

2024 Legislative Session

City priorities & outcomes

The 2024 Legislative Session addressed many of AWC's priorities. Here are the key pros and cons for cities:



Provide behavioral health resources

Expand behavioral health and substance use disorder services and funding for alternative response programs.

Pro: Provided cities with liability protection for behavioral health crisis co-responder programs, alternative response teams, and mobile crisis units (**HB 2088**).

Pro: Established criteria for 23-hour crisis relief centers for youth (**SB 5853**).

Pro: Created two post-inpatient housing programs for young adults to provide transitional housing to those exiting inpatient behavioral health treatment (**HB 1929**).

Pro: Required state agencies to develop a statewide substance use and prevention awareness campaign with emphasis on fentanyl (**HB 1956**).

Pro: Updated the licensing and other requirements for various behavioral health professions to increase the number of providers (**HB 2247**).

Con: Failed to pass legislation that would have established a co-responder training program, created a peer support program for co-responders, and ensured ongoing data collection regarding co-responder programs (**HB 2245**).



Ensure basic infrastructure funding

Continue funding for the Public Works Assistance Account and expand state funding opportunities to help maintain and operate city infrastructure.

Pro: No new diversions from the Public Works Assistance Account.



Public safety

Increase fiscal tools and resources to support police officer recruitment and retention.

Pro: Eliminated the 25% local government cost-share requirement for the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) classes beginning with fiscal year 2025.

Pro: Allow law enforcement officers to work part-time and remain in the LEOFF 2 pension system (**SB 5424**).

Pro: Allow Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) recipients to serve as law enforcement officers (**SB 6157**).

Pro: Established a grant program for first responder wellness and requires the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) to develop a training program for first responder peer support and a taskforce on first responder wellness (**HB 2311**).

Con: Did not increase cities' authority to use the public safety sales tax funding tool (**HB 2211/SB 6706**).



Revise the outdated property tax cap

Revise the property tax cap to tie it to inflation, up to 3%, so local elected officials can adjust the property tax rate to better serve their communities.

Con: Failed to pass legislation that would have provided a modest increase in the outdated property tax cap to provide additional flexibility for local elected officials to fund needed services (**SB 5770**).

more on back 

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Other significant issues:

Cities identified several other significant policies to focus on during the 2024 session.

Pro: Removed outdated non-supplant restrictions on King County jurisdictions for voter-approved property tax levy lid lifts (**HB 2044**).

Pro: Created training programs for new prosecutors and public defenders in rural and underserved areas. \$1.75M is provided in the budget for these programs (**SB 5780**).

Pro: Established new felony and gross misdemeanor crimes for wrongfully possessing or selling detached catalytic converters (**HB 2153**).

Pro: \$2.7M provided in the supplemental budget to backfill the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funding for multi-jurisdictional drug task forces that was redirected in 2023.

Pro: \$22M provided for the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board for local culvert corrections.

Pro: Removed the grant and loan award limits within the Early Learning Facilities program to facilitate development of more childcare and early learning facilities (**HB 2195**).

Pro: Backfilled \$62M in document recording fees to support local homelessness programs.

Pro: \$127M increase for the Housing Trust Fund.

Pro: \$4M of clean energy retrofit dollars from Climate Commitment Act (CCA) revenue dedicated to grants for energy audits to city-owned tier 1 & 2 buildings.

Pro: Expanded city authority to use automated traffic safety cameras, under certain conditions (**HB 2384**).

Pro: \$1.5M in one-time funding for technical assistance for Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program grantees.

Pro: Codified the Community Economic Revitalization Board's rural broadband program in state statute (**HB 1982**).

Pro: Established a new extreme weather shelter grant (**HB 1012**).

Con: Did not address legislation to reduce the impact of vexatious and costly public records litigation (**HB 2307**).

Con: Did not pass legislation to create long-term dedicated revenues for affordable housing (**HB 2276/SB 6191**).

Con: Did not modernize the state's solid waste system by enacting producer responsibility for product packaging (**HB 2049/SB 6005**).

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