

CITY OF REDMOND

2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



Caring for Redmond

The City of Redmond has more than 82,000 residents and a daytime workforce of over 140,000. We are one of the fastest growing cities in the state with over 50% persons of color. We are home to a thriving technology, space, and satellite industry, supportive services, and business incubators. We actively partner on regional and state issues that impact our community. Please support keeping our community livable, walkable, safe, and sustainable for all our residents.



Key Funding and Legislative Requests



Hartman Park Playground

Redmond requests \$300,000 to renovate Hartman Park Playground for safety and accessibility.

Hartman Park is one of Redmond's most frequented community parks. This park contains seven ballfields, a soccer field, sport courts, an indoor swimming pool, and a large playground. The existing wooden playground is failing and beyond its useful life. The wood is rotting and not repairable. Eventually the rot will become so severe the play structure will need to be closed. This project will replace the existing failing playground with a modern, safe, inclusive, and accessible play area/structure. Other project enhancements include new accessible adjacent pathways, containment area, soft surfacing, and ADA improvements. The playground is scheduled for replacement with a project cost of \$1.3M. The City is contributing \$1M and is requesting \$300,000 in state support for project completion.



Drones as First Responder Program

Redmond requests \$650,000 to acquire drone docking stations.

In April 2024, the Redmond Police Department became the first city in Washington state to implement a cutting-edge Drone as First Responder (DFR) program to respond to calls for service. The department uses Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) to help officers externally assess scenes before ground units arrive, providing an alternative response mechanism that enhances scene safety and public safety response capability. This funding would support the acquisition of five docking stations at \$130,000 each, to increase the reach of our program.



Maintenance and Operations Center (MOC)

Redmond requests state partnership to construct a maintenance and operations facility.

Redmond has begun a multiyear process to replace the City's undersized and outdated maintenance and operations center (MOC). The MOC houses critical public works, parks, and emergency operations functions, including administrative offices, real-time data and control systems, crew support spaces, water quality testing, decant facility, and vehicle maintenance and support. The new facility will increase operational efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, be more resilient against natural and manmade hazards, and serve as a reliable community resource during disaster events and emergencies. This project will cost \$225M. We will be seeking support from federal and state grant sources and other financial tools in 2026 and beyond to help bear this cost. The project is in predesign; the City looks forward to state partnership support to complete the project by the planned timeline of 2029.

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REGIONAL PRIORITIES



Affordable Housing

Affordable housing in East King County is crucial for ensuring that all residents, including lower-income families and essential workers, can live close to their jobs and communities. Redmond joins other regional partners to request that the state provide greater tools to create affordable housing, including:

- Support allowing cities to transition from a flat-rate Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) to a progressive tiered REET.
- Support local efforts to build more affordable housing faster, including reducing barriers, facilitating greater resources, and providing regulatory flexibility for development of affordable housing on properties owned by faith-based organizations.

Transportation and Infrastructure Funding

Cities are facing a massive asset maintenance burden and regulatory compliance challenges as our streets, sidewalks, buildings, and bridges age. The current funding gap for the City of Redmond's transportation preservation and maintenance plan is roughly \$100M. Cities cannot close this gap alone. Redmond supports sustainable state transportation revenue that provides funding for local preservation, maintenance, and operations including direct distributions to cities and towns in addition to grant opportunities. Likewise, King County is facing a critical wastewater infrastructure need that significantly impacts affordability for our ratepayers. Redmond supports funding mechanisms to support our regional utility systems and being mindful of future costs of regulatory compliance, including PFAS.

Economic Development

Redmond supports investing in programs that help small businesses, entrepreneurs, and our community thrive; especially programs that help with financing, and supporting production of business spaces for goods and services in Transit-Oriented Development and city centers, including allowing for more flexible financing to support retail in affordable housing developments. Redmond supports state programs that strengthen higher education, upskilling, and recruitment, as well as efforts to expand affordable childcare to create a strong local workforce.

Innovative Technology Implementation Including Autonomous Vehicles

Redmond encourages the state to consult the expertise of local government when developing policies on transformative technological innovations, like autonomous vehicles and artificial intelligence, to recognize local safety, operational, and transportation needs. Redmond is home to technology innovations and the headquarters of Microsoft, a global leader in satellite technology, and first in the state for drones as first responders and originator of the state's first electric fire engine. The expertise of local governments can strategically inform questions of implementation, operational challenges including transportation, first responder, and data management needs, funding, and partnership opportunities.

Regional Partners

The City of Redmond supports the legislative agendas of the Sound Cities Association, Association of Washington Cities, U.S. Conference of Mayors, and National League of Cities.

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SUPPORT ISSUES



Housing

Redmond's residential growth target anticipates 20,000 new homes between 2019 and 2044. We need 75% of those homes to serve households at 0 to 50% of area median income but need funding mechanisms to achieve that goal. Redmond supports legislation and also state funding consistent with its Housing Action Plan to preserve, improve, and expand housing stock for renters and owners of homes and condominiums, for people at all income levels and abilities. Statewide consistency in tenant protections support sustainability for landlords that encourages growth of rental stock. Resources, such as the Housing Essential Needs program, uplift vulnerable populations at risk of being unhoused. Redmond asks that the state provide adequate funding and time necessary to successfully implement recent state housing legislation.

Environmental Sustainability

Redmond has an aggressive Environmental Sustainability Action Plan, including efforts to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions from city operations by 2030 and communitywide by 2050. Redmond supports energy efficiency, sustainable practices, waste stream reduction, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The City supports decarbonization of buildings, electrification of fleets, grid stabilization, and supporting legislation. In the face of climate change, the City supports climate resiliency and funding for emergency management and wildfire response. Redmond monitors and protects our shallow drinking water aquifer. Home to juvenile salmon-bearing streams, the City supports culvert, habitat, stormwater, and clean water funding, and salmon recovery.

Planning and Infrastructure

Redmond consistently ranks among the fastest growing cities in the nation. The City is investing in multimodal transportation, trail connections, and has four light rail stations to increase walkability, livability, and sustainability. Funding for the Public Works Assistance Account and financing tools, such as a state public bank, can support critical local infrastructure projects. Redmond requests increased resources for pavement preservation, funding to address road safety, and supports exploring funding options for state and local transportation needs. Redmond supports ongoing state resources for parks, trails, and recreation maintenance.

General Government

Giving cities local option flexibility with revenue streams is critical to accomplishing state priorities, such as meeting state-provided housing targets. Redmond supports tax reforms that provide progressive, equitable, stable, and reliable revenue sources, including a local option to exceed the 1% annual property tax growth limit. Redmond supports maintaining shared revenues, and funding for state mandates that impact city financial sustainability. Redmond supports tools that protect voting rights and equitable access to voting. Artificial intelligence policies must recognize and address city safety, security, data privacy, and financial needs.

Community Vitality

As the City grows, so does its need to maintain a robust human and social services system. Particularly as the region faces fiscal challenges stemming from federal actions, Redmond supports state investments in human and behavioral services programs, workforce support, childcare accessibility and affordability, and healthcare that respects individual rights. Redmond supports efforts to maintain benefits for our most vulnerable residents and minimize impacts of SNAP and Medicaid eligibility changes. Redmond engages with Eastside partners and other partners in seeking regional solutions for homelessness. The City supports multicultural small businesses and local economic development programs to build community vitality.

Public Safety and Criminal Justice

Significant capital needs and public safety workforce shortages are a continuing challenge. Redmond supports safe neighborhoods, gun safety, and adequately resourced public safety programs, including alternative crisis response programs and training. State support for indigent defense costs is also critical given the new state caseload standards. Redmond supports safe deployment of technological innovations that respects local needs. Redmond also supports funding for treatment alternatives and youth drug education awareness.

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