

City of Kelso

2014 Legislative Agenda

(Approved by City Council 12/17/2013)

Support the Association of Washington Cities' 2014 Legislative Priorities

The City Council affirms its support of AWC's efforts to propose, oppose, or seek amendment to the adoption of legislation in line with the general priorities below:

Restore local liquor revenue sharing to the historic revenue sharing formulas

- Funding is necessary for better public safety and other local impacts of liquor consumption.
- The enhanced public safety funding promised in the 2011 liquor privatization initiative has not been kept.
- Funding has been cut by legislative action and diverted to other uses.

Fund transportation needs now, including providing new local transportation options

- Transportation is critical for our economic health.
- Resources are necessary at both the state and local levels to maintain and improve our vital transportation systems.
- An array of funding options are needed to meet the various needs of different regions of the state.

Refrain from raiding infrastructure funds like the Public Works Trust Fund and Model Toxics Control Accounts

- Build these accounts back to health to better help cities maintain aging infrastructure systems and keep up with expanding regulatory requirements.
- Planned and sustained investments are necessary for Washington cities to thrive.

Share new marijuana revenue

- The new marijuana recreational industry is subject to up to a 75% state excise tax.
- None of the potential funding is currently directed to local governments to address public safety needs and other local impacts.
- Shared revenue is needed for cities to enforce marijuana laws.

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Specified Priorities

Additionally, the City Council supports legislative action on the following items that directly impact or benefit Kelso residents, businesses, and stakeholders.

Key regional infrastructure

- Support funding for the South Kelso Railroad Grade Separation and SR 432/SR 433 projects, including critical rail and highway improvements.
- Increase funding for Transportation Improvement Board & Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board.

Indigent defense standards

- Support permanent legislative relief from the Supreme Court-imposed indigent defense standards and associated unfunded mandate.

Criminal justice programs

- Support increased funding for the Criminal Justice Training Commission and continued basic funding for WASPC programs including Crime Victim Notification, Jail Booking and Reporting, and Sex Offender address verification.

Mental health services

- Support increased funding and bolstering of state-provided services to provide adequate treatment and housing for populations with mental health needs.

Sustainable personnel costs

- Support legislation to amend current binding arbitration laws.