream, and habitat restoration. The City will advocate to ensure these proposals are consistent with the City's environmental sustainability plan and best serve the needs of the Redmond community.

**Social and Criminal Justice Reform:** Implicit bias and racism exist throughout our institutions. Redmond will support systemic reforms that are timely, reasonable, and effective. Specifically, the City supports statewide reforms to policing and corrections to provide greater safety for communities that historically have been harmed by existing systems while maintaining public safety, including efforts that build upon the policies passed during the 2021 Legislative Session. Additionally, the City supports funding for co-responder programs and crisis intervention.

**Fiscal Sustainability:** Redmond encourages the state to identify reforms to the tax system that provide a progressive, equitable, stable, and reliable revenue source to meet the needs of state and local government. The City asks that the Legislature protect and enhance state-shared revenues and authorize flexibility with existing revenues.

**Local Control:** Redmond urges the Legislature to honor local decision-making authority. The City serves as the government closest to the people and is most responsive to the community in meeting its needs.

## ***Support/Oppose Issues***

### **General Government**

- Public Records Act (PRA): Redmond is committed to public records openness and transparency. Redmond joins the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and others in monitoring studies and implementation of recent PRA updates.
- OPMA Proposal: Redmond supports amendments to the Open Public Meetings Act that enhance public engagement, such as providing cities with greater flexibility to hold virtual meetings during emergencies.
- Conservation District Elections: Redmond supports proposals reforming conservation district elections to address the timing of elections and supervisor terms.
- Chinese American History Month: Redmond supports legislation declaring January as Chinese American History Month.

### **Human Services**

- Human Services Programs and Funding: Redmond supports ongoing and increased funding for programs to protect our most vulnerable populations, including those with mental health challenges.
- Childcare: Redmond supports funding and programs to increase opportunities for affordable childcare.

### **Environment**

- Culvert, Fish and Habitat Funding: Redmond encourages the State to invest in State and local culvert, floodplain, and fish habitat projects to open habitat for salmon and other wildlife on a watershed basis.
- Stormwater Funding: Redmond encourages the State to invest in stormwater projects to help jurisdictions meet National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit obligations.

### **Planning and Economic Recovery**

- Growth Management Act (GMA): Redmond supports adding climate change and green building technologies as GMA planning goals, will monitor additional reform proposals, and requests adequate time and funding to implement land use changes directed by the state to ensure adequate public engagement.
- Small Business Support: Redmond supports proposals that assist small businesses in their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Infrastructure**

- Infrastructure Grant Programs: Redmond supports enhanced funding for the Public Works Assistance Account, WSDOT Bike-Ped Grant Program, and Safe Routes to Schools.
- Preservation & Maintenance of Local Roads: Redmond requests direct funding to cities to meet local transportation maintenance needs such as pavement preservation and ADA improvements.
- Park & Recreation Funding: Redmond supports funding programs administered through the Recreation and Conservation Office.

### **Public Safety**

- Basic Law Enforcement Academy Funding: Redmond requests fully funding the Basic Law Enforcement Academy Funding.

## **Redmond Supports the Association of Washington Cities and Sound Cities Association**

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#### **Guiding Principles:**

The City has adopted the following principles to guide the City's Legislative Agenda:

- **Protect home rule and local authority:** The Legislature should refrain from pre-empting the authority of local cities and communities which are closest to the citizens they serve.
- **Refrain from imposing unfunded or “under-funded” mandates:** It is important that the Legislature refrain from imposing new unfunded or “under-funded” mandates upon local jurisdictions unless there is adequate funding provided to implement them.
- **The State should not erode local revenues and local taxing authority:** As “creatures of the State,” cities in Washington have only the taxing and revenue authority directly provided to them by the State Legislature. It is vital that lawmakers refrain from making decisions that erode or eliminate those revenues and the local taxing authority that is given to cities.
- **The State should preserve Operating, Capital, and Transportation budget funding that flows to cities:** Redmond urges the Legislature to refrain from cutting or eliminating operational and infrastructure funding for Redmond and other cities, including the Connecting Washington projects and timelines as previously scoped.
- **The Legislature should reward jurisdictions that step up to implement the policy goals developed by the State, as it exercises its decision-making, particularly in grant and loan programs:** Redmond is an example of a city doing the right things to implement the Growth Management Act (GMA), accommodate density, ensure the urban centers of downtown and Overlake are conducive to “transit-oriented” and pedestrian-friendly development, embrace “green building”, climate-change and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) strategies, etc. As it makes funding and policy decisions regarding grant and loan programs, the State should find ways to reward jurisdictions, such as Redmond, that carry out and embrace these policy objectives.