



City of Longview

1525 Broadway
Longview, WA 98632
www.ci.longview.wa.us

Agenda

City Council

*Mayor Spencer Boudreau
Mayor Pro Tem Kalei LaFave
Council Member Ruth Kendall
Council Member Angie Wean
Council Member MaryAlice Wallis
Council Member Keith Young
Council Member Erik Halvorson*

Thursday, September 25, 2025

5:00 PM

2nd Floor, City Hall

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in accordance with RCW Chapter 42.30, that the City Council of the City of Longview, Washington, will conduct a special meeting/workshop in the Longview City Hall Council Chamber, 1525 Broadway, Longview, on Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. The topics of discussion follow. Final disposition shall be taken on no other matter.

The City Hall is accessible for persons with disabilities. Special equipment to assist the hearing impaired is also available. Please contact the City Executive Office at 360.442.5004 48 hours in advance if you require special accommodations to attend the meeting.

If you are participating virtually, you may submit written comments to the City Clerk's Office with the subject line "Public Comment for Disbursement to City Council".

Virtual attendees may comment verbally during public hearings only and is only permitted for registered attendees. To participate, please contact the Clerk's Office in advance. Use the "raise hand" feature during the hearing, and the Clerk will unmute participants in the order received. If calling in by phone, dial star - 9 to raise your hand.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82394132374>

Telephone options (dial any of the following numbers):

1-253-215-8782 or 1-346-248-7799 or 1-408-638-0968 or 1-669-900-6833

Webinar ID: 823 9413 2374

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. FLAG SALUTE
3. ROLL CALL
4. WORKSHOP

25-00897 LEGISLATORS & LOBBYIST - LEGISLATIVE AGENDA (APPROXIMATELY 90 MINUTES)

5. ADJOURNMENT

*** Any invocation that may be offered at the Council meeting shall be the voluntary offering of a private citizen, to and for the benefit of the Council. The views or beliefs expressed by the invocation speaker have not been previously reviewed or approved by the Council, and the Council does not endorse the religious beliefs or views of this, or any other speaker.**

NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.

NEXT SPECIAL COUNCIL WORKSHOP:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025 - 6:00 P.M. - URBAN FOREST DISEASE TREATMENT

2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES & PROJECTS

Legislative Dinner 9.25.2026

LONGVIEW | **W
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LEGISLATIVE TEAM

DISTRICT 19

- **SENATOR: JEFF WILSON**
- **REPRESENTATIVE: JIM WALSH**
- **REPRESENTATIVE: JOEL MCENTIRE**

GORDON THOMAS HONEYWELL

- **LOBBYIST: AMINA TEOURI**
- **LOBBYIST: BRIAHNA MURRAY**

TONIGHT'S AGENDA

- OVERVIEW OF SHORT SESSION
- LEGISLATIVE POLICY DOCUMENT
- LEGISLATIVE PROJECT PRIORITIES

SHORT SESSION

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WHAT IS A POLICY DOCUMENT

A legislative policy document is the City's roadmap for advocacy. It highlights the laws, funding needs, and regulatory changes most critical to Longview and ensures we speak with one voice when engaging with legislators and partners. This draft reflects the legislative committee, staff, and community input and positions us to secure resources and policy solutions that align with our city's priorities.

POLICY TOPICS:

- PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE
- FISCAL TOOLS & INFRASTRUCTURE
- HOMELESSNESS & TRANSPARENCY
- HOUSING & GROWTH
- GOVERNANCE & LIABILITY

PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE:

- **PUBLIC DEFENSE/PROSECUTION BURDEN**
- **PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING & CRIME REDUCTION**
- **ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**
- **PRESERVE & EXPAND GROUND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT (GEMT) FUNDS**

FISCAL TOOLS & INFRASTRUCTURE

- LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT
- PUBLIC WORKS SELF-PERFORMANCE AUTHORITY
- PRIVATE BUSINESS CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLIC PROJECTS
- IMPROVE CONTRACTING, BIDDING & PROCUREMENT

HOMELESSNESS & TRANSPARENCY

- TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
FOR HOMELESS FUNDING

HOUSING & GROWTH

- HOUSING DEVELOPMENT BARRIERS & ENERGY CODE FLEXIBILITY
- INDUSTRIAL PERMITTING REFORM
- PRESERVE MANUFACTURED HOME PARKS & INFILL INCENTIVES
- ANNEXATION FLEXIBILITY – “ISLANDS”
- RURAL DESIGNATION UPDATE
- STORMWATER REGULATION FLEXIBILITY

GOVERNANCE & LIABILITY

- PUBLIC RECORDS REFORM & BURDEN REDUCTION
- PRIVACY & RECORDS RETENTION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY CAMERAS
- REDUCE CITY LIABILITY & VEXATIOUS LITIGATION

PROJECT PRIORITIES

- **JOHN NULL RESTROOM REPLACEMENT - \$500,000**
- **REPLACE STATION 81 CALL ALERTING SYSTEM - \$150,000**
- **STATION 81 & 82 FENCING & GATES- \$100,000**
- **COUNCIL CHAMBER TECHNOLOGY & ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES- \$250,000**

QUESTIONS

LEGISLATIVE PROJECTS

9.25.2025

JOHN NULL PARK RESTROOM RENOVATION -

\$500,000

We are requesting legislative funding to replace the outdated and failing bathrooms at John Null Park, one of the City's busiest parks and home to Longview Youth Baseball and the City's only pickleball courts. The current facilities require constant repairs, are difficult for staff to clean and monitor, and cannot meet the demands of heavy year-round use. A new, modern restroom facility will provide multiple-user capacity, reduce maintenance needs, improve efficiency for staff, and enhance the experience for thousands of park visitors annually. This investment will ensure safe, functional, and reliable amenities that support two of the community's most active recreation programs.

FIRE STATION ALERTING SYSTEM -

\$150,000

The Fire Station's current alerting system is over 20 years old, unreliable, and no longer supported by the communications vendor, leaving staff to attempt makeshift repairs. Coverage is inconsistent, with entire areas of the station, including bathrooms, offices, dorms, upstairs, and exterior workspaces, lacking speakers or visual alerts, while existing tones are permanently set to maximum volume, posing documented health risks. The system also lacks acknowledgment capability for dispatch and does not meet Washington State law or NFPA 1225 standards for redundancy, monitoring, and reliable delivery of emergency information. Replacement with a modern alerting system would provide comprehensive audio and visual coverage, zoned volume control with safer ramping, red dormitory lighting, emergency panic buttons, and full compliance with standards, ensuring firefighter health, operational readiness, and timely public safety response. Without replacement, the City faces risks of delayed or missed calls, heightened firefighter health concerns, liability exposure, and potential system collapse.

FIRE STATION 81 & 82 FENCING & GATES -

\$100,000

During emergency responses, Stations 81 and 82 are often left unstaffed as crews deploy, leaving high-value assets apparatus, trailers, hazmat caches, marine rescue gear, and confined-space equipment parked outside due to limited bay space. Without controlled perimeters, these mission-critical resources are exposed to theft, vandalism, tampering, and accidental public access, any of which could compromise life-safety operations, delay response times, and increase the City's liability. Installing modern fencing and secure, automated gates will create a clear, controlled boundary that protects equipment, preserves emergency egress/ingress routes, and prevents unauthorized entry while crews are away or working on scene. This improvement is a practical, cost-effective risk-reduction measure that safeguards public investments, sustains operational readiness 24/7, and ensures our firefighters return to reliable, immediately deployable equipment ultimately strengthening community safety and resilience.

COUNCIL CHAMBER TECHNOLOGY & ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES -

\$250,000

We are requesting funding for comprehensive upgrades to the City Council Chamber's audio-visual system to improve public access and engagement. The current equipment is outdated and no longer meets the needs of modern meetings. This project will replace microphones for Council and staff, add cameras to support both virtual participation and broadcasted meetings, install new monitors to enhance public viewing of presentations, and upgrade speakers and related technology. These improvements will provide a better experience for both in-person attendees and virtual participants, ensuring that City Council meetings are more accessible, transparent, and user-friendly for the community.

LEGISLATIVE POLICY DOCUMENT

9.25.2025

PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE

- **PUBLIC DEFENSE/PROSECUTION BURDEN**
Washington's reduced caseload standards for public defenders (RCW 10.101) create an unfunded mandate on cities. A statewide solution is needed as limits continue to drop and hiring shortages worsen.
- **PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING & CRIME REDUCTION**
Provide dedicated funding to support police, fire, and prevention programs. Cities are legally responsible (RCW Title 10; RCW Title 35) but lack sustainable revenue to meet growing needs.
- **ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**
Increase support for non-police response programs tied to behavioral health (RCW 71.24). These programs reduce pressure on jails, ERs, and traditional law enforcement.
- **PRESERVE & EXPAND GROUND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT (GEMT) FUNDS**
Protect GEMT Medicaid reimbursement (RCW 74.09.5223; WAC 182-546) and provide stable EMS funding. Without this support, ambulance and compliance costs strain city budgets.

FISCAL TOOLS & INFRASTRUCTURE

- **LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT**
Preserve state funding programs like the Public Works Assistance Account (RCW 43.155). Cities depend on these investments to maintain essential infrastructure and leverage grants.
- **PUBLIC WORKS SELF-PERFORMANCE AUTHORITY**
Raise the cap on project size that city crews can complete without competitive bidding (RCW 35.23.352). Current limits are outdated and inefficient.
- **PRIVATE BUSINESS CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLIC PROJECTS**
Revise laws such as prevailing wage (RCW 39.12) and nonprofit exemptions (RCW 82.04.3651) to allow private businesses to invest directly in public projects when no city funds are used. This would unlock private support for community facilities.
- **IMPROVE CONTRACTING, BIDDING & PROCUREMENT**
Modernize RCW 39.04 to reflect today's costs and simplify processes. Higher thresholds will reduce delays and administrative burden.

HOMELESSNESS & TRANSPARENCY

- **TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HOMELESSNESS FUNDING**
Require providers receiving state funds to notify local governments and share outcome metrics. Standardized reporting (RCW 43.185C; RCW 43.330) would improve transparency and alignment with local strategies.

HOUSING & GROWTH

- **HOUSING DEVELOPMENT BARRIERS & ENERGY CODE FLEXIBILITY**

Streamline permitting and reduce regulatory costs under the Building Code (RCW 19.27) and SEPA (RCW 43.21C) that deter housing construction. Provide flexibility in the State Energy Code (RCW 19.27A) by allowing smaller and low-income homes to use earlier code standards, lowering costs by \$30–60k per unit and helping meet the state’s affordable housing goals.

- **INDUSTRIAL PERMITTING REFORM**

Streamline state and local permitting for industrial development by reforming SEPA (RCW 43.21C) and clarifying agency authority, timelines, and scope. Large projects have been stalled by state inaction, while smaller projects would benefit from a simplified SEPA checklist that reflects their true scope and impact.

- **PRESERVE MANUFACTURED HOME PARKS & INFILL INCENTIVES**

Protect manufactured housing (RCW 59.20) and create incentives for infill housing on underutilized parking lots. Both strategies expand affordable housing options.

- **ANNEXATION FLEXIBILITY – “ISLANDS”**

Current law (RCW 35.13.182) restricts annexations over 185 acres without a major vote, even when areas are fully surrounded by city limits. Raising this threshold would allow cities to efficiently annex islands, improve service delivery, and reduce jurisdictional confusion.

- **RURAL DESIGNATION UPDATE**

Update the rural density definition from 100 to 125 people per square mile (RCW 36.70A.030). This ensures mid-sized cities like Longview remain eligible for critical rural grant programs.

- **STORMWATER REGULATION FLEXIBILITY**

Adjust stormwater engineering requirements (RCW 90.48; Ecology NPDES) to scale with project size. Current one-size-fits-all standards add significant costs and delays, creating barriers to housing construction. Streamlined and flexible approaches would reduce costs while maintaining water quality.

GOVERNANCE & LIABILITY

- **PUBLIC RECORDS REFORM & BURDEN REDUCTION**

Update the Public Records Act (RCW 42.56) to allow reasonable cost recovery and tools to manage excessive or vexatious requests. Washington agencies face a growing disparity compared to Oregon, with many requests now being used by private entities to generate profit. Publicly funded agencies are footing the bill, diverting resources away from services. Cities need relief while maintaining transparency for Washington residents.

- **PRIVACY & RECORDS RETENTION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY CAMERAS**

Clarify requirements under the PRA (RCW 42.56) and retention rules (RCW 40.14) for police body and fixed cameras. Ambiguity creates liability and rising costs.

- **REDUCE CITY LIABILITY & VEXATIOUS LITIGATION**

Reform RCW 4.96 to limit frivolous lawsuits that divert resources away from community services.