

2021 Legislative Session Debrief

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Purpose

- Overview of the city's legislative program
- Share outcomes of the 2021 legislative session
- Next steps



City Legislative Program

- Mayor recommends and Council adopts state legislative agenda
- Agenda guides city lobbying and advocacy efforts
- State lobbyist leads strategy and interactions with the Legislature
- Weekly reports throughout session



Broad Overview of 2021 Legislative Session

- First year of two-year legislative biennium
- 105-day session, conducted virtually
- Democrats held majority
- Adopted operating, capital, and transportation budgets
- 1,076 bills introduced; 334 passed into law



Senior and Community Center

- \$5 million state capital request
- Strategy:
 - Ask for more, expect less
 - Both 45th and 48th district legislators championed
 - Feedback: that's a large request!
- Capital budget includes \$1.25 million
- Together Center also allocated \$1.03 million



148th Transportation Improvements

- \$51 million state transportation funding request
 - Bicycle/pedestrian path over SR 520
 - 148th Lane Improvements
 - Connections to light rail, TOD, employers
- Transportation revenue needed to fund new projects
 - Move Ahead and Forward Washington Proposals
 - \$27 million included for bike/ped path



Affordable Housing & Preventing Homelessness

- Top priority for several years
- Funding
- Local option tools
- Rental, mortgage, and utility policies and assistance through COVID-19



Environmental Sustainability

- New priority this year
- Decarbonizing the economy
 - Low Carbon Fuel Standard
 - Cap and Invest System
- Electric vehicles
- Reducing the waste stream



Social and Criminal Justice Reform

- Package of 12 bills passed into law
- Highlights:
 - Office of Independent Investigations
 - Duty to Intervene
 - Change in police tactics
 - Decertification of officers for misconduct
- Additional revenue for implementation



Fiscal Sustainability

- Reform to state and local tax system
 - Capital Gains Tax
 - Working Families Tax Credit
 - 1% Property Tax Cap
- State-shared revenues
- Unfunded mandates



Local Control

- Dozens of bills introduced infringing on local control
- Two passed into law:
 - HB 1220: Emergency shelter siting
 - SB 5235: Unrelated persons per home



Support/Oppose Issues

- Mental Health and Human Services
- Culvert and Stormwater Funding
- Multi-family Property Tax Exemption
- GMA studies/work groups
- Public Works Assistance Account Funding
- Parks and Recreation Funding
- Basic Law Enforcement Academy Funding



Next Steps and Thank you

Any Questions?

