



CITY OF KIRKLAND
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Diana Hart, Government Affairs Manager
Andreana Campbell, Senior Management Analyst

Date: February 11, 2025

Subject: **2025 State Legislative Priorities Update #3**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council receives an update on the City's 2025 State Legislative Agenda.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The 2025 Legislative Session began on January 13, 2025, for a 105-day session during which the legislature will adopt the 2025-2027 budgets and legislation covering a wide variety of policy areas.
- Council's Legislative Workgroup (LWG) meet weekly throughout the legislative session, during which they established position recommendations (Attachment 2) on bills reviewed by the City's subject matter experts and identified policy areas for Council discussion.
- During the presentation, Council will have an opportunity to concur with or modify the position recommendations established by the LWG and discuss the policy areas raised by the LWG to guide the City's advocacy for the 2025 session.
- The updated attached bill report will now only include position recommendations that have been reviewed by the LWG.

BACKGROUND:

The State Legislature convened for its regular session on Monday January 13, 2025. This session, the first of the biennium, will be a long session of 105 days, concluding in April. To guide the work of the City during the legislative session, Council adopted the City's State Legislative Agenda for the 2025 legislative session (Attachment 1) through approval of Resolution 5659 at its November 19, 2024, meeting.

The City Council's Legislative Workgroup (LWG) meets weekly throughout session to track the status of the City's priorities and provides support and oversight of strategies to achieve the City's priorities. The LWG includes Councilmember Black, serving as chair, Mayor Curtis, and Councilmember Sweet. The LWG is staffed by the City Manager, Government Affairs Manager, Senior Management Analyst, with support from the City's contract lobbyists in Olympia.

During session, legislative proposals are introduced in Olympia daily by lawmakers in both the Senate and House. Any bills that are relevant to the Kirkland's legislative agenda or are city-related are flagged for review. These bills are assigned to department subject-matter advisors (SMAs) to review and determine potential impacts to the City. In this process, staff also make an initial assessment and recommendation on what the City's position might be on a given bill.

The City's Government Affairs team then provides reviewed bills, their analysis, and staff's recommendations to Council's LWG for further review. The LWG, whose activities are guided by the Council's adopted legislative agenda, discuss and finalize position recommendations for Council approval. Each Council meeting during session this updated list of recommendations is provided to the full Council for review. The Council may concur with or modify the recommendations.

The LWG considers the next week's committee schedule and discusses which appropriate action to take on behalf of the City at legislative committee hearings in Olympia. If, during the session, action on a proposed bill is determined to be beyond the scope of the Legislative Agenda, the LWG will bring the bill proposal before the full Council for consideration and discussion at its next regular council meeting. Reports of these actions or requests by the LWG for further discussion will be included in the presentation to Council.

Staff will provide a presentation at each regular Council meeting throughout session that includes a status update on the City's priorities, recaps actions taken by the LWG in alignment with the City's 2025 Legislative Agenda, provides an opportunity for Council to concur with or modify the position recommendations as established by the LWG (Attachment 2), and highlights legislation that the LWG have identified for discussion by Council.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Since the last Council update on February 4, 2025, the LWG met on February 7, 2025, to review subject matter advisor analysis of pre-filed bills, finalize the recommended positions of those bills, discussed public hearing opportunities, discussed strategies to advance the City's priorities, and identified legislation for discussion at Council. At that meeting, the LWG did not identify any pieces of legislation for discussion at Council. Further topics for discussion at Council may be identified at the coming February 14, 2025, meeting of the LWG. Any such identified topics will be shared with Council as far in advance of the February 18, 2025, meeting as possible.

LWG Position Recommendation Report

The City's SMAs provide reviews on over 200 bills. To streamline LWG meetings, staff identify bills for discussion at the meetings that are scheduled for upcoming hearings, have been flagged by legislators or stakeholders for the City's input, or SMA position recommendations on the bill very across departments and the legislation has alignment with the City's Legislative Agenda. The LWG may verify or modify SMAs position recommendation based on state legislative dynamics, established priorities of Council, or to manage the LWG's efforts during session. The Council concurred with the recommendation to allow any Councilmember to move a position to "monitor" until the cut-off in the house of origin.

Historically, the LWG Position Recommendation Report that is shared as an attachment for each Council meeting during session includes legislation discussed by LWG and legislation that may not have been elevated for discussion. Legislation that was moved forward without discussion included position recommendations as made by SMAs. During the February 4, 2025, Council meeting, staff shared that the LWG would discuss the LWG Position Recommendation Report and identify some process changes to ensure the Council and public receive information that more accurately reflects the work completed by the LWG in their weekly meetings. The LWG discussed this item at their February 7, 2025, meeting and, to achieve the identified goals, will be providing a more streamlined but cumulative report that only includes legislation that the LWG has discussed. The report will no longer include recommendations from staff until they have been discussed by the LWG. Councilmembers can ask Diana Hart or Andreana Campbell for the staff recommendations on any bill not included in the updated report.

NEXT STEPS:

The LWG will incorporate any feedback or decisions made by Council on legislation into appropriate actions moving forward.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – 2025 Legislative Agenda

Attachment 2 – Legislation Position Recommendations (2/7/25)

CITY OF KIRKLAND

2025 Legislative Agenda



General Principles

Kirkland supports legislation that promotes the City Council's goals, plans, policies, and initiatives that enable Kirkland to provide basic municipal services and meet the needs of current and future community members.

- Protect shared State revenue sources available to the City and provide new revenue options and flexibility of existing revenues, such as revisiting the 1% property tax cap.
- Support the partnership between cities and the State to ensure that critical mandates are funded, and vital services are provided to all community members.
- Advance initiatives identified in the City's Work Program; Council Goals; Budget; Comprehensive Plan; Sustainability Strategic Plan; Transportation Strategic Plan; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging 5-year Roadmap; Housing Strategy Plan, and related documents.

2025 Legislative Priorities

Legislation that provides funding and policy tools to increase access to housing and expand the construction and preservation of moderate income-, low income-, and supportive-housing supply and essential supporting infrastructure, such as parks, transportation, services, and school capacity.

- Authorize an additional Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) increment using a graduated rate model with a high-value threshold, and extend Cities' flexibility to use existing REET for construction and preservation of affordable housing.

Legislation that addresses the behavioral health treatment crisis by increasing the capacity of the crisis response system, including workforce, and supporting local programs that connect individuals with needed care.

Legislation that preserves and expands policy and funding tools to support a safe and reliable transportation system for all users, including revenue sharing with local governments.

Legislation that implements the noise enforcement pilot in Kirkland to enable local jurisdictions to identify and reduce street racing and other loud vehicle uses, including the required equity analysis.

Legislation that funds grants for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) compliant transportation projects to support Cities creating multimodal projects that also advance the region's water quality goals.

Legislation that extends producer responsibility for glass, packaging, and paper recycling.

Legislation that creates flexibility for local jurisdictions operating jails to align policies with national guidelines related to the selection of the gender of the officer performing body searches.



2025 Budget Requests

Kirkland requests capital and transportation budget funding for:

- Sidewalk safety improvements in downtown Kirkland to ensure safe pedestrian access to essential community assets like the Kirkland Performance Center, Kirkland Library, and Peter Kirk Community Center (in the 48th Legislative District).
- In partnership with the Lake Washington School District, Kamiakin Middle School gymnasium expansion to enable indoor recreation by people of all ages and abilities (in the 45th Legislative District).
- Peter Kirk Pool and Community Center improvements to enable year-round recreation programming (in the 48th Legislative District).

Policy Champion Ally Organizations

Kirkland monitors the following organizations for alignment with the City's General Principles and Legislative Priorities to advance the City's interests.

Transportation

- Eastside Transportation Partnership
- Transportation Choices
- Eastrail Partners

Housing

- Washington Low Income Housing Alliance
- Housing Development Consortium

Human Services

- Eastside Human Services Forum
- King County Behavioral Health
- Faith Action Network

Environmental

- King County-Cities Climate Collaboration
- People for Climate Action Kirkland

Water

- Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA8) Partners
- Cascade Water Alliance

Public Safety

- Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs
- Washington Fire Chiefs Association
- Alliance for Gun Responsibility

Parks

- Washington Recreation & Parks Association

Open Government & Transparency

- Washington Coalition for Open Government

Other Allies & Issues

- Association of Washington Cities
- King County
- Lake Washington School District #44
- Lake Washington Institute of Technology
- Puget Sound Regional Council
- Pro-Choice Washington
- Planned Parenthood
- Washington Co-Responder Outreach Alliance

LWG Position Recommendations 2/7/25

New Positions			
Bill #	Title	Sponsor	Position
HB 1113	Concerning accountability and access to services for individuals charged with a misdemeanor.	Farivar	Monitor
SHB 1212	Concerning the siting of child care centers.	Alvarado	Monitor
HB 1403	Simplifying condominium construction statutes.	Taylor	Support
HB 1423	Authorizing the use of automated vehicle noise enforcement cameras in vehicle-racing camera enforcement zones.	Donaghy	Monitor
HB 1428	Concerning the county criminal justice assistance account and municipal criminal justice assistance account.	Rule	Monitor
HB 1491	Promoting transit-oriented housing development.	Reed	Support
HB 1512	Improving traffic safety.	Street	Monitor
HB 1547	Establishing a statewide network for student mental and behavioral health.	Santos	Monitor
HB 1550	Improving the end-of-life management of electric vehicle batteries.	Street	Support
HB 1574	Protecting access to life-saving care and substance use services.	Macri	Monitor
HB 1576	Concerning the designation of historic landmarks by cities.	Walén	Monitor
HB 1607	Concerning recycling and waste reduction.	Stonier	Support
HB 1634	Providing school districts and public schools with assistance to coordinate comprehensive behavioral health supports for students.	Thai	Support
HB 1672	Addressing technology used by employers in the workplace.	Kloba	Monitor
HB 1694	Concerning revenues from the excise tax on real estate transactions imposed by cities and counties under RCW 82.46.035.	Thai	Support
HB 1763	Providing state funding for essential affordable housing programs.	Parshley	Support
HB 1772	Establishing shared streets.	Reed	Support
HB 1796	Concerning school districts' authority to contract indebtedness for school construction.	Callan	Support
HB 1809	Professionalizing first responders and co-responders through training and reimbursement for behavioral health emergency response.	Nance	Support
HB 1811	Enhancing crisis response services through co-response integration and support.	Salahuddin	Support
HB 1852	Prohibiting local governments from transferring real property to nongovernment entities without fair consideration.	Graham	Oppose
SSB 5060	Creating a law enforcement hiring grant program.	Holy	Monitor
SB 5421	Allowing small business establishments in residential zones.	Shewmake	Support w/Mods
SB 5475	Concerning maintenance for salmon recovery projects.	Dozier	Support
SB 5497	Concerning compliance with siting, development permit processes and standards, and requirements for permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, indoor emergency housing, or indoor emergency shelters.	Alvarado	Support w/Mods
SB 5501	Concerning employer requirements for driving.	Stanford	Monitor
SB 5509	Concerning the siting of child care centers.	Alvarado	Support
SB 5550	Funding the state transportation system using climate commitment act revenues.	MacEwen	Monitor
SB 5576	Providing state funding for essential affordable housing programs.	Lovelett	Support
SB 5580	Concerning the registration of certain corporations and trusts that own single-family homes and condominium units.	Orwall	Support
SB 5586	Improving the end-of-life management of electric vehicle batteries.	Stanford	Support
SB 5587	Concerning affordable housing development in counties not closing the gap between estimated existing housing units within the county and existing housing needs.	Cleveland	Support w/Mods

LWG Position Recommendations 2/7/25

Bill #	Title	Sponsor	Position
SB 5591	Creating a sales and use tax remittance program for affordable housing.	Bateman	Monitor
SB 5595	Establishing shared streets.	Alvarado	Support
SB 5604	Promoting transit-oriented development.	Liias	Monitor
SB 5613	Concerning the development of clear and objective standards, conditions, and procedures for residential development.	Salomon	Monitor
SB 5614	Concerning impact fees.	Salomon	Oppose
SB 5615	Concerning project permit applications for residential housing units.	Salomon	Oppose

Changed Positions

HB 1099	Creating a tenant assistance program.	Low	Support
SHB 1108	Creating a task force on housing cost driver analysis.	Klicker	Support
SHB 1154	Ensuring environmental and public health protection from solid waste handling facility operations.	Duerr	Support
SHB 1175	Allowing small business establishments in residential zones.	Klicker	Support w/Mods
SHB 1183	Concerning building code and development regulation reform.	Duerr	Monitor
SHB 1195	Concerning compliance with siting, development permit processes and standards, and requirements for permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, indoor emergency housing, or indoor emergency shelters.	Peterson	Support w/Mods
HB 1208	Extending a program to streamline the environmental permitting process for salmon recovery projects.	Tharinger	Support w/Mods
HB 1235	Ensuring compliance with the housing element requirements of the growth management act.	Peterson	Support w/Mods
HB 1303	Increasing environmental justice by improving government decisions.	Mena	Neutral
SHB 1308	Concerning access to personnel records.	Reed	Monitor
HB 1324	Funding the state transportation system using climate commitment act revenues.	Barkis	Monitor
SB 5045	Expanding the state battery stewardship program to include electric vehicle batteries.	Wilson	Monitor
SSB 5082	Creating a housing assistance program for youth enrolled in extended foster care.	Wilson	Support w/Mods
SSB 5098	Restricting the possession of weapons on the premises of state or local public buildings, parks or playground facilities where children are likely to be present, and county fairs and county fair facilities.	Valdez	Support w/Mods
SSB 5101	Expanding access to leave and safety accommodations to include workers who are victims of hate crimes or bias incidents.	Valdez	Neutral
SB 5126	Establishing a statewide network for student mental and behavioral health.	Nobles	Monitor
SSB 5148	Ensuring compliance with the housing element requirements of the growth management act.	Bateman	Support w/Mods
SSB 5156	Concerning elevator standards in smaller apartment buildings.	Salomon	Monitor
SB 5293	Concerning the prevailing wages on public works.	King	Monitor
SSB 5332	Concerning mobile dwellings.	Shewmake	Support

No Change from Last Bill Report

SHB 1015	Concerning energy labeling of residential buildings.	Duerr	Support
HB 1032	Concerning school district elections.	Stonier	Support
HB 1043	Extending the commute trip reduction tax credit.	Wylie	Support
HB 1056	Concerning law enforcement and local corrections agency misconduct through investigations and legal actions.	Farivar	Monitor

LWG Position Recommendations 2/7/25

Bill #	Title	Sponsor	Position
SHB 1061	Providing additional parking flexibility in residential neighborhoods.	Low	Monitor
HB 1087	Expanding the crime of endangerment with a controlled substance to include fentanyl and other high-potency synthetic opioids.	Graham	Monitor
HB 1092	Maintaining the safety of children.	Couture	Monitor
HB 1094	Providing a property tax exemption for property owned by a qualifying nonprofit organization and loaned, leased, or rented to and used by any government entity to provide character-building, benevolent, protective, or rehabilitative social services.	Walén	Support
HB 1095	Incentivizing cities and counties to attract and retain commissioned law enforcement officers.	Walén	Support
SHB 1096	Increasing housing options through lot splitting.	Barkis	Support
HB 1100	Creating a local sales and use tax.	Jacobsen	Support
HB 1135	Ensuring that local government planning complies with the growth management act.	Duerr	Support
HB 1138	Improving public safety by implementing evidence-based interview practices that increase the reliability of statements collected during criminal investigations.	Peterson	Monitor
HB 1150	Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes.	Berry	Support
HB 1153	Concerning urban forest management ordinances.	Duerr	Support
SHB 1160	Concerning local government design review.	Walén	Monitor
HB 1165	Expanding access to the property tax exemption program for seniors, people retired due to disability, and veterans with disabilities.	Shavers	Support
HB 1181	Concerning labor standards and the Washington minimum wage act.	Mena	Monitor
SHB 1217	Improving housing stability for tenants subject to the residential landlord-tenant act and the manufactured/mobile home landlord-tenant act by limiting rent and fee increases, requiring notice of rent and fee increases, limiting fees and deposits, establishing a landlord resource center and associated services, authorizing tenant lease termination, creating parity between lease types, and providing for attorney general enforcement.	Alvarado	Monitor
HB 1299	Concerning minimum parking requirements.	Peterson	Monitor
HB 1320	Modifying business and occupation tax rates to fund programs and services to benefit Washingtonians.	Street	Monitor
HB 1334	Modifying the annual regular property tax revenue growth limit.	Pollet	Support
HB 1339	Shifting general elections for local governments to even-numbered years to increase voter participation.	Gregerson	Neutral
HB 1380	Allowing objectively reasonable regulation of the utilization of public property.	Gregerson	Monitor
SHB 1443	Concerning mobile dwellings.	Gregerson	Monitor
HB 1448	Increasing representation and voter participation in local elections.	Gregerson	Neutral
SHB 1497	Improving outcomes associated with waste material management systems.	Doglio	Oppose
SSB 5005	Concerning transparency, public safety, and independent oversight of the city, county, and regional jail system in Washington state.	Saldana	Oppose
SB 5033	Concerning sampling or testing of biosolids for PFAS chemicals.	Wilson	Support
SB 5035	Concerning voter education during a period in which a jurisdiction is changing the method of selecting candidates.	Chapman	Monitor
SB 5041	Concerning unemployment insurance benefits for striking or lockout workers.	Riccelli	Monitor
SB 5052	Modifying law enforcement ability to contact juvenile witnesses and victims not suspected of criminal involvement or activity.	Salomon	Monitor

LWG Position Recommendations 2/7/25

Bill #	Title	Sponsor	Position
SB 5058	Implementing strategies to achieve higher recycling rates within Washington's existing solid waste management system.	Chapman	Neutral
SB 5061	Requiring certain wages in public works contracts to be at least the prevailing wage in effect when the work is performed.	Conway	Monitor
SSB 5066	Concerning law enforcement and local corrections agency misconduct through investigations and legal actions.	Hansen	Monitor
SSB 5067	Concerning impaired driving.	Lovick	Monitor
SSB 5095	Concerning school districts' authority to contract indebtedness for school construction.	Dhingra	Support
SB 5150	Concerning juvenile access to an attorney.	Gildon	Monitor
SSB 5184	Concerning minimum parking requirements.	Bateman	Monitor
SB 5197	Ensuring that local government planning complies with the growth management act.	Salomon	Monitor
SSB 5215	Concerning debris escaping from vehicles on public highways.	Shewmake	Support
SB 5222	Improving housing stability for tenants subject to the residential landlord-tenant act and the manufactured/mobile home landlord-tenant act by limiting rent and fee increases, requiring notice of rent and fee increases, limiting fees and deposits, establishing a landlord resource center and associated services, authorizing tenant lease termination, creating parity between lease types, and providing for attorney general enforcement.	Trudeau	Monitor
SB 5224	Concerning officer certification definitions, processes, and commissioning.	Lovick	Monitor
SSB 5229	Facilitating civil commitment for treatment for a person requiring revival by opioid overdose reversal medication.	Wagoner	Monitor
SSB 5265	Expanding minimum requirements for electrical inspectors to include certain out-of-state experience.	King	Support
SB 5284	Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes.	Lovelett	Support
SB 5285	Incentivizing cities and counties to increase employment of commissioned law enforcement officers.	Holy	Monitor
SB 5313	Adding to the list of provisions prohibited from rental agreements.	Pedersen	Monitor
SB 5345	Concerning access to personnel records.	Saldana	Monitor
SB 5373	Shifting general elections for local governments to even-numbered years to increase voter participation.	Ramos	Neutral
SB 5380	Increasing environmental justice by improving government decisions.	Lovelett	Neutral
SJR 8200	Amending the Constitution to allow 55 percent of voters voting to authorize school district bonds.	Cortes	Support