



CITY OF REDMOND
2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
Top Priority Issues

Senior and Community Center: Redmond requests \$5 million toward the construction of a new Redmond Senior and Community Center. The senior center unexpectedly closed in 2019 when the building failed. The new Senior and Community Center will address the needs of seniors as well as community members and provide a gathering space for cultural celebrations and community events. This project is community-driven, urgent, and will serve Redmond for the next 50 years.

148th Transportation Improvements: The City encourages the Legislature to adopt a transportation revenue package to invest in projects throughout the state. Within the package, Redmond requests \$51 million to improve 148th Avenue NE to increase the flow of traffic onto SR 520 and 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 key housing developments such as Seritage and Esterra Park. The project will construct a pedestrian and bicycle path across SR 520 and add an additional through-lane to facilitate traffic on-and-off SR 520.

Affordable Housing and Preventing Homelessness: Redmond is developing 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 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, 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, such as maintaining a database of officers fired for misconduct, decertification for use of force violations, duty to intervene for officer misconduct or illegal activity, and requiring mental well-being and trauma support for officers.

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, authorize flexibility with existing revenues, and provide revenue replacement to help cities balance significant budget shortfalls resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 providing cities with greater flexibility to hold virtual meetings during emergencies.
- FEMA Reimbursement: Redmond asks that the state allocate funding for half of the local match required for FEMA reimbursement to assist in recovering costs associated with COVID-19.

Mental Health and Human Services

- Human Services Programs and Funding: Redmond supports ongoing and increased funding for programs to protect our most vulnerable populations.
- Mental Health Response Funding: Redmond supports increased funding to serve those facing mental health challenges, such as crisis intervention and mental health co-responders.

Environment

- Culvert, Fish & Habitat Funding: Redmond encourages the State to invest in State and local culvert, floodplain, and fish habitat projects to open habitat 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

- Multi-Family Property Tax Exemption: Redmond will monitor proposals regarding the multi-family property tax exemption to ensure there are not negative impacts to the City's program.
- Growth Management Act (GMA): Redmond supports adding climate change as a GMA planning goal, will monitor additional reform proposals, and requests funding to implement local planning.

Infrastructure

- Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA): Redmond supports fully funding the Public Works Assistance Account.
- 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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2020 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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.