



## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2024

### DIRECT FUNDING REQUEST

#### CRISIS RELIEF STABILIZATION CENTER - DIRECT FUNDING REQUEST \$3M

In 2023 the legislature generously supported an appropriation of \$12.7 million. Seeking an additional \$3 million:

**\$1.5 million for additional construction costs**

Project requires 1,500 sf to meet DOH & accessibility requirements.

**\$1.5 million for one-time start-up operating funds**

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INVESTMENT

#### INVESTMENT IN AFFORDABLE & SUBSIDIZED HOUSING

**Incentivize** multifamily construction by allowing cities to exempt qualifying multifamily housing projects from state & local sales tax (a similar program exists for qualifying commercial office space in [RCW 82.14.532](#)).

#### EXPAND & SUPPORT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESOURCES

**Expand** behavioral health services to include substance use disorder treatment & dual diagnosis treatment facilities.

**Support** continued state funding for alternative response programs under [RCW 35.21.930](#) & law enforcement personnel.

### WASHINGTON STATE FERRIES

**Direct** Washington State Ferries to reinstate international service to Sidney before 2030 through purchase and completion of a foreign-built vessel identified in WSF's December 2023 report to the Legislature

### REVISE THE PROPERTY TAX CAP

**Revise the property tax cap tying it to inflation up 3%**

**Meet** emerging service needs like affordable housing & behavioral health services currently limited to arbitrary 1% property tax limit. Increase funding flexibility, support local decisions, & preserve critical city services.

### INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE

**Continue** state investments in infrastructure to support operations & maintenance of drinking water, wastewater, & broadband services.

**Expand** funding options that support transportation needs with emphasis on preservation & maintenance.

**Improve** access to Climate Commitment Act funding, including direct distributions for city priorities that support carbon reduction & climate resiliency.

**Support** the creation of a state-sponsored financing cooperative that focuses on low interest public infrastructure funding.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

#### RECRUIT & RETAIN POLICE OFFICERS

**Provide** funding tools & resources for officer recruitment & retention.

**Expand** access to state-mandated training. Continue increasing the number of classes for the Basic Law Enforcement Academy & expanding regional academies including Skagit County.

#### VEHICULAR PURSUITS

**Modify** [RCW 10.116.060](#) to enact a balancing test to authorize pursuits where the risk of the pursuit does not exceed the risk of the reason(s) for the pursuit – allowing law enforcement the enforceable authority needed to intervene when public safety is threatened. This modification is not intended to allow pursuits for any reason or under any circumstance.

#### JUVENILE ACCESS TO ATTORNEY

**Consider changes** to [RCW 13.40.470](#) to assist law enforcement in cases of juvenile questioning, recognizing the role of parents in waiving or asserting the juvenile's rights, & prohibiting attorneys from waiving a juvenile's rights without consent.

### LIABILITY

**Explore** tort reforms to reduce liability & related costs including caps on damages that can be collected against public entities.

### DATA PROTECTION

**Require** software packages sold to local government to protect personally identifiable and other sensitive information.

Legislative Priorities Adopted by Resolution 3139