

RESOLUTION 1325

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, ADOPTING THE CITY'S 2025 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 residents; and

WHEREAS, in working with our state 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 now desire to formally adopt the 2025 State Legislative Agenda 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 2025 State Legislative Agenda is hereby adopted as set forth in Exhibit A.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Gig Harbor at a regular meeting thereof, held this 25th day of November, 2024.



Mary K. Barber
Mayor

Attest:



Joshua Stecker
City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

2025 Legislative Priorities

Commercial Fisherman's Homeport Project – \$1 Million Capital Budget Request

In recent years, some of Gig Harbor's traditional fishing vessels have lost access to affordable and suitable moorage within the Harbor. Without a secure and permanent home, our fishing vessels are at risk of displacement to other ports, eroding the presence of the industry in the Harbor. The Commercial Fisherman's Homeport Project will reverse this trend by providing secure, long-term moorage for 17 vessels, allowing these boats to stay in Gig Harbor, thereby preserving a key part of our community's identity. The city has already committed \$2.5 million towards this \$3.5 million initiative and has successfully completed all required local, state, and federal permitting. The project is ready to proceed, and with state assistance, we can restore a vital piece of Gig Harbor's historical maritime identity.

Important Topics

The City of Gig Harbor will emphasize the importance of the following issues when they are brought up for discussion by the Legislature.

Childcare: Access to quality, affordable, childcare is a significant barrier to economic development in our communities. We will support state efforts to increase access to childcare for working families, including subsidies for childcare providers and additional capital investment for facilities.

Fish Passage Funding: Given the significant number of culverts in the City that need to be replaced, this is a significant issue. The state must increase the assistance it provides to local governments for the cost of providing fish passage.

Indigent Defense: The cost of providing indigent defense services has skyrocketed and is minimally reimbursed by the State. This places a heavy burden on limited flexible funds available to the City. The State must provide additional funding for the representation of indigent individuals, particularly if the Supreme Court adopts new caseload standards that reduce the workforce available to handle these cases.

Infrastructure Funding: Cities require stable and growing infrastructure funding to meet the demands of the Legislature and our residents for: affordable housing, reliable utility services, public health and recreation, and access to other city services. The Legislature must protect and increase existing infrastructure programs relied upon by local governments.

Local Control: The best governmental decisions are those that are made closest to the people represented. Cities possess strong local authority to provide for the safety and welfare of their residents, and the Legislature must abstain from restricting, mandating, or otherwise interfering with local decisions. The City will oppose legislative actions that are inconsistent with this view.

Mobile Home Park Residents: The Legislature has recognized the importance of mobile home parks as a source of affordable housing by providing mobile home residents with additional tools to purchase parks when they are placed on the market. The City applauds these efforts and encourages the Legislature to take further action to preserve existing mobile home parks, including providing additional funding to support residents attempting to purchase parks they live in.

Renter Protections: Nearly half of the City's residents are renters. The City supports policies that promote housing stability for renters and prevent displacement.

Juvenile Access to Attorney: The City supports clarifying statutes that govern law enforcement engagement with juveniles to promote community policing and eliminate unnecessary juvenile interaction with the criminal justice system.

The City of Gig Harbor supports the Association of Washington Cities' legislative agenda.