Strong Cities Great State				
	2018 Legislative ca	ndidate survey		
Candidate name:	Matt Boehnke	Legislative district:	8, Position 2	
You are a candida	te for: House of Representatives	Senate		
If you are a candidate for the House of Representatives, Position 1 Position 2 which position are your running for?				
Local government background Have you ever been elected or appointed to a local government position, Yes No or served on a local government board, committee, or as staff? Local governments include cities, counties, public utility districts, school districts, fire protection districts, port districts, and more.				
If yes, in what capa	uncil 2016 - Present			

1. State-shared local revenues

When the state encounters fiscal problems, legislators often take revenues historically shared with cities, or increase fees on services provided to cities to fill the state's budget deficit. Recently, some shared revenues have been restored. However, during the last recession, the Legislature enacted cuts and diversions, while unfunded mandates and other local government cost drivers remained unaddressed, including the following items:

Changes in liquor tax and profit distributions resulting in losses of nearly \$200 million in funds that supported essential local services, such as public safety;

Sweeping and diverting over \$1 billion in local utility taxes, real estate taxes, and project loan repayments
from the nationally-acclaimed Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) that helps keep local infrastructure
operating; and

Requiring cities to pay training fees for officers attending the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA).

Do you support or oppose the Legislature continuing to use
locally-shared revenues or revenues intended for capital
projects in order to balance the state's operating budget?

Support	Oppose	
	X	

Briefly describe one or more actions that you would take to ensure your views on these issues are accounted for by your caucus and in a final budget.

Fiscal responsibility is key objective and one of my main goals as the 8th District Representative. I would work to ensure the budget is balanced every session and that prudent steps are taken to ensure the same for the future. I would work to anticipate any potential increase in spending and offset it with a secure funding line that does not take from other programs to be implemented. As a last resort, cuts to wasteful spending in current programs would be preferable prior to defunding city resources. As a current city councilman, I know the impact that unfunded mandates have on cities and how critical locally-shared revenues are to growth and sustainability. We must keep revenue streams separate and continue to toil in an effort to ensure the medium and long term viability and sustainability of our city services and infrastructure.

2. Basic infrastructure financing

Cities face many challenges when repairing and updating critical infrastructure such as drinking water and sewer systems. Historically, the Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF), a revolving loan fund, was a significant source for financing infrastructure. As the state wrestled first with a recession and then with the *McCleary* education funding challenges, legislators repeatedly turned to diverting these funds and leaving nothing in their place. Since 2013, nearly all of the tax revenues deposited into the PWTF were diverted to the state's education funding account instead. Those revenues were scheduled to come back to the PWTF in 2019, but the revenue diversions were extended another four years.

Would you support or oppose a budget that diverted more resources	Support	Oppose
from the PWTF to address state general fund obligations?		X

Do you believe that it is part of the state's obligation to help Yes No fund critical local infrastructure, especially when taxes and fees raised to do so in 1985 continue to be levied?

As a lawmaker, how will you work to secure the revitalization of the PWTF and protect it from future raids?

I support returning the PWTF back to its original program and mandate as soon as practicable. Instead of diverting funds, work needs to be done to restore the PWTF and allow it to accomplish its intended goals. I would work to get on the House committees on Capital Budget, Community Economic Revitalization Board and the Infrastructure Committees and support HB1677. Diversion affects not only the state's infrastructure—but has a deleterious relationship to economic development. To protect from future "raids", I would become a member of the Transportation committee that provides oversight of this program and put in place safeguards to ensure critical revenues are excluded from future budget considerations. I would enact legislation that provides for these safeguards in writing that ensure the taxes and fees raised are allocated accordingly.

3. Homelessness, affordable housing, and mental health

Across the state, housing costs are rising and affordability issues are impacting homebuyers and renters, as well as exacerbating the already critical homelessness problems in many communities. Mental health services are stretched thin and cities (not normally in the business of providing these particular social services) find themselves increasingly trying to help residents and keep their communities safe and secure. Cities have a strong desire to work together with the state, counties, business, nonprofit, and faith communities to help address these challenges. We continue to seek financing, regulatory, and funding tools to help.

Which of the following are priorities for you? Choose all that apply.

- Help to end homelessness
- Ensure adequate mental health services for those in need
- Provide tools to help control the spiraling cost of housing

Would you support or oppose a proposal for the state to override local zoning or density decisions to promote more affordability in housing construction?

2

Oppose

Support

M

Please elaborate on what you suggest doing to address one or more of these issues: As a military officer serving over 22 years, I have seen far too many issues related to PTSD and our returning combat soldiers. These endemic issues continue untreated to eventually devolve into more pervasive arenas where law enforcement has to respond. Homelessness and overall Mental Health go hand in hand and I believe we can work to have a positive and significant impact on both issues. Currently our society is not adequately equipped with the resources to support the growing need for mental health in our state. We need additional training to take the burden off our law enforcement and first responders to ensure their safety and the safety of the individuals who need our help. In additional, I would pursue funding by way of private and public collaboration opportunities in coordination with our area hospitals and the VA to provide expanded facilities and services for the 8th district. We must get them the help they deserve.

4. Economic development

Economic development opportunities vary greatly across the state. Some communities have deteriorating commercial or industrial areas or lack the needed infrastructure for critical development, and others lack access to adequate broadband services. AWC supports expansion of current programs and funding, including expansion of state Local Revitalization Financing (LRF) and Local Infrastructure Financing Tool (LIFT) programs as options to incentivize economic development and support job creation.

Would you support or oppose legislation that expands the financing options available to local governments for economic development?

Support	Oppose
X	

What other ideas do you have for bolstering the state's economic development opportunities? I support financing options available to local governments for economic development. We have a proven track record in Kennewick with the Southridge area development. The city of Kennewick used this program the way it was planned, increased local economic growth and development, while generating \$500,000 in new state tax revenue. With over 60 percent of the city's growth to continue in this part of the city, we continue to see new and exciting businesses coming to town and opening shops. Our conservative estimates from staff projections see construction by 2020 closing in on \$140 million-- a win for the state and a win for strong local government.

5. Local control

Cities succeed when they can respond to local residents' unique needs and desired outcomes through exercising local control. The State Constitution and state statutes provide cities with wide discretion in serving their communities. However, the Legislature sometimes considers preempting cities from enacting local ordinances or engaging in certain activities. We believe that the relationship between the state and cities functions best as a partnership, where the state gives careful consideration to the varied conditions of local governments, and appreciates the importance of retaining local flexibility.

OR

Do you believe that local control is important to ensuring responsive local government?

Yes No

If you disagree that local control should be preserved, please describe one or more specific issue areas or situations in which the state should preempt local control. If you agree that local control should be respected, please describe how you would argue for the protection of local control to colleagues who want to preempt local governments. I agree that local control is important to ensuring responsive government, but only if that directive is in direct support and in accordance with the will and voice of the local people. We have seen evidence of this recently with the Seattle City council attempting to enact a "head tax" focused on one of the largest businesses in the world in Amazon. Their attempt may have been with a kind heart to help fund homelessness, but you cannot successfully extend and extrapolate these tactics state wide. As no two cities needs are identical, there must be a partnership and collaboration between the cities and the state-- working diligently and in good faith together to garner outstanding results for our communities.

If you have any questions, please contact Regina Adams, AWC Government Relations Coordinator, at 360-753-4137 or <u>ReginaA@awcnet.org</u>. Please return your survey by the end of the day on Wednesday, July 4 by:

Email to ReginaA@awcnet.org;

- Fax to (360) 753-0149; or
 - U.S. mail to AWC Candidate Survey, 1076 Franklin Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501-1346.

Thank you for your participation!