



MEMO TO: Members of the City Council

FROM: Mayor John Marchione

DATE: November 12, 2019

SUBJECT: Draft City of Redmond 2020 State Legislative Agenda

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Review and provide input on the Draft City of Redmond 2020 State Legislative Agenda.

II. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

Nina Rivkin, Chief Policy Advisor
Briahna Murray, State Lobbyist

425-556-2103
253-310-5477

III. DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND

Each year the City Council approves a State Legislative Agenda to identify the City's priorities for the upcoming State Legislative Session. The legislative agenda guides the City's work with legislators and day-to-day work before and during the session. The legislative agenda includes the City's top priority issues, as well as other issues the City supports or opposes. In recent years, the City has worked to develop a more concise agenda. A draft of the City's proposed 2020 State Legislative Agenda and the adopted 2019 State Legislative Agenda are included as Attachments A and B.

The Proposed 2020 State Legislative Agenda supports the City's Community Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan includes the following priorities, many of which are reflected in the Proposed 2020 State Legislative Agenda:

- Housing Choices
- Environmental Sustainability
- Technology & Information Services (TIS) Infrastructure
- Cultural Inclusion
- Infrastructure

Overview

The 2020 Legislative Session will begin on January 13, 2020 and is scheduled to last 60 days. This session is the second year of the two-year legislative biennium. During the 2019 session, the Legislature adopted the Operating, Capital, and Transportation budgets for the 2019-2021 biennium. Traditionally, the Legislature will develop and adopt supplemental budgets that amend these biennial budgets. In addition, the Legislature will consider policy

issues. All bills introduced in the 2019 session are automatically reintroduced for the 2020 session.

Proposed Draft 2020 State Legislative Agenda – Top Priority Issues

Four top priority issues are recommended for the proposed 2020 State Legislative Agenda:

1. Affordable Housing
2. Homelessness: Behavioral Health Co-Responder Program Funding
3. Redmond's Future Transportation Needs
4. City Fiscal Sustainability and Local Control

1. Affordable Housing

The 2020 Legislature is anticipated to continue their robust discussion around affordable housing solutions. The proposed 2020 Legislative Agenda includes updated language from the 2019 Legislative Agenda with the removal of items that have been addressed (*funding the State Housing Trust Fund and Condominium Liability Reform*) and refinement of items to be supported by the City.

The proposed 2020 Legislative Agenda supports the City's Strategic Plan priority of Housing Choices, by including support for items intended to increase the level of housing affordability:

- Extend and expand the Multi-Family Property Tax Exemption (MFTE).
- Allow existing affordable housing funding to be spent on a broader array of income levels, ranging from 0-30% area median income (AMI) to workforce housing.
- Authorize local option funding tools to address affordability; any county-imposed funding shall be allocated to the communities where the funds are generated for investment in affordable housing.

2. Homelessness: Fund the Behavioral Health Co-Responder Program

The proposed 2020 Legislative Agenda includes revised language from the priority "*Homelessness, Mental Health, Drug Dependency, and Human Services*" in the 2019 Legislative Agenda. Items have been removed that have been addressed by the Legislature (*Trueblood settlement funding and actions to combat opioid epidemic*) and other items have been moved to Support/Oppose Issues.

The Proposed 2020 Legislative Agenda includes support for funding the Behavioral Health Co-Responder Program. The City received a State grant from the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs in 2018, and again in 2019, to fund a mental health professional to work with Redmond police and the City's homeless outreach coordinator responding to persons with mental health issues. Redmond asks that the Legislature authorize ongoing funding to support the continuation of this program.

This legislative request supports the City's Strategic Plan priority of Housing Choices and enhancing the City's homeless outreach program.

3. Redmond's Future Transportation Needs

The Legislature began discussions in 2019 on the next transportation revenue package. While it is not likely that a revenue package will be adopted in 2020, it is anticipated that a package will continue to be discussed and developed in order to be adopted in 2021 or later.

The proposed 2020 Legislative Agenda includes requests for the next transportation revenue package, known as "*Forward Washington*." These requests advance the City's Strategic Plan priority of Infrastructure, with investments in transportation improvements.

City requests include increased funding and local options to fund city transportation systems, including pavement preservation, and investments for the following city projects:

- \$\$M for SR 520 and 148th Avenue NE Improvements – to improve the flow of traffic and increase pedestrian and bicycle safety. The project cost is being developed for inclusion in the final legislative agenda.
- \$\$M for Improvements to Benefit SR 520 and SR 202 – to relieve congestion at the end of SR 520 and SR 202, and improve safety and multi-modal access to light rail in Marymoor Village. The project cost is being developed for inclusion in the final legislative agenda.

4. City Fiscal Sustainability and Local Control

The proposed 2020 Legislative Agenda includes more concise language from the priority "*Fund and Safeguard State Revenues and Local Options to Better Enable Cities to Address Local Needs*" in the 2019 Legislative Agenda. Of note, the Legislature intended to fully fund Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) classes in the 2019 – 2020 budget; however, the Criminal Justice Training Commission underestimated the amount of funding needed and will be seeking a supplemental appropriation in 2020 to fully fund BLEA classes.

The Proposed 2020 Legislative Agenda requests the Legislature:

- Honor local control.
- Fund and safeguard state revenues dedicated to cities.
- Fully fund Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) classes.
- Replace the 1% cap on property tax with inflation and population growth.

Proposed Draft 2020 State Legislative Agenda – Support/Oppose Issues

Below is a high-level summary of changes to the Support/Oppose Issues from the 2019 Legislative Agenda:

Issues that have been removed – that were addressed during the 2019 Legislative Session or are no longer legislatively relevant:

- Hi-Tech Industry
- Pension enhancements and system mergers
- Employment liability
- Small cell network facility deployment
- Economic development (State Infrastructure Bank)

- Reclaimed water
- Emergency response

Issues that have been moved – from the Top Priority Issues in 2019:

- *Mental Health and Human Services:*
 - Support for mental health system funding, Eastside Human Services Forum, and Housing Essential Needs (HEN)
- *Reforms to the Criminal Justice System:*
 - Moved from “*Homelessness, Mental Health, Drug Dependency, & Human Services*”
- *Infrastructure funding:*
 - Moved from “*Fund and Safeguard State Revenues and Local Options*” (now called “*City Fiscal Sustainability and Local Control*”)
- *Statement of Support for the Association of WA Cities & Sound Cities Association*

New issues that have been added:

- *General Government:*
 - Insurance reimbursement for hazardous waste and cybersecurity
 - These issues support the City’s Strategic Plan priorities of Environmental Sustainability and Technology & Information Services (TIS) Infrastructure
- *Environment:*
 - Plastic bag ban
 - Supports the City’s Strategic Plan priority of Environmental Sustainability
- *Infrastructure funding:*
 - Parks and recreation program funding
 - Supports the City’s Strategic Plan priority of Infrastructure

IV. PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS HELD

None.

V. IMPACT

A. Service/Delivery:

Council adoption of an annual legislative agenda provides direction for the City’s legislative efforts for the upcoming year.

B. Fiscal Note:

None.

VI. ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff will revise the Draft 2020 Legislative Agenda based on feedback provided by the City Council at the November 12, 2019 study session.

VII. TIME CONSTRAINTS

City Council adoption of a 2020 Legislative Agenda is scheduled for the December 3, 2019 Council Meeting, so that a Legislative Agenda is adopted prior to the 2020 legislative session, and direction is provided to the City and its lobbyist on legislative issues that are important to the City.

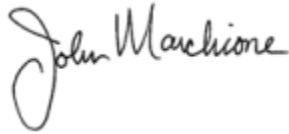
VIII. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Draft City of Redmond 2020 State Legislative Agenda

Attachment B: City of Redmond 2019 State Legislative Agenda

Attachment C: Association of Washington Cities 2020 Legislative Priorities

Attachment D: Eastside Human Services Forum: 2020 State Legislative Agenda

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Marchione". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "J" and a clear "Marchione".

Approved for Agenda _____

John Marchione, Mayor