

## RESOLUTION 1348

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, ADOPTING THE CITY'S 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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**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

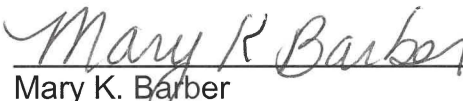
**WHEREAS**, in working with our state legislators, the mayor, city council and city staff will put special emphasis on the matters listed in the legislative agenda; and

**WHEREAS**, the city council now desire to formally adopt the 2026 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 2026 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 8th day of December, 2025.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary K. Barber  
Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joshua Stecker  
City Clerk

## EXHIBIT A

### 2026 State Legislative Priorities

#### **Gig Harbor Community Center**

The City of Gig Harbor envisions a modern community center to serve as a hub for recreation, wellness, learning, and connection for residents of all ages. With a rapidly growing and aging population, the city faces increasing demand for accessible public spaces and programs that foster social engagement, health, and community resilience. The proposed facility would offer diverse amenities—from fitness and wellness programs to educational and cultural events—while also providing critical support services for seniors and opportunities for civic involvement. The city is in the process of solidifying project partners, soliciting community input and developing a funding strategy. The city will be pursuing all sources of funding including private donations, local dollars, and grant funds. The city anticipates requesting support from the state's 2027-29 capital budget.

#### **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. 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.

**GMA Reform:** Under its current structure, the GMA emphasizes community engagement and local planning decision-making. However, increasingly prescriptive statewide zoning and land-use mandates risk undermining that foundational structure. The city requests the Legislature make statutory changes to either reflect a shift toward state-level planning or clarify goal-based local flexibility is consistent with the GMA's policy framework. Additionally, the city urges the Legislature to refrain from enacting further land-use and planning mandates until cities have sufficient time to implement the substantial changes recently adopted.

**Housing Supply:** The city supports policies that increase the production of housing by reducing costs, eliminating administrative barriers, and/or funding incentives. The city also supports policies to protect existing housing stock like mobile home parks.

**Indigent Defense:** It is the State's responsibility to provide indigent defense services, and the burden of this responsibility has been delegated to cities and counties with little funding. This cost has skyrocketed and places a heavy burden on limited flexible funds available to the city. The city supports increased state funding for public defense services to comply with new caseload standards established by the Washington

Supreme Court. Additionally, the city urges the state to invest in workforce development initiatives, such as incentives and training programs, to attract and retain qualified public defenders.

**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.

**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.

**Protect State Funding to Locals:** The city requests the Legislature protect state shared revenues and state grant programs, which provide essential resources for local services. Preserving these funding streams ensures cities can effectively meet community needs and advance statewide policy goals.

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

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