

RESOLUTION 1262

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, ADOPTING THE CITY'S 2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

WHEREAS, City staff and the City Council have worked diligently to establish a legislative agenda of matters of great importance to the City and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, in working with our State and Federal legislators, the Mayor, City Council and City staff will put special emphasis on the matters listed in the legislative agenda; and

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor now desire to formally adopt the 2023 State Legislative Agenda and Statement of Support to inform residents and legislators;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Gig Harbor:

Section 1: Agenda Adoption. The City of Gig Harbor City Council hereby adopts the 2022 State Legislative Agenda and Statement of Support as set forth in Exhibit A.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Gig Harbor at a regular meeting thereof, held this 28th day of November, 2022.



Tracie Markley
Mayor

Attest:



Joshua Stecker
City Clerk

EXHIBIT A



2023 State Legislative Agenda

Gig Harbor Sports Complex – Capital Budget Request

The City continues to partner with the community to develop the Gig Harbor Sports Complex. The Sports Complex is a multi-phase project and represents a significant partnership between the YMCA and other local organizations, the state, and the City. This facility will serve nearly 50,000 people in the surrounding 5-mile radius and was designed through a robust public process.

The next phase of the project: pickleball courts, bocce ball courts, a playground area, event lawn, sheltered performance stage, two covered picnic areas, and associated parking. In total this project is estimated to cost \$5.25 million, of which the City is requesting **\$2 million**.

Gig Harbor Waterfront Climate Resiliency Study – Operating Budget Request

The City anticipates that climate change will have an impact on Puget Sound, including sea levels. The waterfront has always been the heart of the City, and it is important for the City and its residents to better understand and prepare for how the waterfront will be impacted. The City requests **\$250,000** to commission a study on what the possible impacts might be and how the City can prepare to mitigate them.

Public Safety

Gig Harbor has experienced a rise in criminal activity similar to other cities across the state, and public safety has become a top-of-mind issue for our residents. We request that the Legislature address these issues, and place particular emphasis on the following:

- *State v. Blake* response - enact a simple possession criminal offense statute that incentivizes treatment and accountability for those found in unlawful possession of controlled substances. Ultimately, the City desires to see less people incarcerated for drug possession crimes and more people guided into effective and sustainable treatment.
- Vehicular pursuits – modify RCW 10.116.060 to enable more discretion in engaging in police vehicle pursuits in a manner that offers a balance between the risk of the pursuit versus the reason(s) for the pursuit.
- Training and resources – provide resources so our officers can successfully implement new public safety laws, and resources for behavioral health and substance use treatment services.

State Route 16 Congestion Relief – Transportation Budget Request

Gig Harbor residents experience daily traffic congestion along the SR 16 corridor. The Washington State Department of Transportation completed a congestion relief study in 2017 that identified improvements along the SR16 corridor. The City requests that the state invest in the following projects in the following order to address short-term and long-term traffic demands on the corridor:

- Signalize/meter EB Burnham Dr. approach to Borgen Blvd. in advance of the Burnham/Borgen WB SR16 offramp. COST: \$500,000.
- Add NB Pioneer Way RT turn lane at the Wollochet WB/SR16 Bremerton bound onramp. COST: \$400,000.
- Add EB Wollochet offramp right turn slip lane. COST: \$550,000.
- Add WB Wollochet onramp right turn lane. COST: \$830,000

The City requests **\$2.28 million**, which with city matching dollars will provide for design and construction costs for the four short-term projects.

Fund Local Culverts

The City of Gig Harbor joins AWC in requesting that the Legislature provide adequate funding to address public and private culverts. The City supports state investments on a watershed basis to maximize the amount of fish habitat gained and improve water quality.

The City of Gig Harbor Supports/Opposes - 2023

FINANCE	
State-Shared Revenues	The City supports the continued appropriation of state-shared funds to local governments, including funds such as liquor excise taxes and profits, streamlined sales tax mitigation funding, the city-county assistance account, and the municipal criminal justice account. Additionally, the City supports legislation to restore growth to the liquor profit/fee revenues. Combined, these funds provide a significant amount of revenue to the City's general fund.
Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption	Gig Harbor supports expansion of the state property tax exemption for senior citizens. A significant portion of the City's population is composed of senior citizens living on fixed incomes. At the same time, property values continue to rise. Providing meaningful relief from property taxes is important to the City.
HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES	
Housing	Gig Harbor is not immune from Washington's housing affordability and homelessness crisis. The City supports a proactive approach to create new tools, incentives, and revenues for cities to use to support increasing housing supply and addressing affordability. Cities need resources to encourage development of housing at all income levels and particularly state funding to support housing for the lowest income levels.
Behavioral Health and Substance Use Treatment	The City supports creating greater access to behavioral health services and substance abuse treatment. This includes continued state funding to help communities establish alternative response programs like co-responder programs, diversion programs, and others that provide options beyond law-enforcement for responding to situations with individuals suffering from behavioral health issues.
ENVIRONMENT	
Climate Change	Gig Harbor recognizes the significant impact that climate change is having on our region. We support legislation to reduce carbon emissions in the state and to respond to the current and future impacts of climate change.
INFRASTRUCTURE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	

Infrastructure Program Funding	Gig Harbor supports full funding for the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA), including allowing the current revenue diversions to sunset at the end of fiscal year 2023 and refraining from further transfers or diversions of funds to other infrastructure programs or other non-infrastructure accounts. The City also supports expanding state funding opportunities to assist with maintenance and operations of local infrastructure.
Wastewater Nutrient Cap	The City supports the goal of reducing effluents, including nutrients, to the Puget Sound, and the Department of Ecology general permit for wastewater facilities. However, implementing this permit may result in additional costs for the City and we support state assistance with these costs.
Business Climate	The City supports better alignment of government programs and regulations with business needs and encourages the Legislature to consider ways to foster economic development.
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	The City supports state funding to install electric vehicle charging stations on City owned property, as well as the electrification of city fleets.
Support Main Street Legislation	The City supports policy and budget decisions that increase funding for Main Street Tax Incentive Program. The Main Street Program was created in 2005 to support downtown revitalization programs. The Downtown Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance participates in the program.
LOCAL CONTROL	
Retain Local Control	Local decisions are best made by elected officials who know their community well and the Legislature must refrain from imposing one-size-fits-all solutions on cities. However, the City must make sure that it is not using “local control” as an excuse to avoid addressing difficult issues. In recent years, the legislature has passed zoning mandates. The City of Gig Harbor opposes legislation pre-empting local control, including density mandates.