



City of Longview

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

Agenda

City Council

*Mayor Erik Halvorson
Mayor Pro Tem Keith Young
Council Member Chris Bryant
Council Member Mike Claxton
Council Member Ruth Kendall
Council Member Kalei LaFave
Council Member Wayne Nichols*

Thursday, April 9, 2026

6:00 PM

2nd Floor, City Hall

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 at least 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. INVOCATION*/FLAG SALUTE
26-00181 MARK SCHMUTZ, NORTHLAKE CHURCH
3. ROLL CALL
4. WORKSHOP
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
26-00297 MARCH 26, 2026 REGULAR MEETING
6. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

7. PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

- 26-00278 PROCLAMATION - APRIL 22, 2026 AS ARBOR DAY; RECIPIENTS AMY NORQUIST, LONGVIEW ROTARY PRESIDENT & ERIN CRANSTON, PARKS & RECREATION MANAGER
- 26-00279 PROCLAMATION - APRIL 19-25, 2026 AS NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK; RECIPIENT JACOB COLE, LIBRARY DIRECTOR
- 26-00299 PROCLAMATION - APRIL - FAIR HOUSING MONTH; RECIPIENT SHAY HOWSMON
- 26-00300 LEGISLATIVE POST SESSION REPORT BY GORDON THOMAS HONEYWELL

8. CONSTITUENTS' COMMENTS - NON-AGENDA ITEMS (Thirty Minutes)**9. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- 26-00307 SPECIAL PROPERTY USE TO ESTABLISH A DRIVING SCHOOL AT 1338 COMMERCE AVENUE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

HOLD THE PUBLIC HEARING AND MOTION TO APPROVE SPECIAL PROPERTY USE TO ESTABLISH A DRIVING SCHOOL AT 1338 COMMERCE AVE

- 26-00308 ORDINANCE NO. 3577 – RESCINDING CHAPTER 16.24 ELECTRICAL CODE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

HOLD THE PUBLIC HEARING AND MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 3577

10. CONSTITUENTS' COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS (Thirty Minutes)**11. BOARD & COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS****12. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS****13. MAYOR'S REPORT**

- 26-00312 PROTECTING INFANTS FROM FENTANYL - PROPOSED ORDINANCE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

DIRECT THE CITY ATTORNEY TO DRAFT AN ORDINANCE FOR COUNCIL ADOPTION, ESTABLISHING THE CRIME OF "ENDANGERMENT OF A MINOR WITH A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE" TO ADDRESS THE LETHAL THREAT OF FENTANYL AND OTHER SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS

14. COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS**15. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 26-00182 APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

- 26-00301 2026 EXTENSION AND RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT FOR COWLITZ COUNTY MINI-RURAL PARTIAL LIBRARY DISTRICT SERVICES

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE 2026 EXTENSION AND RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT FOR LIBRARY SERVICES

26-00304 PROJECT COMPLETION – CLONEY PARK STORM PIPE REPLACEMENT**RECOMMENDED ACTION:****MOTION TO ACCEPT AS COMPLETE THE CLONEY PARK STORM PIPE REPLACEMENT****26-00305 SET A PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 14TH FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ALLOCATIONS****RECOMMENDED ACTION:****SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THURSDAY MAY 14TH FOR CDBG FUNDING ALLOCATIONS.****26-00306 SET A PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 14TH FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS****RECOMMENDED ACTION:****SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THURSDAY, MAY 14TH FOR HOME FUNDING ALLOCATIONS.****16. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT****26-00298 UPDATE FROM UNCOMMON BRIDGES ON FIRE/EMS LEVIES****17. MISCELLANEOUS****18. EXECUTIVE SESSION****19. 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, APRIL 23, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.****THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.****NEXT SPECIAL COUNCIL WORKSHOPS:****THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026 – 6:00 P.M. – FIRE/EMS LEVIES**



City of Longview

1525 Broadway
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Minutes

City Council

*Mayor Erik Halvorson
Mayor Pro Tem Keith Young
Council Member Chris Bryant
Council Member Mike Claxton
Council Member Ruth Kendall
Council Member Kalei LaFave
Council Member Wayne Nichols*

Thursday, March 26,
2026

6:00 PM

2nd Floor, City Hall

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Webinar ID: 823 9413 2374

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Halvorson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. **INVOCATION*/FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was recited.

3. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Halvorson, Mayor Pro Tem Young, Councilmember Bryant, Councilmember Claxton, Councilmember Kendall, Councilmember LaFave, Councilmember Nichols

Staff Present: City Manager Jennifer Wills, Interim City Attorney Charlotte Archer, Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager Chris Collins, Community & Economic Development Director Nick Little, Parks & Recreation Director Justin Brown, Police Captain Brandon McNew, Human Resources Director Sabrina Fraidenburg, Fire Chief Brad Hannig, Information Technology Director Mike Sullivan, City Clerk Tiffany Ostreim

4. **WORKSHOP**

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Bryant, seconded by Councilmember LaFave, to approve the March 12, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes and March 13-14, 2026 Council Summit Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

26-0058 MARCH 12, 2026 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

26-00260 MARCH 13-14, 2026 COUNCIL SUMMIT

6. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Halvorson stated Agenda Item #12 - Executive Session was struck from the agenda.

7. PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS**8. CONSTITUENTS' COMMENTS - NON-AGENDA ITEMS (Thirty Minutes)**

Derek Fine provided public comment.

Jason Still provided public comment.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

26-00263 ORDINANCE NO. 3575 – AMENDING SECTION 5.05.040 AND SECTION 5.05.107 OF THE LONGVIEW MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING BUSINESS AND OCCUPATION TAX AND FEES LEVIED; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PUBLICATION; PROVIDING FOR REFERENDUM; AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

CONDUCT THE PUBLIC HEARING AND MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 3575 AMENDING LONGVIEW MUNICIPAL CODE (LMC) CHAPTER 5.05, BUSINESS AND OCCUPATION TAX, FOR COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW

Mayor Halvorson opened the public hearing at 6:14 p.m.

Interim City Attorney Charlotte Archer explained the amendments.

Mayor Halvorson opened and closed the public comment portion and the hearing at 6:19 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Young, seconded by Councilmember Bryant, to adopt Ordinance No. 3575. The motion carried unanimously.

26-00264 ORDINANCE NO. 3574 - AMENDING CHAPTER 5.06 OF THE LONGVIEW MUNICIPAL CODE TO APPLY UTILITY TAX UNIFORMLY TO ALL CITY UTILITY CUSTOMERS

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

CONDUCT THE PUBLIC HEARING AND MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 3574 AMENDING LONGVIEW MUNICIPAL CODE (LMC) CHAPTER 5.06 TO APPLY UTILITY TAX UNIFORMLY TO ALL CITY UTILITY CUSTOMERS

Mayor Halvorson opened the public hearing at 6:21 p.m.

Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager Chris Collins explained the amendment and revenue.

Mayor Halvorson opened the public comment portion of the hearing.

Jason Still provided public comment.

Mayor Halvorson closed the public comment portion and the hearing at 6:26 p.m.
 Council discussed the amendment.
 Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager Collins provided clarification.
 Interim City Attorney Charlotte Archer explained in-city class versus out-of-city class.

A motion was made by Councilmember LaFave, seconded by Councilmember Kendall, to adopt Ordinance No. 3574. The motion carried by the following vote:
Ayes: Councilmember LaFave, Councilmember Kendall, Councilmember Claxton, Councilmember Nichols, Mayor Halvorson
Nays: Councilmember Young, Councilmember Bryant

26-00266 ORDINANCE NO. 3576 – AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 19.12 OF THE LONGVIEW MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO APPEAL BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

CONDUCT THE PUBLIC HEARING AND MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 3576 AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF LONGVIEW MUNICIPAL CODE (LMC) CHAPTER 19.12, APPEAL BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Mayor Halvorson opened the public hearing at 6:35 p.m.

Community Development Director Nick Little explained the amendment.

Mayor Halvorson opened and closed the public comment portion and the the hearing at 6:37 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kendall, seconded by Councilmember Bryant, to adopt Ordinance No. 3576. The motion carried unanimously.

26-00272 RESOLUTION NO. 2612 - AMENDMENT TO THE 2026 – 2031 SIX YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN (TIP) AND RIVERCITIES TRANSIT PROGRAM OF PROJECTS (POP)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

CONDUCT THE PUBLIC HEARING AND MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2612.

Mayor Halvorson opened the public hearing at 6:38 p.m.

Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager Chris Collins presented.

Mayor Halvorson opened and closed the public comment portion and the hearing at 6:42 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kendall, seconded by Councilmember Nichols, to adopt Resolution No. 2612.

Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager Collins provided information about round-about and bike lanes.

The motion carried unanimously.

10. CONSTITUENTS' COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS (Thirty Minutes)

Marlene Johanson provided public comment.

Pat Martin provided public comment.

Cindy Nordstrom provided public comment.

Eric Olmsted provided public comment.

Jennifer Rylander provided public comment.

Jason Still provided public comment.

11. BOARD & COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

26-00270 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ON UPGRADING ALL FOUR CURB RAMPS AT 21TH AVENUE AND MAPLE STREET IN ORDER TO ADD A NEW RIVERCITIES TRANSIT BUS STOP

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ALLOCATION OF \$20,000 WITH MATCHING FUNDING FROM RIVERCITIES TRANSIT FOR UPGRADE AND A BUS STOP TO THE AREAS OF 12TH AND MAPLE

Human Resources Director Sabrina Fraidenburg explained the Accessibility Advisory Committee's recommendations.

Council discussed the request.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bryant, seconded by Councilmember Nichols, to authorize the allocation of \$20,000 with matching funding from Rivercities Transit for upgrade and a bus stop to the areas of 12th and Maple. The motion carried unanimously.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

26-00275 POTENTIAL LITIGATION PER RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)

Struck from Agenda.

13. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

26-00265 RESOLUTION NO. 2610 –ADOPTING THE WATER UTILITY LEAK ADJUSTMENT POLICY

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2610 ADOPTING THE CITY OF LONGVIEW WATER UTILITY LEAK ADJUSTMENT POLICY.

Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager Chris Collins explained the proposed policy.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bryant, seconded by Councilmember Nichols, to adopt Resolution No. 2610.

Council discussed.

An amendment was made by Mayor Halvorson, seconded by Commissioner Young, to modify the retroactive date to January 1, 2025.

Council discussed.

The amendment failed by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Halvorson, Councilmember Young

Nays: Councilmember LaFave, Councilmember Kendall, Councilmember Claxton, Councilmember Bryant, Councilmember Nichols

The main motion carried unanimously.

26-00276 RESOLUTION NO. 2611 - INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR ANIMAL SHELTERING SERVICES AND ANIMAL SHELTERING CONTRACT 2026

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2611 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR ANIMAL SHELTERING SERVICES AMONG THE PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENT FOR ANIMAL SHELTERING SERVICES WITH THE HUMANE SOCIETY FOR SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager Chris Collins reviewed the animal sheltering interlocal and contract.

Council discussed.

Police Captain Brandon McNew explained the police department's responsibility and enforcement. Interim City Attorney Charlotte Archer explained that under state law we are required to manage dangerous dog designations and incidents.

Cowlitz County Commissioner Steve Ferrell provided public comment.

Council continued to discuss.

A motion was made by Councilmember Nichols, seconded by Councilmember Kendall, to adopt Resolution No. 2611.

Council discussed.

An amendment was made by Councilmember Young to amend the terms of the agreement for six months.

Council continued to discuss.

Police Captain McNew offered a reflection on police response.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kendall, seconded by Councilmember Young, to table the topic until April 9, 2026.

Executive Session - Legal Risk of a Proposed Action per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)

The City Council, City Manager Jennifer Wills, Interim City Attorney Charlotte Archer, Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager Chris Collins, Police Captain Brandon McNew entered Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. for a period of 10 minutes, until 8:00 p.m. At 8:00 p.m. all parties came out of Executive Session. No action was taken.

Councilmember Kendall rescinded her motion to table.

Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager Chris Collins gave an update on the county's progress on an animal shelter.

Police Captain Brandon McNew commented on the police department's ability to respond.

Council discussed.

The main motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Nichols, Councilmember Kendall, Councilmember Bryant, Councilmember Claxton, Councilmember Young

Nays: Councilmember LaFave, Mayor Halvorson

26-00274 RESOLUTION NO. 2613 - 2026 COUNCIL GOALS AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2613

City Manager Jennifer Wills presented.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bryant, seconded by Councilmember Young, to adopt Resolution No. 2613.

Council discussed.

The motion carried unanimously.

14. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Halvorson provided a verbal report.

A motion was made by Mayor Halvorson, seconded by Councilmember Young, directing staff to collaborate with Cowlitz County on their plan for Animal Sheltering and provide monthly updates to the council. The motion carried unanimously.

Formation of Ad Hoc Committee - Council concurred on forming a committee consisting of Mayor Halvorson, Councilmember Kendall and Councilmember Bryant.

15. COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS

*Councilmember Young provided a verbal report.
Councilmember LaFave provided a verbal report.
Councilmember Kendall provided a verbal report.
Councilmember Bryant provided a verbal report.
Councilmember Nichols provided a verbal report.*

16. CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Councilmember Kendall seconded by Councilmember Young, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

26-00251 APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

26-00273 PROJECT COMPLETION – MT SOLO RESERVOIR FILL LINE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION TO ACCEPT AS COMPLETE THE MT SOLO RESERVOIR FILL LINE PROJECT

17. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

*City Manager Jennifer Wills requested to be excused April 23, 2026.
Manager Wills has been for, and selected as the recipient of, the Impact and Influence Award from the Washington Park and Recreation Association. This is the highest recognition awarded by the state association to an individual and reflects long-term dedication and meaningful contributions to the parks and recreation profession.*

26-00271 COUNCIL CHAMBERS A/V UPGRADE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AUDIO/VISUAL UPGRADE PROJECT AND APPROVE USE OF DESCO AV FOR PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION

*Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager Chris Collins presented.
Council discussed.
Information Director Mike Sullivan provided information.*

A motion was made by Councilmember Nichols, seconded by Councilmember Kendall, to authorize the Council Chambers Audio/Visual Upgrade Project and approve use of Desco AV for procurement and installation. The motion carried unanimously.

18. MISCELLANEOUS

19. EXECUTIVE SESSION

26-00261 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PER RCW 42.30.140(4)(a)

The City Council, (Councilmember Nichols recused himself), City Manager Jennifer Wills, Interim City Attorney Charlotte Archer, Human Resources Director Sabrina Fraidenburg and Fire Chief Brad Hannig entered Closed Session at 8:54 p.m. pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a) Collective Bargaining for a period of 15 minutes, until 9:10 p.m. At 9:10 p.m. Executive Session was continued for 10 minutes, until 9:20 p.m.. At 9:20 p.m. all parties came out of Executive Session. No action was taken.

20. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Tiffany Ostreim

City Clerk

Approved: _____
Mayor

NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS:

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

Proclamation

City of Longview, Washington

Washington Arbor Day ~ April 22, 2026

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day was first observed as a holiday with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska and is now celebrated throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for constructing our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products; and

WHEREAS, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; and

WHEREAS, trees, wherever they are planted, gladden our hearts and are a constant source of joy and spiritual renewal; and

WHEREAS, the Rotary Club of Longview, celebrating its Centennial Anniversary in 2026, has generously donated this year's Arbor Day tree in recognition of 100 years of service to the community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Longview has again been recognized for the 43rd year as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation and plans to maintain this established title, and;

Now, THEREFORE, I, Erik Halvorson, Mayor of the City of Longview, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, April 22, 2026, as "Arbor Day" in the City of Longview, and urge all citizens to support efforts to care for and protect our trees and woodlands, along with the sustainability of our city's community forestry program for present and future generations.

Furthermore, I cordially invite all citizens to attend this year's Arbor Day Tradition, led by the Rotary Club of Longview, to witness the planting of a Giant Sequoia (Sequoiadendron Giganteum) tree at the northwest corner of Lake Sacajawea on April 22nd at 3:45 p.m.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Longview to be affixed this 9th day of April 2026.

Erik Halvorson, Mayor

PROCLAMATION

City of Longview, Washington

National Library Week

April 19-25, 2026

WHEREAS, libraries spark creativity, fuel imagination, and inspire lifelong learning, offering a space where individuals of all ages can find joy through exploration and discovery;

WHEREAS, libraries serve as vibrant community hubs, connecting people with knowledge, technology, and resources while fostering civic engagement, critical thinking, and cultural enrichment;

WHEREAS, libraries provide access to books, digital tools, and innovative programming, ensuring that all individuals have the support they need to learn, connect, and thrive;

WHEREAS, libraries partner with schools, businesses, and organizations to maximize resources, increase efficiency, and expand access to essential services, strengthening the entire community;

WHEREAS, libraries empower job seekers, entrepreneurs, and lifelong learners by providing access to resources, training, and opportunities that support career growth and economic success;

WHEREAS, libraries nurture young minds through storytimes, STEAM programs, and literacy initiatives, fostering curiosity and a love of learning that lasts a lifetime;

WHEREAS, dedicated library workers provide welcoming spaces that inspire discovery, collaboration, and creativity for all;

WHEREAS, libraries and library workers across the country are joining together to celebrate National Library Week under the theme “**Find Your Joy**”;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Erik Halvorson, Mayor of the City of Longview, proclaim April 19-25, 2026 to be “**NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK.**”

During this week, I encourage all residents to visit their library, explore its resources, and celebrate all the ways that the library helps our community find joy.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Longview to be affixed this 9th day of April, 2026.

Erik Halvorson, Mayor

Proclamation

City of Longview, Washington

April is Fair Housing Month

***WHEREAS**, On April 11, 1968 the Fair Housing Act was enacted into law, recognizing that every American should have the right to purchase or rent shelter of choice regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity; and*

***WHEREAS**, the City of Longview, Washington is committed to the mission and intent of Congress to provide fair and equal housing opportunities for all; and*

***WHEREAS**, the location that people live has a direct impact on the quality of their health, education, and access to economic opportunities; and*

***WHEREAS**, discriminatory housing practices create racial and economic segregation in communities that can lead to disparate outcomes in overall quality of life; and*

***WHEREAS**, the City of Longview believes that access to fair housing laws have made our communities stronger and more vibrant in Washington State; and*

***WHEREAS** we are committed to programs that will help educate the public about the right to equal housing in the State of Washington; and*

***WHEREAS** we are committed to promoting housing choices and fostering inclusive communities free from housing discrimination*

***Now, THEREFORE**, I, Erik Halvorson, Mayor of the City of Longview celebrate and proclaim April 2026 as **Fair Housing Month** and thank the many people in our community who aspire to open the doors of opportunity of housing to all people free from any discrimination.*

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Longview to be affixed this 9th day of April 2026.

Erik Halvorson, Mayor



City of Longview

2026 Legislative Session





purpose

Overview of the 2026 Legislative Session

Outcomes of Longview's Priorities

Additional Legislative Issues

Next steps



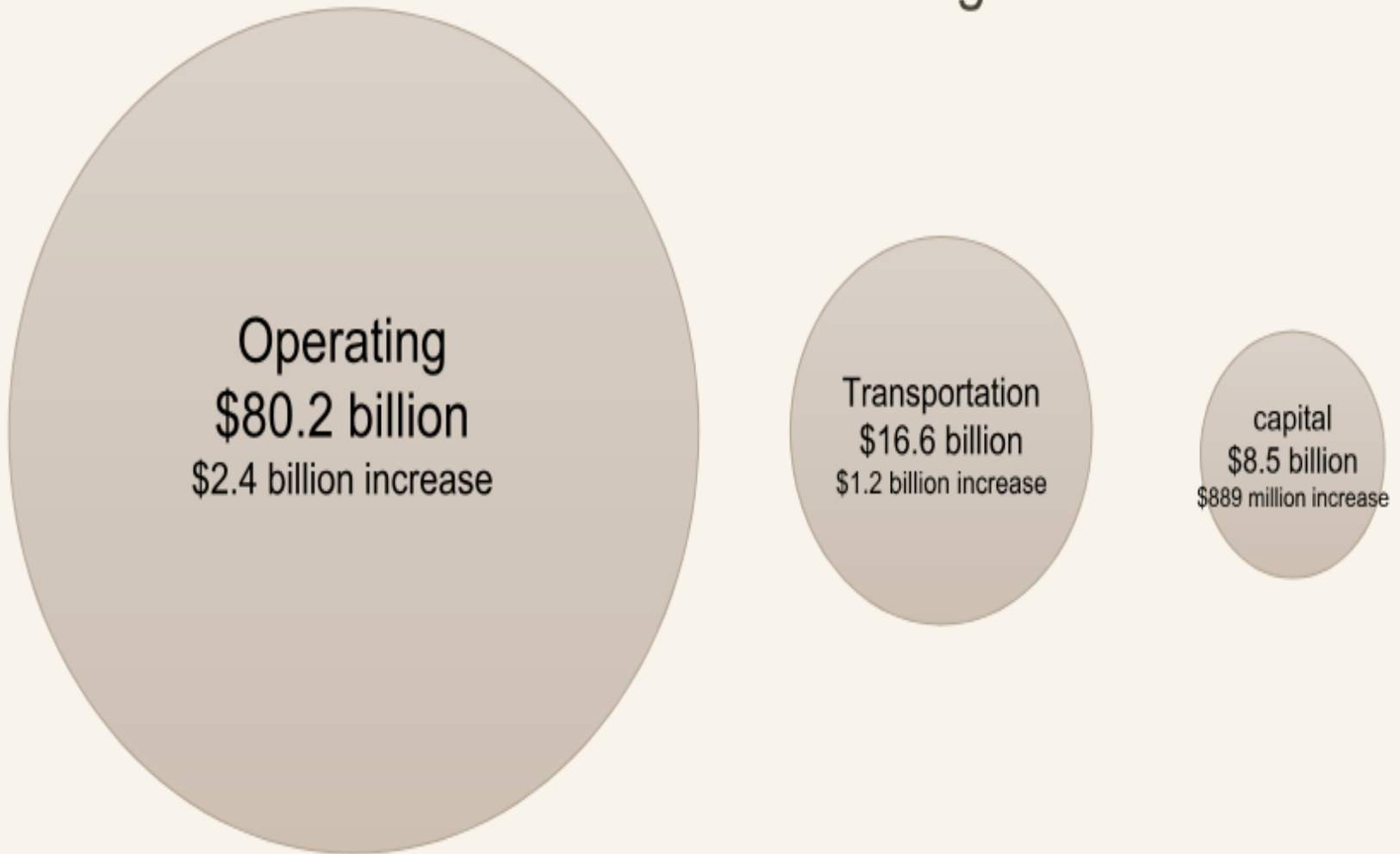
overview

2026 Legislative Session

General Context	Political Context
Second year of the biennium 60-day session	Democrats held strong majorities in House and Senate
Adopted supplemental operating, capital, and transportation budgets	Governor's first-year developing budget proposal
1,238 bills introduced, 267 passed into law	Responses to federal government

Overview

2025-27 Biennial Budgets



Outcomes

Longview's Priorities

Fire Station 81 & 82 Fencing Gates

v Not included

Fire Station Alerting System

v **Full \$155,000 included in the final budget**

John Null Park Restroom Renovation

v Not included



Additional Legislative issues

Homelessness & Transparency

- v Failure of HB 2489 regarding encampments

Housing & Growth

- v Passage of HB 2266 regarding STEP housing
- v Passage of HB 2442 regarding housing revenue flexibility

Public Safety & Justice

- v Passage of SB 6002 regarding Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology regulations
- v Passage of SB 5974 regarding qualifications for elected sheriffs

Governance & Liability

- v Failure of SB 6239 regarding tort claim liability
- v Failure of HB 2095 regarding vulnerable road users

Fiscal Tools & Infrastructure

- v Passage of SB 6179 regarding rural county definition
- v \$375 million from PWAA to state general fund 6



Next steps

Thank your legislative delegation

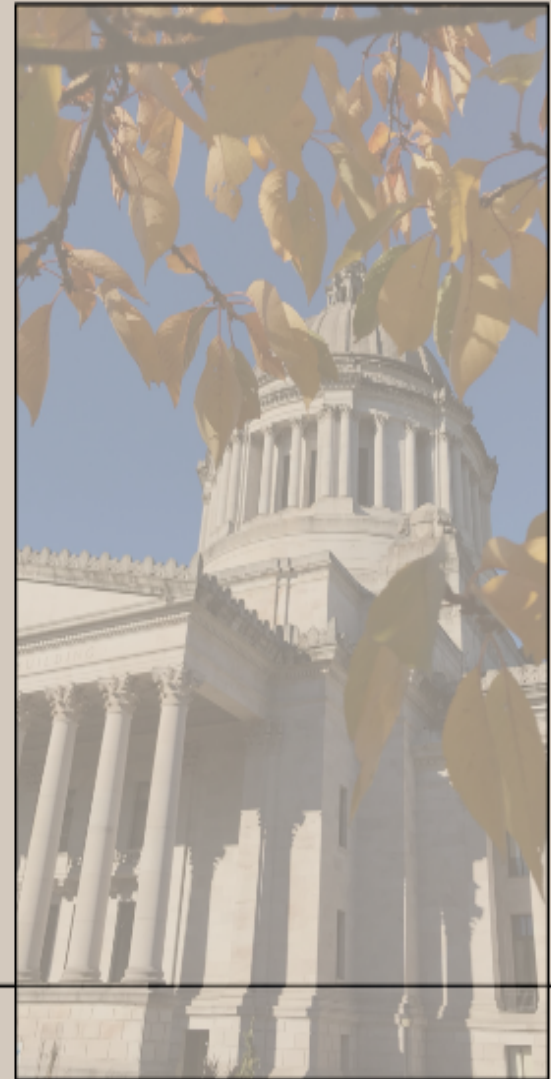
Prepare for the 2027-29 legislative biennium

State Legislator Elections in November

2027 Legislative Session begins January 11

Questions?

Emily Shay
State Lobbyist
253-753-5503
eshay@gth-gov.com





Bills Impacting Cities 2026 Legislative Session

Below is a list of bills that passed this session that impact city operations and interests or will likely require a change in city code. We encourage you to review and prepare for the requirements outlined in the following bills. For reference, click [here](#) to view all bills approved by the Legislature, even those without a nexus to city government.

Child Care

Child Care Operational Flexibility: [House Bill 2219](#), sponsored by Rep. Lillian Ortiz-Self (D-Mukilteo), allows licensed child care centers to use limited mixed-age staffing ratios each day and permits returning or experienced staff to waive repeat completion of the state's early learning orientation when certain conditions are met.

Early Learning Licensing Exemption: [House Bill 2317](#), sponsored by Rep. Carolyn Eslick (R-Sultan), revises the definition of "agency" under state early learning licensing law to exclude certain school-day Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and Head Start programs that are located in a public school building or community or technical college building, or on the premises of a public school or community or technical college. This change narrows which early learning programs require state child care licensing, reducing regulatory requirements for specified school- and college-based early childhood programs and aligning them more closely with K-12 and higher education facility oversight.

Courts

Court System Unification Task Force: [House Bill 1909](#), sponsored by Rep. Jamila Taylor (D-Federal Way), creates a statewide Court Unification Task Force to evaluate how disparate local rules, technology, and funding create inefficiencies and inequities, and to recommend more unified approaches to improve access and consistency statewide. The task force must convene by October 1, 2026, report preliminary findings by June 30, 2027, submit a final strategic plan by June 30, 2028, hold at least one additional full meeting before June 30, 2029, and then sunset on December 31, 2029.

Court Procedures Update: [House Bill 2178](#), sponsored by Rep. My-Linh Thai (D-41st LD), updates civil infraction timelines by extending the response period to 30 days for personally served notices and 33 days for notices served by mail, changes the filing deadline for notices of infraction to five days excluding weekends and holidays and requires untimely notices to be dismissed without prejudice absent good cause shown, increases the damage threshold for aggregating certain malicious mischief charges to second degree from \$250 to \$750, enhances access to payment plans for civil infraction monetary obligations by allowing requests at any

time and requiring courts to enter into payment plans in specified circumstances while permitting discretionary plans after referral to collections, corrects a technical cross-reference related to litter penalties, repeals an obsolete legal financial obligations collection and distribution statute, and requires annual state treasurer distributions to counties for clerk collection budgets based on a formula recommended by the Washington Association of County Officials.

Energy

Clean Energy Tax Preferences: [House Bill 1210](#), sponsored by Rep. Stephanie Barnard (R-8th LD), seeks to extend targeted urban area property tax exemptions to clean energy transformation businesses and facilities requiring federal regulatory commission certification to promote economic growth and carbon-free energy goals. The bill defines “clean energy transformation business” to include businesses that create a product for sale that will aid in lowering Washington’s carbon emissions, while excluding government agencies and tribal nations. It introduces new requirements for tax exemption applications and post-construction documentation for facilities requiring federal regulatory commission certification, including community workforce or project labor agreements, compliance with labor standards, and consultation with the Department of Labor and Industries to confirm wage, apprenticeship, and labor law compliance, and allows for extended project completion deadlines specifically for those facilities. The bill also exempts the tax preferences from certain performance review provisions.

Renewable Energy Taxation and Siting: [House Bill 1960](#), sponsored by Rep. Alex Ramel (D-Bellingham), establishes a new state excise tax framework for large wind, solar, and battery storage facilities that replaces the existing renewable energy excise regime and property tax treatment, paired with optional local excise taxes, property tax exemptions for renewable energy personal property, a local community investment account with matching grants for jurisdictions hosting projects, tribal capacity grants funded in part from climate policy accounts, and minimum siting and wind facility decommissioning standards that counties and cities must meet to qualify for grant funding.

Coal Plant Greenhouse Gas and Tax Regulation: [House Bill 2367](#), sponsored by Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon (D-West Seattle), would end special greenhouse gas protections and coal sales and use tax exemptions for a specific coal-fired power plant, bringing its post-2025 emissions under the state cap-and-invest program and allowing additional state or local greenhouse gas requirements after 2025.

Finance

Affordable Housing Revenue Flexibility: [Senate Bill 6027](#), sponsored by Sen. Emily Alvarado (D-West Seattle), expands eligible uses of sales and use tax authority and local state credit sales and use tax to include operations, maintenance, and rehabilitation of existing affordable and supportive housing, and revises document recording fee distributions and eligible activities to

prioritize households below 30% of area median income while directing Commerce to maintain stability for existing permanent supportive housing projects.

Tax Increment Financing Revisions: [House Bill 2451](#), sponsored by Rep. Davina Duerr (D-Bothell), addresses special district concerns while maintaining and tightening the tax increment financing (TIF) tool. The bill is the result of a stakeholder workgroup convened by AWC last year to discuss how TIF works, what the impacts are, and potential revisions to the tool. It makes multiple changes to local TIF rules to clarify project eligibility, require mitigation for affected taxing districts, restructure revenue apportionment, and limit the use of the mandatory multifamily property tax exemption in increment areas taking effect on or after June 2, 2026. The bill applies its changes prospectively, so existing increment areas are not modified.

Senior and Disabled Property Tax Relief and State Levy Consolidation: [Senate Bill 6162](#), sponsored by Sen. Deborah Krishnadasan (D-Gig Harbor), expands senior, disabled, and veteran property tax exemptions and deferrals by raising benefit tiers, redefining income eligibility with a standard deduction and rental income exclusions, and tying thresholds to higher percentages of county median income, while consolidating the state school property tax into a single “state school levy” that is subject to regular levy growth limits beginning with taxes levied for collection in 2028.

Fire Service

Wildfire Alleviation Support Funding: [House Bill 2089](#), sponsored by Rep. Shaun Scott (D-43rd LD) and titled the “Wildfire Alleviation Support Act,” modifies Washington’s business and occupation tax treatment of certain mortgage interest by redefining when interest earned by high volume mortgage lenders is taxed, with the additional general fund revenue annually transferred into the state’s wildfire response, forest restoration, and community resilience account to restore and support ongoing preparedness, mitigation, and community resilience activities beginning July 1, 2026. The bill responds to a reduction in the previously planned biennial investment in the wildfire response account by directing the Department of Revenue to estimate the increased general fund revenue attributable to the revised tax structure by October 15, 2027, and annually thereafter, and requiring the State Treasurer to transfer that amount to the wildfire response, forest restoration, and community resilience account by November 1 each year.

Wildland Firefighting Aviation: [House Bill 2104](#), sponsored by Rep. Tom Dent (R-13th LD) and Rep. Larry Springer (D-Kirkland), makes permanent the state’s aviation assurance funding program for wildland fire response, converting a successful pilot into an ongoing mechanism to support local firefighting aviation resources. The bill removes the prior sunset and affirms continued financial support through the Department of Natural Resources for local and tribal suppression efforts using aviation assets under trained air operations commanders, solidifying the program as a standing component of the state’s wildland fire strategy.

Ambulance Personnel Requirements: [House Bill 2110](#), sponsored by Rep. Joe Schmick (R-9th LD), allows qualified registered nurses, even without EMT certification, to staff interfacility

specialty care ambulance transports under specified conditions when paramedics or nurse-EMTs are unavailable, clarifying definitions of interfacility and specialty care transports to better address workforce shortages and providing that the sending hospital must coordinate with the ambulance service to ensure the nurse is familiar with the ambulance's equipment and supplies before participating in a transport.

Fire Sprinkler Enforcement: [House Bill 2472](#), sponsored by Rep. Dan Bronoske (D-Lakewood), enhances enforcement of existing fire protection sprinkler licensing laws by authorizing investigations, stop work orders, documentation checks, payroll record reviews, and safety-based system replacement determinations to ensure only properly licensed contractors and certified fitters perform sprinkler work, including residential systems, and requiring contractors and fitters to provide proof of licensure or certification upon request from a fire code official.

EMT Recertification Intervals: [House Bill 2540](#), sponsored by Rep. Dan Bronoske (D-Lakewood), extends the recertification period for emergency medical technicians from three to six years for practitioners who have been certified in Washington for at least ten years, while retaining the three-year interval as the standard requirement for all others.

Wildfire Home Hardening in Common Interest Communities: [Senate Bill 6054](#), sponsored by Sen. Victoria Hunt (D-Issaquah), prohibits homeowner and condominium association governing documents from unreasonably restricting an owner's installation, use, or maintenance of qualified fire-hardened building materials that meet specified wildfire safety standards, including ignition-resistant construction under the International Wildland Urban Interface Code, relevant NFPA wildland construction standards, or Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety wildfire-prepared home criteria. Associations may adopt reasonable aesthetic or design regulations regarding the design, dimensions, placement, or appearance of these materials as long as such rules do not make their use impractical or significantly increase their cost compared to alternative fire-hardened materials, and the bill clarifies that owners do not gain any right to construct on property owned by others, on leased property without lessor permission, or in common areas. Any conflicting existing provisions are rendered unenforceable until the bill's sunset on January 1, 2028.

Housing Affordability

Social Housing Framework: [House Bill 1687](#), sponsored by Rep. Julia Reed (D-36th LD), amends Washington's housing cooperation statute to explicitly recognize social housing public development authorities (SHPDAs) and social housing within existing authority for state and local government support of housing projects. The bill defines "social housing" as subsidized and cross-subsidized rental housing available to households of any income level, publicly owned in perpetuity by a social housing developer, and adds related income and cross-subsidization definitions. SHPDAs are treated as housing authorities for cooperation purposes, allowing state public bodies to aid SHPDAs on the same basis as traditional housing authorities, including conveying or leasing property, providing adjacent public facilities and services, purchasing bonds or other obligations, entering into long-term agreements, making payments in lieu of taxes or no payments, and lending or donating money and support to boards of commissioners.

Key provisions include the introduction of cross-subsidization, where rents from high-income households offset lower rents for low- and moderate-income households, and streamlined procedural requirements for state public bodies to authorize housing-related actions.

Religious Organization Affordable Housing Density Bonuses: [House Bill 1859](#), sponsored by Rep. Osman Salahuddin (D-Redmond), modifies the current requirement that cities and counties must grant increased residential density for affordable housing developments on property owned or controlled by religious organizations by lowering the affordability set-aside threshold from 100% of units to either 50% of units to be affordable to low-income households or 20% of units to be affordable to very low-income households, and clarifies that affordability is based on monthly housing costs not exceeding 30% of a qualifying household's income. The bill also requires local jurisdictions to develop policies to implement these density bonus provisions upon request from a religious organization and allows them to require higher affordability set-asides as a condition of receiving the increased density bonus.

Homeless Youth Advisory Committee Membership: [Senate Bill 5957](#), sponsored by Sen. Tina Orwall (D-Des Moines), expands and diversifies the Office of Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection Programs advisory committee by specifying broader representation, clarifying appointment and staffing roles, and allowing young adult members who turn 25 to complete their terms, thereby strengthening the committee's capacity to advise on funding, policy, and practice to reduce youth homelessness.

Condominium Warranty Changes: [House Bill 2304](#), sponsored by Rep. Jamila Taylor (D-Federal Way), expands the types of small condominium buildings that can substitute insured express warranties for statutory implied warranties of quality by allowing this option for buildings with up to twelve units and four or fewer stories.

Nonprofit Housing Property Tax Exemptions Alignment: [House Bill 2610](#), sponsored by Rep. Chipalo Street (D-Seattle), revises property tax exemptions for nonprofit homeownership and affordable housing by aligning them with general nonprofit standards, clarifying exclusive-use requirements, and coordinating expiration dates through 2038.

Eviction Notice Service: [House Bill 2664](#), sponsored by Rep. April Connors (R-Kennewick), standardizes service of eviction and related notices by eliminating the certified mail requirement, directing mailed notices to the tenant's place of residence rather than their last known address, and clarifying that service by mail is complete when the notice is deposited in the U.S. mail from within Washington state, properly addressed with postage prepaid.

Flood Risk Disclosures for Rentals: [Senate Bill 6237](#), sponsored by Sen. Jessica Bateman (D-Olympia), expands landlord duties under the Residential Landlord-Tenant Act by requiring, for residential leases entered into after December 31, 2026, disclosure that a property may be located in a special flood hazard area or area of potential flooding, that the landlord's insurance does not cover loss of the tenant's personal possessions and that tenants should consider renter's and flood insurance, and that information about hazards affecting the property, including potential flood risk, is available from the county government in which the property is

located, and makes conforming renumbering changes to existing landlord duties without otherwise altering them.

Human Resources

Employee Information Sharing Expansion: [House Bill 2091](#), sponsored by Rep. Julia Reed (D-Seattle), expands the requirement to provide employee contact information to unions from a limited set of higher education institutions to all public employers covered under the state employee collective bargaining statute, standardizing disclosure obligations statewide by eliminating the prior limitation that applied only to certain four-year universities so that all employers subject to the chapter must provide specified employee information to exclusive bargaining representatives upon request; the bill also temporarily limits employer liability for failing to provide required information when an employer is unable to do so due to limitations of its current technological systems until the state's One Washington human resources Phase 2 subproject is completed and fully implemented.

Workers' Compensation Rate Transparency: [Senate Bill 6136](#), sponsored by Senator Curtis King (R-Yakima), requires the Department of Labor and Industries to publish actuarially indicated workers' compensation premium rates and disclose any director-imposed limitations that cause cross-subsidization among risk classes. The bills also require this information to be posted online and transmitted to legislative committees and the workers' compensation advisory committee to support more informed oversight of the program.

Workers' Compensation Medical Access and Claims Management: [Senate Bill 5847](#), sponsored by Sen. Rebecca Saldaña (D-Seattle), expands injured workers' access to workers' compensation medical treatment and provider choice, eases access to nonnetwork providers when network access fails, tightens utilization review timelines, and authorizes additional claims managers to reduce caseloads and improve claim oversight. The bill also clarifies employer conduct standards around provider coercion, updates treatment duration and post-closure care rules including ongoing monitoring for accepted cancer conditions, modernizes provider network guidelines and appeal rights, and phases in these changes across all claims regardless of injury date through staggered effective dates.

Voluntary Layoff Unemployment Eligibility: [House Bill 2264](#), sponsored by Rep. Liz Berry (D-Seattle), clarifies that employees who volunteer for employer-initiated layoffs or reductions in force under a written workforce reduction plan are treated as unemployed through no fault of their own and may receive unemployment benefits if separated on or after June 14, 2026. The bill limits eligibility to situations meeting specified written notice and volunteer criteria, excluding early retirement or separation incentive programs that do not follow the formal reduction plan framework, while allowing employers to let workers rescind a volunteer offer without jeopardizing eligibility as long as the core conditions are met.

Mandatory Microchip Ban: [House Bill 2303](#), sponsored by Rep. Brianna Thomas (D-West Seattle), prohibits employers from requesting, requiring, or coercing employees or job applicants to receive an implanted microchip and establishes a private right of action for

violations. The bill adds a new section to employment law to regulate the use of implanted microchips in the workplace and authorizes courts to award injunctive relief, actual and punitive damages, and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs to aggrieved employees.

Paid Family and Medical Leave Premium Allocation: [House Bill 2345](#), sponsored by Rep. Suzanne Schmidt (R-Spokane Valley), adjusts how paid family and medical leave premiums are split between employers and employees by reversing which portions of the premiums may be deducted from employee wages so that employers may now deduct up to the full amount of the required medical leave premium from employee wages and redefining the maximum employee-deductible share of the family leave premium through a new cross-referenced formula designed to keep the overall employer-employee split of the total premium unchanged, while leaving unchanged the overall premium rate structure and the ability of employers to cover part or all of the employee share.

PTSD Workers' Compensation Pilot and Behavioral Health Grants: [House Bill 2405](#), sponsored by Rep. Suzanne Schmidt (R-Spokane Valley), expands workers' compensation law by authorizing Labor and Industries to fund workplace behavioral health initiatives for trauma-exposed occupations and establishing a time-limited PTSD pilot program that provides pre-adjudication and limited post-closure treatment while easing administrative burdens and protecting certain treatment records from disclosure. House Bill 2405 further specifies use of existing Safety and Health Investment Project return-to-work funds for behavioral health workplace grants and clarifies how nonnetwork providers may deliver short-term PTSD care within the pilot.

Electronic Labor & Industries Communications Modernization: [Senate Bill 6039](#), sponsored by Sen. Curtis King (R-Yakima), authorizes the Department of Labor & Industries and related entities to use trackable electronic or nonelectronic methods for notices, standardizes deadlines when service is electronic versus nonelectronic, and modernizes notice requirements for workplace safety rulemaking.

Expanded Shared Leave Protections: [House Bill 2411](#), sponsored by Rep. Osman Salahuddin (D-Redmond), expands the state employee shared leave program to cover hate crime victims and absences related to immigration enforcement actions involving employees or their families, with confidentiality protections for immigration-related verification and updates to the definitions of eligible family members and victims.

LEOFF Survivor Medical Benefits: [House Bill 2441](#), sponsored by Representative Sam Low (R-Lake Stevens), expands and clarifies that surviving spouses, domestic partners, and dependent children of LEOFF members killed in the course of employment are entitled to reimbursement of medical and Medicare Part A and Part B premiums, including coverage for premiums paid while a line-of-duty determination is pending and retroactive reimbursement for eligible premiums paid after June 10, 2010.

Wage Complaint Enforcement Discretion: [Senate Bill 6058](#), sponsored by Sen. Rebecca Saldaña (D-Seattle), aligns and modernizes the Department of Labor and Industries' wage enforcement

authority by broadening recoverable “wages” to “amounts,” capping administrative recoveries to three years, adding interest and penalties through a clearer administrative order framework, and making complaint investigations discretionary under a publicly documented prioritization process tied to complaint acceptance and clarified tolling of limitation periods.

Wage Recovery Program: [House Bill 2479](#), sponsored by Rep. Mary Fosse (D-Everett), revises wage complaint enforcement by changing the Department of Labor and Industries’ obligation from investigating all wage complaints to investigating complaints consistent with a publicly available prioritization process, expanding its authority to initiate and consolidate investigations, increasing and indexing civil penalties for wage violations beginning in 2030, and redirecting collected penalties into a new wage recovery account funded by civil penalties under wage and transportation network company statutes. The bill also creates a wage recovery program that can advance up to 85% of anticipated unpaid wages, capped at \$2,500 per employee, to qualifying low-wage workers beginning the later of July 1, 2028, or when the wage recovery account reaches \$130,000, and requires a long-term program and fiscal review by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee; the bill repeals the existing statute addressing mandatory civil penalties for repeat willful violators and, under a new penalty framework, narrows penalty waivers while directing the Department to adopt a penalty matrix with enhanced penalties for repeat willful and other repeat violators.

Expanding Public Sector Employment Eligibility: [Senate Bill 5068](#), sponsored by Sen. John Lovick (D-44th LD), seeks to expand eligibility for certain public safety and prosecutorial positions in Washington state to all individuals legally authorized to work in the United States under federal law. The bill revises several sections of state law to ensure that roles in prosecuting attorneys’ offices and corrections officer positions in state correctional facilities and local jails are accessible to a broader pool of candidates, provided they meet federal work authorization requirements, while preserving existing citizenship, lawful permanent residence, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals standards for peace officer positions. It maintains existing qualifications, such as language proficiency and suitability for specific roles, while requiring compliance with federal regulations, including verification of work authorization, and specifies that these standards must be applied consistently with federal law and may not be used to bypass federal employment verification requirements; it also clarifies that certain weapons prohibitions based solely on immigration status cannot, by themselves, be used to deny or revoke certification where federal law would otherwise allow lawful possession in an official capacity. The bill applies its new work-authorization requirements retroactively to individuals employed on and after the act’s effective date and takes effect immediately upon enactment as an emergency measure.

PFML Premium Rate Methodology: [Senate Bill 5292](#), sponsored by Sen. Steve Conway (D-Tacoma), replaces the current formula-based approach to calculating Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) premiums with actuarially determined rates aimed at ensuring long-term solvency and establishing a four-month reserve by the end of 2030, without changing the existing statutory cap of 1.2% on the total premium rate and with the changes taking effect January 1, 2028.

Retirement Benefits Adjustment: [Senate Bill 5862](#), sponsored by Sen. Perry Dozier (R-16th LD), provides a one-time 3% cost-of-living increase, capped at \$110 per month, to beneficiaries of Teachers' Retirement System Plan 1 and Public Employees' Retirement System Plan 1 who are receiving a monthly benefit on July 1, 2025, with the act taking effect July 1, 2026 and the increase effective that same date.

Unemployment Reporting Amendments: [Senate Bill 5874](#), sponsored by Sen. Drew MacEwen (R-35th LD), modernizes unemployment insurance tax and wage reporting penalty provisions by standardizing how monetary amounts and percentages are expressed in statute and expanding the Employment Security Department commissioner's authority to waive penalties for minor or insignificant reporting errors, including inadvertent errors caused by software failures to correctly produce required job classification information. The bill clarifies that employers are subject to penalties for missing standard occupational classification or job title data only when they knowingly fail to report that information.

Layoff Notice Requirements and Tribal Exemption: [Senate Bill 6106](#), sponsored by Sen. Annette Cleveland (D-Vancouver), exempts Indian tribes from state layoff-notice requirements by excluding them from the definition of "employer" under the Securing Timely Notification and Benefits for Laid-Off Employees Act, and creates a new public records exemption shielding employee names and addresses submitted to the Employment Security Department for layoff notifications from disclosure. The bill also clarifies that written layoff notices must be provided to both the Employment Security Department and the affected employees or, if applicable, their bargaining representative, and that the names and addresses of employees in a mass layoff or business closure notice are required only in notices sent to the department and, if applicable, the employees' bargaining representative.

Land Use/Permitting

Factory Built Housing Standards Modernization: [House Bill 2151](#), sponsored by Rep. Deb Manjarrez (R-Wapato), aligns factory built housing and commercial structure rules with updated international building, mechanical, and plumbing codes, clarifies approval and oversight of nongovernmental qualified inspection agencies, and exempts certain utility-owned prefabricated energy and electrical enclosures from state approval when tightly controlled by the utility and not used for occupancy.

Scissor Stair Code Study: Substitute [House Bill 2228](#), sponsored by Rep. Janice Zahn (D-Mercer Island), temporarily directs the State Building Code Council to convene a technical advisory group to recommend 2027 code changes allowing scissor stairs in multi-unit, primarily permanent residential occupancies.

Permitting of STEP (Shelter, Transitional Housing, Emergency Housing, and Permanent Supportive Housing): [House Bill 2266](#), sponsored by Rep. Strom Peterson (D-Edmonds), standardizes statewide zoning and permitting rules to require most cities and counties planning under the Growth Management Act to allow transitional and permanent supportive housing in any urban growth area zones where residential dwelling units or hotels are allowed, and to allow indoor emergency shelters and indoor emergency housing in any urban growth area

zones where hotels are allowed, while limiting local development, operating, and permitting standards for these uses to those that are no more restrictive than those applied to comparable lodging or residential development in the same zone. It also allows cities to impose additional operational requirements when a jurisdiction contributes general fund dollars or public land to a project.

Residential Required to Be Allowed in Commercial Zones: [Senate Bill 6026](#), sponsored by Sen. Emily Alvarado (D-West Seattle), is Governor-request legislation that requires jurisdictions with a population of 30,000 or more that plan under the Growth Management Act, and counties that plan under the Act and are not rural counties, to allow residential uses in most commercial and mixed-use zones and limits a city or county's ability to require ground-floor commercial. Under the latest version, a jurisdiction generally cannot impose ground-floor commercial or mixed-use requirements in more than 40% of the total area zoned for commercial or mixed use (with specified exceptions, including industrial areas, certain historic and Main Street areas, business improvement areas, and additional allowances in station areas and higher-height zones) and may not impose such requirements on publicly subsidized affordable housing projects; covered cities and counties must also provide an administrative process for applicants to seek reductions or waivers of ground-floor commercial or retail requirements, while grandfathering any jurisdiction that has a process already in place. Local governments have 18 months after the bill's effective date to adopt required ordinances and, if they do not, the state standards automatically preempt conflicting local regulations; they are not obligated to update growth and development assumptions until their first comprehensive plan update after January 1, 2031.

Sound Transit Permitting Streamlining: [Senate Bill 6309](#), sponsored by Sen. Marko Liias (D-Lynnwood), makes changes to local permitting, land use, and subdivision requirements for regional transit authorities, including Sound Transit, to expedite project delivery and reduce project costs. The bills allow earlier permit applications and exemptions for partial parcel acquisitions needed for transit facilities. The bills also clarify that local governments must accept land use, construction, or technical permit applications from a regional transit authority for projects on property the authority does not yet own, while requiring the authority to independently secure necessary property rights or permissions before proceeding with permitted work.

Elevator Safety Standards: [Senate Bill 5156](#), sponsored by Sen. Jesse Salomon (D-32nd LD), directs the State Building Code Council to adopt standards in the 2027 technical codes that will allow cities and counties to permit smaller passenger elevators in small apartment buildings, defined as buildings with up to six stories and no more than 24 units. The bill requires the State Building Code Council to adopt new rules ensuring that all passenger elevators in these buildings are minimally sized to meet federal accessibility requirements, while convening an expert technical advisory group to review hoistway opening protection and two-way visual emergency communication requirements and evaluate elevator safety and cost standards for small apartment buildings and to align state policy with national and international model code and competitiveness efforts.

Kit Home Building Codes: [Senate Bill 5552](#), sponsored by Sen. Jeff Wilson (R-19th LD), establishes a new category of building codes for “kit homes” to promote affordable introductory housing in Washington State. The bill defines kit homes as prefabricated residential structures of 800 square feet or smaller, comprised of prefabricated walls, floors, and roofs that are assembled on-site, and directs the State Building Code Council to perform rulemaking on the state building codes applicable to kit homes and to update those provisions over time, with rulemaking to be completed no later than March 31, 2027.

Miscellaneous

Derelict Vessel Management: [House Bill 2199](#), sponsored by Rep. Adison Richards (D-Gig Harbor), amends procedures for managing and disposing of derelict and abandoned vessels by updating and expanding the definition of a derelict vessel, including allowing a vessel to be classified as derelict if it has been in violation of state registration requirements for at least two full annual registration periods, and by removing ownership status and owner control as conditions for classifying a vessel as derelict.

Statewide Food Security Strategy: [House Bill 2238](#), sponsored by Rep. Kristine Reeves (D-Federal Way), modifies the Department of Agriculture’s responsibilities to monitor food system performance, coordinate statewide food security efforts, and lead a time-limited, multiagency planning effort to end hunger, reduce diet-related health disparities, and improve agricultural viability and supply chain resilience through 2028. The department must submit the finalized statewide food security strategy to the appropriate legislative committees by December 1, 2027, and, beginning June 30, 2030, must report to the Legislature at least once every four years on the competitiveness of Washington’s agricultural regulatory landscape, including metrics that monitor and quantify regulatory costs imposed by the state on fuel, packaging, and labor.

Restrictive Real Estate Agreements: [House Bill 2294](#), sponsored by Rep. Darya Farivar (D-Seattle), prohibits most new private real estate agreements that restrict otherwise-allowed use of property for grocery stores or pharmacies, declares such restrictions void as against public policy, and treats entering into or maintaining such agreements as unlawful practices. The bill provides limited exceptions for preexisting agreements, certain relocation arrangements within specified distance and time limits that may be extended by local governments for good cause, and specified retail center covenants that lose enforceability if the use is discontinued beyond a set period, while authorizing enforcement by local governments and the Attorney General and requiring parties entering covered agreements to provide notice to the Attorney General and the relevant local government within ten days.

Commercial Truck Safety and Education Council: [House Bill 2410](#), sponsored by Rep. Jake Fey (D-Tacoma), creates the Washington State Commercial Truck Safety and Education Council within the Washington Traffic Safety Commission to address rising large-truck collisions and support coordinated public-private safety, training, and education initiatives, funded in part by increasing the commercial vehicle safety enforcement fee from \$16 to \$32 and directing a

share of the revenue to a new commercial truck safety and education account overseen by the council.

Behavioral Health Training in the Trades: [House Bill 2492](#), sponsored by Rep. Greg Nance (D-Bainbridge Island), adds optional behavioral health and wellness content to existing continuing education requirements for plumbers and electricians and creates a mandatory behavioral health and wellness training component in all state-approved building and construction apprenticeships.

Community Reinvestment Governance and Planning: [House Bill 2523](#), sponsored by Rep. Kristine Reeves (D-Federal Way), revises Washington’s community reinvestment framework to add long-term planning, outcome reporting, and independent evaluation for funding targeted to communities disproportionately harmed by past drug laws.

Alien Terminology Replacement: [House Bill 2632](#), sponsored by Rep. My-Linh Thai (D-Bellevue), standardizes state law by defining “noncitizen,” replacing existing references to “alien” and related terms across multiple statutory titles without changing eligibility rules or program structures, and authorizing expedited rulemaking to implement those technical language updates. The bill also directs that, beginning July 1, 2026, new state and local enactments use “noncitizen” or another context-appropriate term instead of “alien,” unless federal law or funding conditions require the term “alien.”

Rural County Eligibility Expansion: [Senate Bill 6149](#), sponsored by Sen. Jeff Wilson (R-Longview), broadens the definition of “rural county” used for Community Economic Revitalization Board programs and the rural county public facilities sales and use tax by allowing eligibility for counties that either have a population density below 100 persons per square mile, have a population density of 100 persons per square mile or greater but no city larger than 45,000 people, or are smaller than 225 square miles.

Procurement

Small Works Roster Expansion: [House Bill 2420](#), sponsored by Rep. Janice Zahn (D-Bellevue), incrementally raises the maximum contract amount eligible for small works roster procurement, allowing the limit to increase from \$350,000 to \$650,000 over a phased period while clarifying that the thresholds are based on estimated cost not including sales tax and retaining existing documentation, direct contracting, and public access provisions.

Public Works Independent Contractors: [Senate Bill 6302](#), sponsored by Sen. Steve Conway (D-Tacoma), creates a mandatory Department of Labor & Industries misclassification investigation process for certain finishing-trade independent contractors on public works projects by requiring the department to investigate potential misclassification when a contractor or subcontractor uses three or more independent contractors to perform the same type of covered finishing work—defined as drywall, flooring, tiling, painting, and glazier and glasswork—simultaneously on a public works project, upon referral from specified public entities, contractors or subcontractors on the project, labor organizations representing covered workers, or affected individuals performing covered finishing work, and, if misclassification is

found, to apply all applicable prevailing wage requirements, liabilities, and penalties and refer the matter for appropriate industrial insurance and unemployment insurance actions.

Public Safety (Police and Corrections)

AI-Generated Child Sexual Exploitation Depictions: [Senate Bill 5105](#), sponsored by Senator Tina Orwall (D-Des Moines), expands existing child sexual exploitation crimes to clearly cover AI-generated and other digitally fabricated depictions of minors in sexually explicit conduct, including images where the minor is not identifiable but the material is obscene.

Transgender Jail Searches: [House Bill 1604](#), sponsored by Rep. Osman Salahuddin (D-48th LD), establishes specific statewide standards and procedures for searches and physical examinations of transgender, intersex, and gender nonconforming individuals in local jails and aligns related strip search laws with these requirements. Local jails are required to develop policies that comply with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and include training for staff to ensure searches are conducted respectfully and in the least intrusive manner consistent with security needs. Key provisions include prohibiting searches solely to determine genital status, allowing individuals to choose the gender of the staff conducting strip searches or have them conducted by a medical professional, clarifying that lack of available trained female staff is not an exigent circumstance justifying cross-gender searches, and ensuring privacy protections during searches and daily activities such as showering, toileting, and changing clothes.

Attorney General Investigators: [House Bill 2156](#), sponsored by Rep. Edwin Obras (D-33rd LD), authorizes specially trained Attorney General's Office investigators who handle economic and financial crime investigations to be designated as limited authority Washington peace officers for narrowly defined economic and financial crime investigations, while explicitly denying them detention, arrest, or firearms authority, limiting their search warrant authority to electronic service on businesses after judicial approval, prohibiting them from physically serving search warrants for business records, and preserving existing law enforcement powers.

Attorney General Civil Investigative Demands: [Senate Bill 5925](#), sponsored by Sen. Drew Hansen (D-Bainbridge Island), authorizes the Attorney General to issue civil investigative demands for specified civil rights, labor, and law enforcement oversight investigations, with confidentiality protections, judicial review, and limits to civil, noncriminal matters. The bill further narrows use by excluding federal agencies and the Attorney General's criminal justice division, and adds a four-year legislative reporting requirement on how the civil investigative demand authority is used.

False Identification as Peace Officers: [House Bill 2165](#), sponsored by Rep. Edwin Obras (D-SeaTac), is Governor-request legislation that creates a new gross misdemeanor offense for falsely identifying as a peace officer and removes peace officer impersonation from the existing criminal impersonation statute.

Law Enforcement Facial Covering Restrictions: [Senate Bill 5855](#), sponsored by Sen. Javier Valdez (D-Seattle), prohibits law enforcement officers from wearing facial coverings while interacting with the public in the performance of their duties, while allowing limited exceptions

for officers working as undercover operatives or as part of a special weapons and tactics (SWAT) team, and establishes a civil cause of action for individuals detained in violation of these requirements. The bill also clarifies that personal protective equipment required or authorized under federal or state workplace safety rules, helmets used on certain vehicles, and religious head or face coverings are not subject to the ban.

Digital Firearm Manufacturing Restrictions: [House Bill 2320](#), sponsored by Rep. Osman Salahuddin (D-Redmond), expands Washington’s regulation of ghost guns by defining digital firearm manufacturing code and three-dimensional printers, expressly covering 3D printing and CNC milling within existing prohibitions on manufacturing untraceable and certain prohibited firearms and components. The bill further restricts who may possess, distribute, or use firearm-related digital design files and equipment.

Blue Envelope Program: [House Bill 2323](#), sponsored by Rep. Carolyn Eslick (R-Sultan), creates a voluntary “blue envelope program” to support safer traffic-stop interactions by providing drivers and passengers with disabilities or conditions that may affect interactions, including neurodiverse individuals, with a distinct envelope containing key documents, safety tips, and communication guidance for law enforcement. The program requires the Department of Licensing, in collaboration with stakeholders, to make blue envelopes available free of charge at driver licensing offices and to maintain program information on an existing website.

Automated License Plate Privacy Regulations: [Senate Bill 6002](#), sponsored by Sen. Yasmin Trudeau (D-Tacoma), establishes comprehensive limits on when agencies may use automated license plate reader (ALPR) systems, including exempting ALPR data from public records disclosure and tightly limiting authorized uses, retention, sharing, and enforcement to protect driver privacy. The bill clarifies that existing automated traffic safety, school bus, and toll camera systems that do not interface with ALPR beyond their current statutory purposes are excluded from the new rules, restricts agencies from using ALPR systems except in specified circumstances such as investigations involving stolen vehicles, missing or endangered persons, persons with felony or gross misdemeanor warrants, vehicles related to felonies or gross misdemeanors, commercial vehicle enforcement, and parking enforcement, and generally limits data retention to 21 days except in certain circumstances. The bill also prohibits specified surveillance practices and collection in sensitive locations, requires agencies to register ALPR systems with the Attorney General, adopt policies consistent with model policies to be developed by 2027, conduct annual audits, and provide public reporting and oversight, with violations subject to gross misdemeanor penalties and civil remedies, including treatment as unfair trade practices under the consumer protection act and inadmissibility of unlawfully obtained ALPR data in court.

Police Use of Force Investigations: [House Bill 2508](#), sponsored by Rep. Debra Entenman (D-Kent), broadens and clarifies the Office of Independent Investigations’ jurisdiction over police use-of-force deaths and in-custody death cases, strengthens its authority over scene control and access to records (including certain fire and ambulance records, subject to consent or court order where they contain health care information), and narrows certain definitional

references. The bill makes Office of Independent Investigations investigative records confidential until referral to a prosecutor for a charging decision and limits disclosure of certain non-investigative records to protect personal privacy through new exemptions under the Public Records Act.

Wrongful Conviction Compensation Expansion: [Senate Bill 5520](#), sponsored by Sen. Tina Orwall (D-Des Moines), broadens eligibility for wrongful conviction claims by tying compensation to an “actually innocent” standard based on a preponderance of the evidence, clarifies key definitions including “actually innocent,” “significant new exculpatory information,” and “wrongly convicted,” restructures filing and merits standards, increases and clarifies compensation and attorney fee provisions by setting attorneys’ fees at 10% of a claimant’s confinement- and community-custody-related monetary damages and capping fees and expenses at \$75,000, extends the statute of limitations and notice-related filing windows, authorizes structured settlements, and expands educational and reentry benefits and tuition waivers for exonerated individuals and their families.

DUI Toxicology Testing: [Senate Bill 5880](#), sponsored by Sen. Keith Wagoner (R-39th LD), expands who may conduct DUI toxicology testing by authorizing ISO/IEC 17025-accredited forensic toxicology laboratories to perform blood analyses as an alternative to individuals permitted by the state toxicologist, while retaining the toxicologist’s authority to approve testing methods and issue individual permits; the bill also clarifies that local governments may, but have no duty to, accept private donations to fund such analysis and includes delayed transition language with one section expiring June 30, 2027, and a successor section taking effect on that date to align with future statutory updates, and requires cities and counties that choose to use private laboratories for analysis of evidence previously submitted to the state toxicological laboratory to reimburse the Washington State Patrol for the cost of returning the evidence and prohibits the laboratory from releasing evidence unless a contract governing the release is in place, and further requires cities and counties that use private laboratories for blood analysis to contract with those laboratories in advance and mandates that such contracts include provisions for free, timely defense interviews with laboratory personnel, which may be conducted remotely, and acceptance by the laboratory of electronic service of pleadings, discovery, and subpoenas.

Law Enforcement Qualifications: [Senate Bill 5974](#), sponsored by Sen. John Lovick (D-Mill Creek), modernizes eligibility, certification, background investigation, and accountability standards for sheriffs, police chiefs, town marshals, and sheriff candidates, and regulates the use of volunteers, youth cadets, specially commissioned officers, and deputized process servers by law enforcement agencies in cities, code cities, and counties. The bill restores the right of officers, their attorneys, or representatives to review and copy confidential records held by the Criminal Justice Training Commission, updates eligibility and background check rules for sheriffs, police chiefs, and marshals by clarifying that non-vacated gross misdemeanors can disqualify candidates while vacated gross misdemeanors do not, adding experience and grandfathering provisions, requiring state and federal criminal history checks, and authorizing the Washington State Patrol to treat sheriff candidates as peace officer certification applicants to accelerate fingerprint-based eligibility verification processes. The changes specify that

decertification or failure to meet eligibility requirements creates a vacancy in office for sheriffs, police chiefs, and marshals, adjust volunteer firearm restrictions for qualified retired officers, permit fixed cameras in facilities, allow limited supervisor data sharing, clarify that specially commissioned peace officers are not subject to volunteer limits and that deputized process servers may only perform non-law-enforcement-authority tasks unless they are certified peace officers, require sheriff, police chief, and marshal candidates to undergo a pre-appointment background investigation equivalent to peace officer certification standards, with an attestation of eligibility and suitability submitted to the Commission before appointment, and prohibit volunteers and youth cadets who are not fully trained and certified peace officers from exercising core law enforcement powers, including pursuits, arrests, use of force, carrying weapons, certain surveillance activities beyond fixed internal cameras, use of tracking or apprehension dogs, and immigration enforcement.

Transportation and Traffic Safety

Transit Lane Access: [House Bill 1980](#), sponsored by Rep. Janice Zahn (D-41st LD), allows private employer transportation services to use certain business access and transit-only lanes in counties with populations over 2,000,000 under a fee-for-use, two-year pilot permit system initiated before 2035, contingent on public transportation provider approval and performance standards to protect transit operations. The bill requires public transportation providers, in consultation with local authorities and representatives of one or more labor organizations representing transit employees, to establish operational performance measures for affected lanes, jointly prepare annual performance reports with labor input, and revoke permits if those standards are not met, with permit revenues first covering local administrative costs and any remaining revenues supplementing rather than replacing existing funding for transit-only lane maintenance and improvements.

Crash Prevention Zones: [Senate Bill 6066](#), sponsored by Sen. Nikki Torres (R-Pasco), authorizes and defines “crash prevention zones,” adjusts related enforcement, and links fine revenue to targeted safety improvements. The bill allows the creation of crash prevention zones on specified high-collision segments of US 395 and SR 12 prior to January 1, 2029, and beginning in 2029 authorizes counties, cities, towns, and the Washington State Department of Transportation to designate additional zones on high-collision road segments, require public hearings and engineering and traffic investigations to identify safety improvements (including potential speed limit changes), and direct increased law enforcement presence within the zones. Monetary penalties for personal electronic device violations and automated camera-based speed violations committed within crash prevention zones may be doubled, with resulting revenues dedicated to zone-related engineering and traffic investigations, signage, and safety improvements, including deposits to local crash prevention zone accounts and, for certain state-established zones, the highway safety fund. The bill also authorizes the use of automated traffic safety cameras for speed enforcement in crash prevention zones and requires that any remaining camera revenue after program costs be spent only on safety purposes within the zone.

Traffic Fatality Review Confidentiality and Data Access: [House Bill 2192](#), sponsored by

Representative Sam Low (R-Lake Stevens), expands the Washington Traffic Safety Commission's role as a public health authority by authorizing confidential traffic fatality review committees, protecting related crash and health data from public disclosure, and enabling broader access to law enforcement, licensing, and medical records to analyze serious and fatal collisions and recommend safety improvements, while shifting detailed review and confidentiality functions from the Cooper Jones Active Transportation Safety Council to the commission.

Electric Motorcycle Regulations: [Senate Bill 6110](#), sponsored by Sen. Sharon Shewmake (D-Bellingham), clarifies that high-speed or easily modified electric bicycles are treated as motorcycles rather than electric-assisted bicycles, and establishes a temporary work group process to develop a new statutory framework for electric motorcycles, including enforcement tools and potential penalties related to youth operation and deceptive marketing or tampering, while also directing the work group to assess the regulatory landscape for other micromobility devices such as electric unicycles, scooters, and tricycles. An emergency clause allows the work group section of the bill to take effect immediately, with an interim report due by December 15, 2026, and a final recommendation, including any draft legislation, due by October 31, 2027.

Utilities

Industrial Symbiosis Incentives: [House Bill 1302](#), sponsored by Rep. Julio Cortes (D-38th LD), allows local utilities to waive or delay utility connection charges for organizations practicing industrial symbiosis, defined as collaboration among businesses or organizations to exchange materials, energy, water, and byproducts to optimize resource use and achieve measurable reductions in resource consumption or greenhouse gas emissions while supporting sustainable development and long-term community benefits. The bill requires that waived charges be covered by general funds or other revenue sources and mandates repayment if the property no longer qualifies.

Clean Energy Compliance Expansion: [Senate Bill 5982](#), sponsored by Sen. Victoria Hunt (D-Issaquah), broadens the Clean Energy Transformation Act to cover ports and nonresidential electricity consumers that self-generate or procure power outside traditional utilities, requiring affected market customers to report their retail electric load and comply with clean energy standards enforced by the Utilities and Transportation Commission. Senate Bill 5982 additionally directs the Department of Commerce to tailor reporting for port districts and phases in enhanced contract disclosure requirements for consumer-owned utilities starting in 2026, with later timelines for port districts.

Energy Reporting Requirements: [House Bill 2575](#), sponsored by Rep. Zach Hall (D-Issaquah), reduces utility and energy strategy reporting requirements by shifting qualifying utilities' renewable portfolio compliance reports to the Department of Commerce from annual to biennial, lengthening state energy strategy reporting intervals, and eliminating multiple heat-related utility disconnection and energy planning-related reporting obligations while retaining underlying customer protections and disconnection rules, and adds nonbinding encouragement for utilities to use savings from the reduced reporting requirements to support low-income energy assistance programs.

Fish Barrier Coordination: [Senate Bill 5690](#), sponsored by Sen. Drew MacEwen (R-35th LD), directs the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to adopt and maintain policies to proactively coordinate with utility owners and to maximize federal funding for utility relocation in state highway fish barrier removal projects. The bill requires WSDOT to provide utility owners with information about planned state highway fish barrier removal projects, with at least one year of advance notice where feasible, and to adopt agency procedures to ensure this coordination consistent with applicable federal rules and regulations. Additionally, WSDOT is directed to adopt policies aimed at maximizing the amount of federal funding available for fish barrier removal projects where such funding can also be used for utility relocation costs, whether incurred by WSDOT or by utilities, and is encouraged to deposit eligible federal awards into the multimodal transportation account and report recommendations to the Legislature and the Office of Financial Management on changes that would improve access to federal funding.

Utility Procurement Streamlining: [Senate Bill 6076](#), sponsored by Sen. Keith Goehner (R-Dryden), streamlines procurement processes for public utility districts and other consumer-owned utilities to more quickly procure and construct clean energy generation, storage, transmission, and distribution projects through 2045. The bill raises competitive bidding thresholds for specified clean energy projects to \$500,000, authorizes an intermediate quotation-based procurement pathway for certain mid-range purchases, clarifies that bids must be awarded to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, increases from 15% to 25% the maximum amount by which an awarded contract may exceed the estimated cost, and adds temporary exemptions allowing a municipality's governing body to waive competitive bidding for proprietary or specialized technologies needed to meet reliability standards or for projects that are common facilities.

On-site Sewage Inspections: [Senate Bill 6291](#), sponsored by Sen. Liz Lovelett (D-Anacortes), extends from two to four years the period during which noncertified individuals may review designs and conduct inspections of on-site wastewater treatment systems under the supervision of a certified individual, while leaving all other qualification and oversight requirements unchanged.



Washington final supplemental budgets FY 2025-27: Selected impacts on cities

For more information, please visit the fiscal.wa.gov website for legislative budget proposals and the Office of Financial Management website at ofm.wa.gov for the Governor's proposed budget.

	Final 2025-27 Budget	Final passed Supplemental 2025-27 budget
Operating budget – Shared revenues		
Liquor profits (Liquor Revolving Account)	\$98.9 million	No change
Liquor taxes (Liquor Excise Tax Account)	\$88 million	No change.
Cannabis Excise Tax	\$44.2 million	Reduces by \$5.1 million.
Municipal Criminal Justice Assistance Account	\$60.3 million \$266,000 for reimbursement for mandatory arrest for repeat offenders.	No change.
City-County Assistance Account (6050)	\$43.8 million	Adds \$1.3 million.
Fire Insurance Premium Tax	\$16.9 million	Adds \$1.6 million.
Local Government Fiscal Health (SB 6346)		Intent to transfer \$200 million from general fund to new account beginning in 2027-29 for local impacts of millionaire tax (SB 6346).
Operating budget – Programs		
General Government		
Pensions	- Select Committee on Pension Policy to study implications of possible Plans 1 merger (as suggested by SB 5085) or LEOFF 1 restatement (as suggested by HB 2034). Report by January 9, 2026. - Pension rates adjusted to take into account SB 5357. New employer rates: - PERS 5.38% - PSERS 6.91% - LEOFF 2 employer rate: 5.32%	- Transfers \$880 million from pension funding stabilization account to budget stabilization account by Jun 30, 2029 (HB 2034). - Transfers \$539 million from Pension Surplus Holding Account to Climate Commitment Account in 2027-29.
PERS 1 COLA	No PERS 1 COLA included.	Adds \$10,000 for PERS plan 1 COLAs (SB 5862).

	Final 2025-27 Budget	Final passed Supplemental 2025-27 budget
Paid Family & Medical Leave Program	\$10.8 million for additional staff to process PFML customer and employer inquiries. \$8.9 million completing statutorily required PFML implementation. \$5 million to implement changes to PFML job protections.	Adds \$1.2 million to implement paid leave contributions (HB 2345).
Miscellaneous HR & labor provisions of interest	\$851,000 to implement restriction on including unnecessary driver requirements in job applications (SB 5501). \$852,000 to implement UI benefits for striking workers (SB 5041). \$102,000 to implement changes to public employee bargaining (SB 5503).	Adds \$19 million to support unemployment program due to projected federal revenue shortfall.
Municipal Research and Services Center	\$6.8 million	No change.
Municipal Revolving Account	Sweep of \$5 million from State Auditor municipal revolving account balance of local audit fees.	No change.
Elections	\$500,000 to UW to study local government compliance with voting and elections laws and recommend best practices.	No change.
Public Safety & Criminal Justice		
Training for law enforcement	- Funds 23 BLEA classes per year in 2026 and 2027, with two per year in each of four regional academies in Arlington, Pasco, Spokane, and Vancouver. Remaining classes in Burien. - Reinstates 25% local match for BLEA and basic corrections officer training programs.	No change.
Crisis intervention training	\$1.8 million for <i>Trueblood</i> phase 1-3 regions.	No change.
Co-responder team funding	\$5.2 million for cities/counties alternative response, including: \$4 million to AWC to provide funds to cities to create alternative response team programs around the state. \$1.2 million to support Whatcom County alternative response team.	- Reduced AWC alternative response grants by \$600,000. - Reduced Whatcom alternative response team by \$176,000.
Law enforcement behavioral health & suicide prevention program	\$5 million to the CJTC for officer wellness programs, including: \$3 million for grants to local law enforcement agencies for wellness programs. \$2 million for a wellness app.	No change.

	Final 2025-27 Budget	Final passed Supplemental 2025-27 budget
Public safety funding	\$100 million for public safety funding grants to support recruiting, hiring, retaining, and training officers and co-responders (HB 2015). \$635,000 to CJTC to administer grants.	No change.
Organized retail crime program		Adds \$500,000 for statewide organization to conduct a retail crime pilot program focused on diversion-oriented programs.
Auto theft prevention authority	Transfers \$1.8 million to general fund.	Transfers an additional \$2.1 million to general fund.
Drug & gang prevention	\$1 million grant program.	No change.
Impaired driver safety account	\$1.2 million	No change.
Small & rural court grants for increased security	\$1 million for grant matching funds to increase small rural court security.	No change.
Public defense grants	\$900,000 for grants to cities. - Additional \$2.7 million for public defense grants to cities.	Reduced public defense grants to cities by \$180,000 due to state budget drafting error.
Vacating & resentencing under <i>State v. Blake</i> decision & refunding LFOs	\$5.9 million to AOC to refund legal financial obligations vacated under <i>Blake</i> and an additional \$1.7 million for the activities of the AOC including contracting with cities and counties to disburse legal financial obligations. \$7.6 million to AOC to assist cities and counties with costs to comply with <i>Blake</i>. \$8.6 million to the Office of Public Defense to assist cities and counties with public defense services related to <i>Blake</i>, including SPAR grants.	No change.
Human Services		
Community Behavioral Health	Continued investments in the community behavioral health system, including: \$78.5 million for community treatment (PACT) teams. \$4.1 million for mental health services for mentally ill offenders in county or city jails and connection to services after release from confinement. \$38.1 million for clubhouse programs. \$17 million for substance use disorder peer support. \$61.2 million to support the housing needs of individuals with behavioral health disorders. \$9.5 million for health engagement hub pilot program sites (SB 5536). \$5.3 million to continue behavioral health street	Reduces investments in the community behavioral health system, including: \$5.7 million reduction for clubhouse programs. \$1.2 million reduction for health engagement hub pilot program sites (SB 5536). \$1 million reduction to distribution of naloxone to community health programs and community settings. - Adds Clallam County to street medicine team eligibility.

	Final 2025-27 Budget	Final passed Supplemental 2025-27 budget
	medicine teams for homeless individuals in Tacoma, Everett, and Spokane, plus King and Kitsap Counties. • \$6.9 million to expand distribution of naloxone to community health programs and other community settings.	
Forensic mental health	• \$18.3 million to phase-in <i>Trueblood</i> settlement competency evaluations, competency restoration, forensic navigators, crisis diversion and supports, education and training, and workforce development. • \$14.3 million to improve the timeliness of competency evaluations for individuals in local jails. • \$8 million, including \$7 million for <i>Trueblood</i> phase one and phase two regions. • \$10.3 million to expand efforts to provide opioid use disorder and alcohol use disorder medication in city, county, regional, and tribal jails.	\$1.3 million reduction for phase-in <i>Trueblood</i> settlement competency evaluations, competency restoration, forensic navigators, crisis diversion and supports, education and training, and workforce development.
Foundational public health	\$300.2 million	Adds language directing \$2.5 million of existing funding to maintain core infrastructure and staff.
Housing & Homelessness		
Housing and homelessness	• \$200 million for covenant homeownership program. • \$137 million for HEN program. • \$117.6 million for grants to local governments to maintain programs impacted by loss of document recording fees. • \$111 million for grants for local governments and NGOs for homeless housing programs and services. • \$90 million to transition those living in encampments to safer housing. • \$30.4 million for homeless families, youth prevention and diversion. • \$25 million for grants to support building operations, maintenance and service costs of permanent supportive housing projects. • \$22.5 million for housing assistance, including rental subsidies, permanent supportive housing, and low- and no-barrier housing beds for unhoused individuals. • \$6.5 million for Consolidated Homeless Grant Program. • \$1.2 million for foreclosure prevention assistance. • \$1 million for diversions services for those at risk of	• \$4.5 million reduction in permanent supportive housing for families that are chronically homeless with a disability. • Adds \$15 million for grants to permanent supportive housing providers for O&M. • Adds \$313,000 to support a task force to establish a state department of housing.

	Final 2025-27 Budget	Final passed Supplemental 2025-27 budget
	losing stable housing or are homeless that are determined to have a high probability of returning to stable housing.	
Land Use & Environment		
Stormwater nonpoint pollution	\$8.5 million for Ecology to address and mitigate 6PPD (tire chemical lethal to salmonids), including to identify effective management practices for stormwater treatment. Including: • \$4.4 million to identify effective best management practices to treat 6PPD in stormwater. • \$2.7 million to develop a strategy and recommendations to eliminate 6PPD in consumer products.	No change.
PFAS and water quality	• \$4 million to investigate and monitor sources and impacts of PFAS, including a study of how to manage discharges at municipal wastewater treatment facilities. • \$196,000 to implement SB 5033, required PFAS testing of biosolids.	No change.
Growth Management Act Planning Grants	• \$22.5 million for local government climate planning implementation. • \$18 million for updating comprehensive plans and development regulations to comply with the Growth Management Act. • \$3.8 million to support implementation of various land use bills (HB 1096 (lot splitting), HB 1183 (development regulations), HB 1491 (transit density), SB 5148 (housing element audits), SB 5509 (childcare zoning), SB 5559 (subdivision reform), & SB 5587 (housing gaps report & infill housing). • \$1.7 million to increase middle housing.	• Reduces 2027 GMA periodic update formula planning grants by \$2.9 million and repealed proviso allowing for a competitive grant cycle for unallocated funds. • Adds \$500,000 for grants to local government to update permit review processes.
Clean energy technologies	• \$5 million to support local governments in siting and permitting clean energy projects. • \$13 million to assist owners of public buildings conduct energy audits. • \$10 million to assist local governments, local organizations, and tribes to access federal tax incentives and grants.	• Reduces assistance to local governments, local organizations, and tribes to access federal tax incentives and grants by \$2.5 million. • Reduces assistance to owners of public buildings for conducting energy audits by \$1.6 million.
Climate mitigation and resiliency	\$1.9 million for coastal hazard monitoring and resilience, including grant technical assistance to local governments and tribes.	Adds \$10 million for community wildfire resilience per RCW 76.04.511(3)(c).

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Urban and Community Forest Grant Program	\$3 million.	No change.
Public Works & Infrastructure		
Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA)	\$288 million transfer from PWAA to state general fund in FY 2026. <i>See also PWAA under Capital Budget.</i>	Adds \$375 million transfer from PWAA to state general fund on June 30, 2027.
Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance	\$24 million for Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance grants.	No change.
Utility assistance	\$25 million for grant funding through existing network of federal low-income home energy assistance.	Adds \$30 million for grant funding through existing network of federal low-income home energy assistance.
Capital budget		
Public Works & Infrastructure		
Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA)	• \$365 million in new funding • \$468 million in new and existing diversions: - \$288 million to general fund (new) - \$114 million (\$57 million/year) transfer to general fund (temporary redirection of existing transfers to the Move Ahead WA Account). - \$41 million to Water Pollution Control Revolving Account. - \$25 million to Drinking Water Assistance Account. <i>See also PWAA under Operating Budget.</i>	Adds \$14.5 million • \$279.5 million in new bond revenue (backfilling sweeps) • \$10 million for emergency grants to local governments impacted by 2025 weather events. • \$381.9 in new diversions. - \$375 million transfer to general fund in FY 2027. - \$6.9 million transfer to Drinking Water Assistance Account. - Reduces existing diversion to Water Pollution Control Revolving Account to \$20.5 million <i>See also PWAA under Operating Budget.</i>
Stormwater Financial Assistance Program	\$60 million	No change.
Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction WWTP Grant Program	\$10 million	No change.
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program (DWSRF)	• \$120 million for water system infrastructure construction projects through DWSRF. • \$25 million for DWSRF state match dollars from PWAA.	Adds: • \$3 million for DWSRF preconstruction loans. • \$6.9 million for DWSRF state match dollars from PWAA.

	Final 2025-27 Budget	Final passed Supplemental 2025-27 budget
Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan Program	\$614 million: \$214 million federal \$400 million state \$41 million PWAA	No change.
Centennial Clean Water Grant Program	\$40 million	No change.
Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB)	\$81.3 million for CERB Capital Construction.	No change.
Broadband grants and loans	\$1.3 billion, including: \$114 million as match for Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment state grants program from IIJA. \$1.2 billion federal.	No change.
Regional Approaches Grant Program	\$2 million	No change.
Land Use & Environment		
Puget Sound Restoration and Salmon Recovery Grants	\$105 million for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRF) grants, plus an additional \$20 million for riparian area grants. \$60.5 million for Puget Sound acquisition and restorations. \$9.6 million for Washington Coastal Restoration & Recovery.	No change.
PFAS & Water Quality	\$14.5 million to address PFAS cleanup.	No change.
Remedial Action Grants	\$84.4 million	No change.
Urban and Community Forest Grant Program	\$6.2 million	Adds \$3 million.
Floodplains by Design Grant Program	\$75.7 million	No change.
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	\$4.3 million	No change.
Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program	\$120 million	No change.
Youth recreational facilities	\$7.6 million for specific projects.	No change.
Youth and community outdoor athletic facilities	\$19.8 million for specific projects.	No change.
Fish Barrier Removal Board	\$32.5 million to fund identified projects and agency administration.	No change.

	Final 2025-27 Budget	Final passed Supplemental 2025-27 budget
Air quality & greenhouse gas reduction	\$10.1 million for landfill methane capture grants. \$4.1 million for community participatory budgeting program for mitigating climate change impacts on overburdened communities.	No change.
Clean energy & climate resilience and mitigation	\$35 million for Weatherization Plus Health grants. \$26 million for Clean Energy Fund program. \$23 million for Community EV charging grants. \$20 million for Solar and Energy Storage grants. \$11 million for Energy Retrofits for Public Buildings grants. \$10 million for Clean Energy Community grants. \$5 million for Clean Buildings Performance grants. <i>Extended 2023-25 appropriation of clean energy retrofit dollars for grants (administered by AWC) for energy audits of city-owned tier 1 & 2 buildings into FY 2026.</i>	Adds \$11 million for Weatherization Plus Health grants.
Housing & Homelessness		
Housing Trust Fund	\$605 million, including: \$536 million for housing to benefit low-income and special needs populations, including permanent supportive housing, including: \$215 million multifamily rental housing. \$100 million for Apple Health & Homes. \$75 million for first-time low-income homeownership. \$62 million for identified projects. \$50 million for housing for those with developmental disabilities. \$50 million for affordable housing preservation. \$30 million for mobile home park preservation. \$10 million for rapid conversion or acquisition of housing to address extremely low-income and unhoused populations. \$5 million for farmworker housing. \$5 million for urgent repair grants.	Adds \$123 million, including: \$96 million, for housing to benefit low-income and special needs populations, including permanent supportive housing, including: - Reduction in Apple Health & Homes by \$57 million. \$55 million for first-time low-income homeownership. \$49 million for multifamily rental housing projects. \$40 million for affordable housing preservation. Projects impacted by December 2025 atmospheric river and winter weather event are eligible. \$8 million for farmworker housing. \$21 million for identified projects. \$5 million for urgent repair grants or risk mitigation for affordable housing.

	Final 2025-27 Budget	Final passed Supplemental 2025-27 budget
Additional investments in housing and shelters	• \$90 million for Connecting Housing to Infrastructure (CHIP) grants to local governments. • \$22 million for identified projects. • \$14.7 million for recovery residences grants. • \$9 million for youth shelters and housing. • \$8 million for identified transit-oriented housing projects. • \$5 million for low-income home rehabilitation grants.	• Adds proviso to allow CHIP to fund deferred loans. • Adds \$37 million for identified projects. • Adds \$17 million for grants and technical assistance for mobile home communities. • Adds \$5 million for projects impacted by December 2025 atmospheric river and winter weather event.
Human Services		
Behavioral Health Community Capacity	\$119.8 million, including: • \$70 million for competitive community behavioral health grants to address regional needs, including preventing closure of existing facilities, youth and adult bed capacity, facilities that serve specialized populations, and crisis relief centers. • \$49.8 million for 11 specific local crisis stabilization projects.	Reduced to \$74.3 million and allocated differently: • Reduces \$60 million from the competitive community behavioral health grants. • Adds \$14.5 million for 10 additional specific local crisis stabilization projects
Transportation budget		
WSDOT Local Programs Capital budget	\$962.7 million	\$180 million temporary diversion from existing legislative appropriations to local projects; assumes delay in delivery of projects.
Statutory transfers to local governments	• \$494 million • Additional \$36.2 million over next 3 biennia for city distribution of 6-cent increase to motor vehicle fuel tax.	Adds \$14.5 million.
Transportation Improvement Board (TIB)	\$310.8 million, including: • \$3.9 million to Small City Pavement and Sidewalk Program. • \$24.6 million for Complete Streets grants. • \$9.3 in preservation funding for cities. Legislature intends to provide an additional \$21 million in 2027-29 for the Complete Streets Program.	Adds \$15 million in assistance for cities recovering from 2025 weather events.
Recovery from 2025 weather events	-	See Transportation Improvement Board .
Safe Routes to Schools Grants	\$83.4 million	Adds \$34 million.
Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Programs & Grants	\$81.7 million	Adds \$33.4 million.

	Final 2025-27 Budget	Final passed Supplemental 2025-27 budget
Safety and Active Transportation	• \$33.2 million for the Sandy Williams Connecting Communities Pilot Program for projects to reconnect communities bifurcated by state highways. • \$500,000 for grants to local jurisdictions to implement network-wide traffic conflict screening programs.	Adds: • \$13.2 million for the Sandy Williams Connecting Communities Program. • \$500,000 for local jurisdictions to implement network-wide traffic conflict screening programs. • \$6.5 million for the Reducing Rural Roadway Departures Program, to which cities are now eligible to apply.
Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board	• \$44.2 million for FMSIB recommended projects. • \$35.5 million in federal funds for recommended local preservation projects.	Adds: • \$4.9 million for FMSIB recommended projects. • \$8 million in federal funds for recommended local preservation projects.
Fish passage	• Retains proviso language to coordinate with Fish Barrier Removal Board on watershed approach to include local culverts. • Includes language allowing partnerships to leverage state and local funds to match opportunity for federal funding under BIL.	No change.
Homeless encampments	\$9.2 million to address homeless encampments on WSDOT-owned rights-of-way in coordination with local governments and social service organizations to direct people to housing and prevent future encampments. • A minimum of \$2 million dedicated to litter removal. • \$1 million in coordination with the City of Spokane. • \$1 million for safety improvements and debris cleanup in Seattle. • \$1 million in coordination with the City of Tacoma. • \$1.2 million to contract with the City of Fife. <i>See also Housing and Homelessness in Operating budget</i>	No change.
Rural mobility grant	\$32.2 million	No change.
Alternative fuel and electric vehicle infrastructure	• \$25 million for clean alternative fuel vehicle charging and refueling infrastructure program. • \$3.5 million for an e-bike lending library and ownership program offering competitive grants.	No change.
Federal fund exchange pilot program	\$17.5 million for a federal fund exchange pilot program of Transportation Block Grant population funding and state funds at an exchange rate of 95 cents in state funds per \$1 in federal funds.	No change.

	Final 2025-27 Budget	Final passed Supplemental 2025-27 budget
Studies	• \$250,000 to update the 2013 memorandum of understanding between AWC and WSDOT for the construction, operations and maintenance responsibilities for city streets as part of state highways. • \$140,000 for the JTC to update the 2019 assessment of city transportation funding needs. • \$200,000 for the JTC to study alternative new methods for local governments to fund sidewalk improvements.	No change.
FHA bridge load rating	\$5 million for the County Road Administration Board to provide grant dollars to counties and cities for the costs associated with obtaining a new federal highway administration load rating.	No change.



City of Longview
2026 End of Session Legislative Report
March 27, 2026

Dear City of Longview,

It was a pleasure to advocate on behalf of the City of Longview throughout the 2026 Washington State legislative session.

The 2026 session marked the second year of the 2025–27 biennium and was largely defined by the Legislature’s responsibility to adopt supplemental operating, capital, and transportation budgets. Similar to previous years, this proved to be a challenging task. Lawmakers entered the short, 60-day session confronting a projected multi-billion-dollar budget gap driven by rising maintenance-level costs, caseload growth, inflationary pressures, and new obligations from recent policy expansions, even as revenue growth remained modest.

In response, the Legislature focused heavily on budget-balancing strategies, including targeted spending reductions, use of reserves, and adjustments to the tax code. A significant portion of the session was devoted to debates over tax fairness and affordability. Lawmakers also grappled with the downstream fiscal impacts of recent federal actions, as well as ongoing needs related to infrastructure, disaster response, housing affordability, and public safety.

Despite these headwinds, we were successful in advancing several priorities important to the City of Longview, including securing \$155,000 for a new fire station alerting system and the passage of Senator J. Wilson’s bill, SB 6179, which expands the definition of “rural county” for the purpose of public facilities funding. Just as importantly, we worked to ensure the City’s perspective was well understood by legislators as they weighed difficult tradeoffs in an election-year environment.

With session now adjourned, legislators will turn their attention to the November 2026 elections, with all House seats and approximately half of the Senate on the ballot. This political dynamic will shape both the interim and the policy landscape heading into next year.

Looking ahead, the 2027 legislative session will be a 105-day session and the first year of the 2027–29 biennium. The Legislature will shift its focus to developing full biennial budgets and considering more expansive policy proposals. In an evolving fiscal and political climate, consistent, strategic advocacy will be essential. I look forward to continuing to work with the City of Longview during the interim to advance its priorities, strengthen legislative relationships, and ensure we are well-positioned for the 2027 session.

Thank you,

Emily Shay, State Lobbyist
Gordon Thomas Honeywell Government Relations

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A. Session Overview

The 2026 legislative session convened on January 12 and adjourned on schedule on March 12. During the 60-day short session, lawmakers focused on two primary responsibilities: adopting biennial operating, capital, and transportation budgets, and debating and advancing legislation.

From a city perspective, the results of the 2026 Session show there is still significant room for progress. During the session, the Legislature:

- Continued its pattern of passing land-use mandates without attached funding. However, in refining several proposals, lawmakers incorporated more city input than they have in recent years.
- Declined to offer broad financial support for cities facing budget pressures, though it did pass a modest fiscal-flexibility measure ([House Bill 2442](#)) that introduces a few new revenue options that may help a small number of municipalities.
- Preserved most, though not all, state accounts that share funds with cities, but did not fully compensate for the expected financial losses that will occur once tax exemptions tied to the millionaire's tax go into effect.

The session was largely defined by Democrats' push to overhaul the state's tax structure. That effort culminated in final legislative approval of [Senate Bill 6346](#), which imposes a new 9.9% tax on household income above \$1 million. The bill passed the Senate late on the final night of the session and now heads to Governor Ferguson, who has indicated he will sign it. Supporters argued the measure begins to address Washington's long-standing reliance on regressive revenue sources, while Republicans warned it could open the door to broader income taxation.

Democratic leaders also advanced a slate of bills aimed at insulating the state from shifting federal policies. Lawmakers approved measures restricting the release of voter data, prohibiting law enforcement officers from concealing their identities while performing official duties, and anchoring vaccine guidance to state-level health authorities rather than federal directives. Party leaders described these actions as necessary to protect civil rights and public health.

In total, legislators introduced 1,238 bills during the session and enacted 268 into law.

Despite declaring the short session largely successful, Democratic leaders acknowledged that several major issues remain unresolved and are likely to resurface next year. These include regulating data centers more comprehensively, managing rising legal costs facing the state, stabilizing funding for public defense, revisiting public school funding, and securing long-term funding for ferry construction.

For Republicans, the session was largely defined by opposition. With limited leverage as the minority party, lawmakers relied heavily on procedural tactics and amendment strategies to slow or challenge Democratic priorities. That approach was most visible during the marathon House debate over the income tax bill, which stretched more than 24 hours and ranked among the longest floor debates in state history.

B. Legislative Agenda Items

With great effort from Longview and the 19th Legislative Delegation, many of city's legislative priorities were accomplished this session. Below is a recap of the outcome of each priority.

Fire Department Security and Response Efficiency Project – Alerting System

To enhance emergency preparedness and public safety, Longview sought \$150,000 in Capital Budget funding for a new alerting system for the fire station.

City officials and GTH-GOV met with legislators and budget leaders before the legislative session to emphasize the ongoing importance of the project for both the local community and the surrounding regions that rely on the Fire Station for emergency services. Despite facing tough choices across all three budgets, the capital budget remained stable, which enabled continued support for this project.

GTH-Gov and city staff prepared and submitted the necessary budget request forms to both the House and Senate. Representative McEntire championed the project in the House, while Senator Wilson sponsored it in the Senate. GTH-GOV maintained consistent communication with the 19th Legislative Delegation before and during the legislative session to ensure sustained support for the project. The House capital budget proposals included \$155,000 for the Fire Station Generator project. During final budget negotiations, GTH-Gov continued to engage with the 19th Legislative Delegation to reinforce the importance of securing the project's funding.

Ultimately, the final budget allocates \$155,000 for the Fire Station Alerting System project!

Fire Station 81 & 82 Fencing & Gates

To complete funding for modern fencing and automate gates at Fire Station 81 & 82, Longview submitted a \$100,000 Capital Budget request. The additional funding would ensure the station remains operational 24/7 and ensure our firefighters return to reliable, immediately deployable equipment.

A detailed funding request was submitted during the interim, supported by ongoing communication with Longview's legislative delegation. Throughout the session, the advocacy team emphasized the importance of protecting critical infrastructure and improving operational efficiency.

Despite strong legislative engagement, the request was not included in either the House or Senate proposals, largely due to an overwhelming volume of competing requests. However, the Legislature's two-year budget cycle creates a clear path for reintroducing the project during the 2027 budget session. The groundwork laid this year will position the proposal for stronger consideration next cycle.

John Null Park

One of Longview's top legislative priorities during the 2026 session was securing funding for John Null Park. The \$850,000 request would have replaced 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.

At the start of the session period, staff submitted an official capital request, stressing both the necessary repairs for the project and its high demand. During the session, the advocacy team worked closely with budget writers and the 19th delegation.

Although the project received widespread support, it was not included in either chamber's budget. The Supplemental Capital Budget is usually more restricted than the biennial budget, meaning higher demand and fewer available resources. Ultimately, the Capital Budget allocated less than \$1 million for local community projects throughout the entire 19th Legislative District. However, the attention and progress achieved this year have laid a strong groundwork for the 2027 budget session.

GTH-GOV team will continue working closely with Senator Wilson and other legislative partners to refine the proposal and re-engage with the new Capital Budget leadership early in the next cycle. The 19th Legislative Delegation remains committed to supporting continued regional outreach and support for the project.

Policy Priorities

Public Safety & Justice

In recent years, legislative discussions have often been dominated by public safety issues. While the topic received considerable rhetorical attention during this session, relatively few significant policy changes were enacted.

Two bills passed this session with notable implications for public safety. The first, [Senate Bill 5974](#), establishes minimum qualifications for elected sheriffs creating background check requirements. The second, [Senate Bill 6002](#), regulates the use of automated license plate reader (ALPR) cameras, often referred to as “Flock cameras,” which are increasingly used by local law enforcement agencies to investigate and prevent crime.

The Legislature also monitored—but did not take action on—the implementation of [House Bill 2015](#), adopted last year. That law created a \$100 million grant program and authorized a councilmanic sales tax to support local public safety investments. Several jurisdictions have expressed concern that the eligibility criteria and certification requirements established by the Criminal Justice Training Commission have been burdensome and difficult to meet, limiting access to the funding. Approximately one month into the legislative session, the Commission approved the first jurisdictions for certification under the program. Click [here](#) to view the CJTC program page.

In recent years, the Legislature has also considered proposals aimed at reducing the number of individuals entering the criminal justice system, including efforts to decriminalize certain offenses or modify detention standards. Several such proposals were introduced this session but did not ultimately pass into law. One worth mentioning is [House Bill 2389](#), which expands alternatives to confinement and adjusts sentencing rules for juvenile offenders.

Public Defense

Public defense remained one of the most unresolved pressures on local governments this year, driven largely by the Washington Supreme Court’s June 2025 order requiring a two-thirds

reduction in public-defender caseloads over the next decade. There were two bills introduced this session that aimed to reduce pressure on local governments. The first was [House Bill 2163/Senate Bill 5913](#), which would clarify that the Court’s 10-year phase-in takes precedence over the three-year timeline proposed by the Washington State Bar Association. Cities strongly supported this clarification, as the shorter timeline is widely viewed as unworkable given current workforce shortages and the absence of state funding. The second was [Senate Bill 5914](#), which restructured how the Office of Public Defense distributes state funding by moving to a pro rata formula tied to documented costs. The bills did not receive public hearings and did not make any progress this session.

In the final days before the first fiscal cutoff, [House Bill 1592](#), was unexpectedly scheduled for a public hearing. Originally introduced in 2025 and focused solely on counties, the bill was amended this year to create a city funding distribution based on misdemeanor case counts, eliminating the grant-application process. The bill also added new reporting requirements for the Office of Public Defense (OPD) and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to track caseloads, backlogs, and staffing needs. Despite the last-minute surge of attention, the bill did not pass.

Preserve & Expand Ground Emergency Medical Transport Funds

The Legislature preserved the Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) program for the 2026 fiscal year, maintaining full Medicaid reimbursement under [RCW 74.09.5223](#) and [WAC 182-546](#) with no reductions or policy changes, ensuring cities like Longview can continue relying on GEMT to offset rising ambulance and compliance costs.

Alternative Response & Behavioral Health Services

There continues to be bipartisan recognition that addressing behavioral health—both mental health and substance use—is essential to improving public safety. Consistent with recent budgets, the Legislature continued to make significant investments in the state’s behavioral health system, including:

- \$24 million for Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) teams to expand intensive, community-based services for individuals with serious behavioral health conditions.
- \$12 million for substance use disorder peer support services, increasing access to certified peer counselors and strengthening recovery-oriented care statewide.
- \$48 million to support the housing and stabilization needs of individuals with behavioral health disorders, including crisis response teams, supportive housing programs, recovery navigator services, stabilization teams, and other community-based interventions.

These investments reflect the Legislature’s ongoing shift toward a more community-based behavioral health system, reducing reliance on state hospitals and expanding local capacity for treatment, stabilization, and long-term recovery.

Fiscal Tools & Infrastructure

While the Legislature has been focused on establishing a more stable and progressive fiscal structure for the state budget, local government budgets have not received the same level of prioritization or attention.

During the first year of the legislative biennium, significant energy was invested in a proposal to lift the [1% property tax cap](#). However, at the very end of the legislative session, Governor Ferguson indicated that he was not interested in signing such a proposal into law. Instead, the Legislature approved a [councilmanic sales tax increase for public safety](#). This change makes the local tax code more regressive and more vulnerable to the ups and downs of economic downturns and broader fiscal uncertainty.

During the 2026 legislative session, the Legislature continued this trend by approving yet another councilmanic sales tax increase—this time for children, youth, and families (House Bill 2442).

Additionally, if the proposed millionaire's tax is upheld, several sales and use tax exemptions will take effect as the tax is implemented. While these exemptions are widely recognized as an opportunity to reduce cost burdens on low- and middle-income households, they will negatively impact local government revenues. The Legislature acknowledged this impact in a brief intent section that recognizes the potential reduction in local revenues and references \$200 million in mitigation funding in the four-year budget outlook. However, this amount would only partially offset the fiscal impacts of the proposal.

In the third and fourth quarters of 2026, cities will begin collecting sales tax revenues on services that became taxable under legislation enacted during the 2025 session. Many cities—though not all—will experience a modest increase in sales tax collections as a result. However, this revenue increase is temporary and will likely be repealed in 2029 if the millionaire's tax is upheld.

Local Infrastructure Investment

Local governments have the responsibility of constructing and maintaining infrastructure for public services like water, sewer, and stormwater. The state's primary method of supporting local governments with this obligation is through the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA). However, it is commonly an attractive option for operating budget writers to raid the PWAA when facing budget challenges. This year was no exception. The supplemental operating budget transfers \$375 million from the PWAA to the general fund, while the final capital budget provides an additional \$279.5 million in bond revenue to backfill the reduction. Combined with \$100 million in *existing* bond revenue backfill and \$10 million in new funding for emergency grants to public works projects impacted by extreme weather events in 2025, this gives the Public Works Board authority to award up to \$389.5 million in grants and loans for infrastructure projects in FY 2027. Overall, this results in an increase of \$14.5 million compared to the appropriations to the PWAA in the biennial budget. The capital budget also cuts in half an existing diversion from the PWAA to the Water Pollution Control Revolving Account, eliminating a \$20.5 million transfer that was scheduled for FY 2027.

As an alternative to the PWAA, legislators have proposed creating a Washington State Public Bank to lower the borrowing costs and provide financing for infrastructure and housing. [Senate Bill 5754](#) was originally introduced in the 2025 session and had a public hearing this session. However, the concept continues to lack the support needed to advance.

Public Works Self-Performance Authority

This year focused on identifying and advancing opportunities to enhance existing revenue tools, making them more adaptable and easier for local governments to implement. This includes exploring options to expand councilmanic authority and lifting restrictive caps so that city revenues can keep pace with inflation and evolving community needs:

[House Bill 2420](#), sponsored by Rep. Janice Zahn (D-Bellevue), incrementally raises the maximum contract amount eligible for small works roster procurement, allowing the limit to increase from \$350,000 to \$650,000 over a phased period while clarifying that the thresholds are based on estimated cost not including sales tax and retaining existing documentation, direct contracting, and public access provisions.

Private Business Contributions to Public Projects

The Legislature advanced one significant proposal in this area. [Senate Bill 5061](#) would have required annual adjustments to prevailing wage rates for most public works projects so that wages reflect updated statewide rates over the life of a contract rather than remaining fixed at execution. The bill included negotiated exemptions for small works roster projects and residential construction and preserved existing reclassification rules. It ultimately did not pass the legislature.

Improve Contracting, Bidding & Procurement

Efforts to modernize [RCW 39.04](#) and update local government contracting thresholds did not advance this session. However, the Legislature did pass [Senate Bill 6302](#), which establishes a mandatory Department of Labor & Industries investigation process for potential misclassification of independent contractors performing finishing-trade work on public works projects. Under the bill, L&I must investigate when a contractor or subcontractor uses three or more independent contractors simultaneously to perform the same type of covered finishing and apply all applicable prevailing wage requirements, liabilities, and penalties if misclassification is found.

Homelessness & Transparency

For the second consecutive session, lawmakers considered legislation that would have significantly limited cities' authority to regulate or remove individuals occupying public rights-of-way, including individuals experiencing homelessness who are living in encampments. [House Bill 2489](#) was approved by the House Housing Committee but did not advance further in the legislative process. Despite not passing, the proposal generated significant attention and opposition. Each year this policy is introduced and debated, it draws substantial interest from local governments, advocacy groups, and legislators due to its potential impact on cities' ability to manage public spaces and address encampments within the public right-of-way.

The Legislature has also continued to focus on the regulation and siting of “step housing” types, including shelters, transitional housing, emergency housing, and permanent supportive housing. In 2021, the Legislature adopted [House Bill 1220](#), which required cities to allow these housing types in areas where hotels are permitted. The bill was influenced in part by events in Renton, where a Red Lion hotel was converted into a shelter and generated significant public debate about public safety impacts. At the time, cities were allowed to adopt reasonable occupancy, spacing, and health and safety regulations. However, local regulations adopted across the state have varied widely, and in some cases have been written narrowly enough to effectively prevent shelters from locating in a community.

To address these concerns, the Legislature adopted [House Bill 2266](#) this session. The bill modifies existing law by requiring cities to allow permanent supportive housing and transitional housing in all residential zones and requiring shelters and emergency housing in all zones where hotels are allowed. It also narrows the types of spacing, occupancy, and health and safety regulations that cities may adopt. One notable provision allows cities to impose additional operational requirements when a jurisdiction contributes general fund dollars or public land to a project. Proponents believe the bill will create greater statewide consistency in how these housing types are regulated.

Housing & Growth

Local governments have consistently emphasized that meeting housing needs across all income levels will require significantly greater investment in housing serving households at 50% of area median income (AMI) or below.

The state’s primary tool for funding affordable housing production is the Housing Trust Fund. In his capital budget proposal, Governor Ferguson recommended investing \$275 million in the program—an unusually large investment for a supplemental budget year. While the Legislature did not fully fund the Governor’s proposal, it approved a substantial allocation to the program, reflecting continued legislative commitment to affordable housing development. Even with this investment, however, the Housing Trust Fund alone will not produce the level of housing needed for Washington State to meet its housing supply goals.

Several proposals were introduced this session that would have provided new local revenue options to support housing production. These included proposals to:

- Allow local governments to impose a tax on short-term rentals ([House Bill 2559](#))
- Authorize all jurisdictions to seek voter approval for an additional 0.25% real estate excise tax, similar to authority currently available to San Juan County ([House Bill 1480](#))
- Allow local governments to waive local sales and use taxes on affordable housing construction ([House Bill 1717](#))
- Modify existing incentives to support redevelopment of parking lots and underutilized sites into housing ([Senate Bill 5755](#))

While these proposals received legislative attention, none advanced during the short legislative session.

The Legislature did, however, provide additional flexibility in how existing housing-related revenues may be used. In recent years, lawmakers created two local-option sales tax tools to support housing investments:

- Establish a sales tax credit that cities can use to fund affordable housing ([House Bill 1406](#) from 2019)
- Authorize a local sales tax dedicated to housing and related services ([House Bill 1590](#) from 2020)

Both programs included restrictions on how revenues could be spent. This year, the Legislature approved [Senate Bill 6027](#) and [House Bill 2442](#), expanding flexibility by allowing these funds to be used for rental assistance, providing jurisdictions with additional tools to address housing affordability.

The Governor has also continued to advance his executive order establishing a Washington State Department of Housing. An advisory committee has been formed and has begun meeting to guide the development of the new agency, with the Association of Washington Cities serving as a participant. As part of this effort, a [survey](#) is currently being circulated to gather stakeholder input on the mission and role of the future agency. The survey includes several questions about how the agency should interact with cities in advancing housing policy, including topics related to land use and permit reform. Local governments are encouraged to participate and provide input.

Housing Development Barriers & Energy Code Flexibility

In addition to land use mandates, lawmakers have also focused on local permitting processes. In 2021, the Legislature adopted [Senate Bill 5290](#), establishing permit review timelines for local governments. While jurisdictions may set their own timelines, they must meet statutory performance requirements. The law also requires the Department of Commerce to study permitting timelines statewide. Commerce released its first report shortly before the start of the legislative session, establishing baseline data and indicating that permit review timelines vary widely among jurisdictions.

This session, the Legislature adopted [House Bill 2418](#), which makes modest changes to local permitting requirements, including clarifying when an application is considered complete and requiring jurisdictions to designate a permit review office or point of contact. Lawmakers also considered [Senate Bill 5729](#), which would have required cities to accept architectural or engineering plans approved by licensed professionals, but that proposal did not advance. Governor Ferguson and other stakeholders have indicated that additional permit reform will likely be pursued in future sessions as part of ongoing efforts to reduce housing development timelines and costs.

Energy Code Flexibility

The City of Longview continued to advocate for flexibility in the State Energy Code ([RCW 19.27A](#)) to reduce added construction costs that current standards impose on smaller and low-income homes. [House Bill 2486](#), sponsored by Rep. Andrew Engell, advanced this goal by limiting how much future energy code updates can increase costs for smaller residential

buildings and authorizing local officials to approve alternative, less costly designs, including prior-code standards, when full compliance is physically impossible or economically impractical. Unfortunately, this bill along with other legislation that would have modified the State Energy Code (RCW 19.27A) to not pass this year

Industrial Permitting Reform

The Governor continued to push for faster industrial permitting in 2026, emphasizing the need to accelerate project approvals for major manufacturing and clean-energy investments. The Legislature considered [Senate Bill 5968](#), a broad regulatory-efficiency bill that would have extended existing permitting-performance requirements to all regulatory credentials, created a statewide credential catalog, and required agencies with sufficient resources to meet standardized processing timelines or refund application fees when deadlines were missed. The bill codified the principles of Executive Order 25-03 and directed the Office for Regulatory Innovation and Assistance to publish annual statewide performance reports. The bill advanced through both chambers' policy and fiscal committees and passed the Senate 40–8, but ultimately did not pass the Legislature.

Preserve Manufactured Home Parks & Infill Incentives

The City of Longview continued to advocate for protections for manufactured housing communities ([RCW 59.20](#)) and for incentives that support infill housing on underutilized parking lots, both strategies aimed at expanding affordable housing options. A significant proposal that would have undermined these efforts, [House Bill 1443](#), returned from the 2025 session but again failed to advance following strong advocacy from cities. Sponsored by Rep. Mia Gregerson, the bill would have required cities to allow “homes on wheels”, including RVs, travel trailers, and tiny homes on wheels, on residential lots under specified conditions.

****Rural Designation Update****

The city supported and helped champion Senator Wilson's efforts to update the rural density definitions to ensure that mid-sized counties, like Longview, retain access to critical rural grant and financing tools. Throughout the legislative session, the City and GTH-GOV formally expressed their support for the legislation and actively facilitated its successful passage within the limited timeframe.

[Senate Bill 6149](#), which passed this year, expands eligibility for key rural economic development programs by broadening the definition of “rural county” used for Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) programs and the rural county public facilities sales and use tax. Under the bill, a county such as Cowlitz qualifies if it has a population density below 100 persons per square mile, has a density of 100 persons per square mile or greater, but no city has a population larger than 45,000 residents, or has a total land area smaller than 225 square miles. This bill will ensure cities like Longview remain eligible for critical rural grant programs.

Annexation Flexibility

Only one piece of legislation was introduced in 2026 to amend [RCW 35.13.182](#) or change the threshold for annexing fully surrounded unincorporated “islands.” Sponsored by Rep. Lisa Parshley (D-Olympia), [HB 2201](#) was introduced to ease tension in future annexation areas by

requiring county comprehensive plans and development regulations within urban growth areas (UGAs) to conform to those of the designated city, unless differences are legally required or mutually agreed upon. While it did not advance this legislative session past committee, the bill is laying the groundwork for a 2027 effort on annexation areas.

Stormwater Regulation Flexibility

The Legislature did not take action in 2026 on proposals to scale stormwater engineering and NPDES requirements to project size. No bills were introduced to amend [RCW 90.48](#) or adjust Ecology's stormwater standards, despite ongoing concerns that one-size-fits-all requirements add significant costs and delays to housing and infrastructure projects. Cities continue to advocate for streamlined, flexible approaches that maintain water quality while reducing unnecessary regulatory burden, but no legislative changes were adopted this session.

Governance & Liability

Over the last several years, there has been an increased willingness to preempt or narrow local decision-making authority in areas ranging from voting systems to land-use and governance structures. For many cities, a foundational belief is that the level of government closest to the people is best positioned to make responsive, community-specific decisions. That pattern continued for the 2026 Legislative Session, with the Legislature approving those proposals highlighted below, as well as several others highlighted in the "2026 Bills Impacting Cities" Attachment.

One of the measures was [House Bill 2034](#), which transfers the \$3.3 billion surplus from the LEOFF 1 account and creates a new LEOFF account funded at 110%. Senate amendments established a new Pension Surplus Holding Account, shifted oversight responsibilities to the LEOFF 2 Board, and directed studies on potential state assumption of local disability-board administration and retiree medical-care liabilities. While these studies signal growing interest in long-term structural changes, any action is unlikely before the 2028 reporting deadlines.

Alongside pension legislation, the Legislature approved two major voting-rights bills, [House Bill 1710](#) and [House Bill 1750](#), that together expand the Washington Voting Rights Act. House Bill 1710 requires jurisdictions with a voting-rights violation in the past 25 years to obtain authorization from the Attorney General before making changes to voting systems, district boundaries, or forms of government. House Bill 1750 broadens the definitions of voting-rights abridgement and dilution and limits the defenses jurisdictions may use to demonstrate compliance. Both bills reflect a statewide push to strengthen voting protections, though they also introduce new procedural and legal constraints for local governments.

Reduce City Liability & Vexatious Litigation

The 2026 session brought heightened attention to an increase in liability exposure for the state and local governments. After concerns from the Governor and legislators about the tens of millions spent annually on liability claims, Senator Manka Dhingra introduced [Senate Bill 6239](#) which would have required arbitration for tort claims against the state and its subdivisions. Originally, this was the only bill being considered on the topic but as the session progressed, the bill was watered down and eventually died after victim advocates expressed concerns with the delay of justice for those harmed by state or local governments. While no major reforms were

passed, the session marked a clear shift toward confronting the growing financial strain tort exposure places on both the state and local governments, setting the stage for deeper work in the next biennium.

To support that work, the final Operating budget directs the Office of Administrative Hearings to convene a committee to recommend changes to the process for claims against the state or its political subdivisions for damages arising out of tortious conduct. The committee will provide a report by November 1, 2026.

On the flip side of the issue, the Legislature considered several bills that would have increased liability exposure for governments. One example is [House Bill 2095](#), which would expand civil liability when vulnerable road users are struck by automobiles. Although intended to protect vulnerable road users, such as people walking in a crosswalk or riding bicycles in a lane, the bill would expand cities' exposure to potential damages and attorneys' fees even if no city driver or vehicle was involved.

During the legislative session, the City expressed concerns about expanding liability for municipalities in cases where collisions involved vulnerable users but no city vehicle or employee was involved. To address these worries, the City and GTH-GOV staff contacted bill sponsors, stakeholder groups, and the City's legislative delegation to push for amendments that would start by exempting critical emergency vehicles.

Specifically, we aimed to secure an emergency vehicle driver exemption. While the bill was being considered by the House Civil Rights and Judiciary Committee, Representative Walsh brought forward this amendment. It passed and was merged into the legislation, which included a non-exhaustive list of vehicles defined as "emergency vehicles."

The bill was ultimately stopped in the Senate and did not pass this year. However, the sponsor, Representative Reed, plans to introduce similar legislation next year.

Public Records Reform & Burden Reduction

The City has indicated support for proposals that reduce costs, specifically in the area of implementing public records acts. Many bills were introduced this year to address some of the concerns from cities. One was particularly noteworthy. [House Bill 2261](#), sponsored by Rep. Skyler Rude (R-16th LD), would have created a legislative task force to examine the impacts of frivolous requests, identify strategies for deterrence, review approaches other states use to mitigate the issue, and provide recommended solutions. None of them passed this year.

Privacy & Records Retention for Public Safety Cameras

One notable bill this year, [House Bill 2644](#), would have established a uniform statewide requirement for all law enforcement officers to use body-worn cameras during all law-enforcement encounters beginning July 1, 2027. The bill would have set statewide standards for activation, deactivation, storage, and retention of recordings. It also requires agencies to maintain recordings for at least 90 days, with longer retention for incidents involving the use of force, arrests, or complaints, and preempts conflicting local policies. The bill did not advance this session.



2025-27 Supplemental Budgets 2026 Legislative Session

Supplemental Budget Summaries

Operating Budget

The 2026 legislative session commenced with lawmakers confronting a persistent multi-year challenge - balancing the state's Operating Budget. Expenditures associated with state programs, many of which were expanded in recent years, continued to rise, while revenue growth softened. Additionally, changes to federal policies meant fewer resources were available for state services. The primary task of the short session was updating the 2025-27 biennial budget to account for these changes.

Although the February revenue forecast offered slightly improved expectations due to stronger-than-anticipated early collections from tax measures enacted in 2025, state economists cautioned that growth in K-12 education, health care, and long-term care costs continues to outpace projected revenues.

The supplemental operating budget authorizes an additional \$2.3 billion in spending, bringing the biennial budget to \$80.2 billion. To achieve a balanced Operating Budget, legislators relied on a combination of targeted program reductions, inter-account transfers, and new revenues generated by eliminating select tax preferences, including those affecting data centers, prescription drug wholesalers, and insurance carriers. The enacted budget uses \$880 million from the Budget Stabilization Account and transfers an additional \$375 million from the Public Works Assistance Account to the state general fund. It further assumes \$2.23 billion in new revenue over the four-year outlook from the recently adopted millionaire's tax and incorporates the fiscal impacts of repealing the estate-tax increase approved during the 2025 session. The Budget Stabilization Account is backfilled using funds from the LEOFF 1 retirement system. For a full list of account transfers and legislation impacting revenue, [click here](#).

Despite these adjustments, the state faces a projected \$878 million deficit in fiscal year 2027—a challenge for next year's legislature, pending updated revenue forecasts. This deficit would significantly expand if the millionaire's tax were invalidated by the courts or overturned by voters. The only reason the state is not required to have a four-year balanced budget is that it utilized the Budget Stabilization Account during this biennium, which temporarily exempts it from the statutory four-year balance requirement.

Local Government Fiscal Health

In the four-year outlook, the budget includes intent to transfer \$200 million from the state's general fund to a new account called Local Government Fiscal Health. The intent of this allocation is to help offset some of the local tax reductions from the implementation of the sales tax exemptions included in Senate Bill 6346, the millionaire's tax. The \$200 million would be shared between cities, counties and transit agencies.

Other notable expenditures in the supplemental operating budget include:

- Roughly \$1 billion to cover the state's self-insurance liability costs
- \$15 million for grants to permanent supportive housing providers for operations, maintenance and service costs
- \$25 million for Immigrant, Refugee, and New Arrival Supports
- \$18 million for state employee collective bargaining agreements
- \$82.4 million to the Disaster Response Account

To view the summary of expenditures and reductions included in the supplemental operating budget, [click here](#). To view the text of the supplemental budget, [click here](#).

Transportation Budget

Transportation Budget writers faced another challenging year in developing a balanced budget that meets the state's transportation needs now and into the future. In the 2025 session the Legislature adopted a 6-cent fuel tax increase and a variety of other fee increases. That resulted in an estimated \$4.4 billion increase for the next three biennia. However, in the last three revenue forecasts, that estimate has been lowered by \$843 million. In other words, 20% of the projected increase in resources from the 2025 session have been offset by decreases since then. The primary reason for the lower projection is declining fuel consumption. Fuel tax collections represent 40% of the total forecasted revenues, which limits overall available transportation resources.

In developing the supplemental transportation budget, the top priority for both parties and both chambers was increasing investments in preservation and maintenance of the state's highway system. Additionally, to provide clarity and certainty for long-term planning, the supplemental budget plans for the next 3-biennia, through 2031.

The supplemental budget appropriates \$16.6 billion, an increase of \$1.2 billion over the biennial budget. Of the total, \$10.2 billion (61%) is dedicated to capital projects and programs and \$6.4 billion (39%) to operating programs. The budget includes \$1.3 billion in new bond authority, sufficient to provide capacity for \$200 million in highway maintenance, \$1.3 billion in highway preservation and \$28 million in ferries preservation through the 2029-31 biennium. Click [here](#) to access Supplemental Transportation Budget documents.

Highway Preservation and Maintenance

For the current biennium, the supplemental budget allocates an additional \$40 million for the WSDOT Highway Maintenance Program, \$300 million for the Highway Preservation Program. In addition to these amounts, there is \$65 million in federal funding for state highway flood recovery

and \$45 million for local highway flood recovery (\$30 million for county and \$15 million for city). These funds are specified for transportation infrastructure damaged during the December 2025 weather events.

Ferries

The state's ferry system includes 20 marine terminals and 21 car and passenger ferries with an average age of over 33 years. The supplemental budget allocates an additional \$4 million for preservation of ferries in the current biennium and doubles that amount in each subsequent biennia, for a total of \$28 million over 6 years. The budget advances \$29 million of previously allocated Climate Commitment Act resources to complete the construction of new hybrid electric ferries, with the first ferry anticipated to be delivered by 2030.

In contrast to the Governor's budget which provided funding for three new ferries, the supplemental budget allocates \$750,000 to the Joint Transportation Committee to convene a work group to consider options for long-term, financially sustainable vessel preservation and replacement. The work group's initial report is due to the Governor and Legislature by December 15, 2026. The budget also includes \$500,000 for a feasibility study regarding the establishment of state owned or leased dry dock facilities which would enable WSDOT to control scheduling for maintenance of the ferry fleet.

Local Project Impacts

The supplemental budget makes relatively no new investments in capital projects at the state or local level. However, the budget includes intent to increase funding by \$107 million for the Regional Mobility Grant Program and the Rideshare Grant Program in the next two biennia. The application window for the Regional Mobility Grant Program is already open, and the signal of increased investment means there will be additional funding awarded in the upcoming cycle. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Regional Mobility Grant Program.

The final budget also incorporates the budgeting tool referred to as "resource smoothing" which assumes a \$180 million underspend of the Local Programs project list for the current biennium. This amount is invested elsewhere in the budget.

Traffic Safety & Enforcement

The biennial budget reduced funding for the WA State Patrol (WSP) due to staff vacancies and the supplemental budget restores \$2.7 million of that reduction. An additional \$11 million is provided to WSP for capital and operational improvements. Other traffic safety-related investments include:

- \$250,000 for WSDOT to develop an implementation plan for a new Megaproject Safety Program
- \$234,000 to report crash data and wrong-way driving violations at locations where wrong-way driving prevention strategies have been implemented
- Establishment of an older driver reduced fee identicard program for currently licensed drivers aged 70 years or older who wish to replace their driver's license with an identicard or an enhanced identicard

Looking Ahead

The supplemental budget makes relatively few changes to the underlying budget and signals intent to make more sweeping changes in the 2027-29 budget. Minimal funding is provided to complete studies and provide recommendations on a variety of issues, including:

- \$100,000 for the Joint Transportation Committee to facilitate review of the long-term financial sustainability of the transportation budget.
- \$640,000 for the Joint Transportation Committee to continue to oversee a Climate Emission Reduction Account investments tracking tool.
- \$400,000 for a report on the state's maintenance and preservation needs, including recommendations for a sustainable and integrated delivery plan and a public education program on investment needs and options.

Capital Budget

The state's Capital Budget funds infrastructure and building construction for state and local communities through direct appropriations and grant programs. A percentage of the operating budget is dedicated to paying bonds issued to fund the budget. Of the three budgets, revenues in the capital budget were the most stable although not as ample as in previous years when there was an influx of federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The 2026 supplemental capital budget relies on debt limit bond capacity, Climate Commitment Act (CCA) accounts, and minimal other cash resources.

The supplemental Capital Budget authorizes \$889 million in new expenditures for a total of \$8.5 billion over the 2025-27 biennium. To help balance the operating budget, the capital budget transferred roughly \$1 billion in cash resources typically dedicated to capital purposes. These resources included capital gains, public works and higher education building accounts, described in more detail below. To view the supplemental budget and the associated project lists and grant programs, [click here](#).

Notable investments in the final Capital Budget include:

- The operating budget utilized \$375 million of the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA) resources and the capital budget backfills the account with \$279.5 million of bond funding. There is \$100 million in existing bond backfill and the capital budget allocates \$10 million for emergency grants to local governments for public works projects impacted by the December 2025 flooding event. This brings the total amount of funding available in PWAA to \$389.5 million.
- An additional \$123 million in Housing Trust Fund investments which includes \$50 million for multifamily/rental units, \$40 million for preservation and \$55 million for homeownership.



City of Longview

Agenda Summary

SPECIAL PROPERTY USE TO ESTABLISH A DRIVING SCHOOL AT 1338 COMMERCE AVENUE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

HOLD THE PUBLIC HEARING AND MOTION TO APPROVE SPECIAL PROPERTY USE TO ESTABLISH A DRIVING SCHOOL AT 1338 COMMERCE AVE

COUNCIL STRATEGIC INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:

Strengthen economic conditions and create new opportunities

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Per LMC 19.44.020 Driving schools are allowed in the downtown district as special proper use (SPU) and are approved via a public hearing by city council with recommendation from planning commission.

The applicant at 1338 Commence Ave applied for business license to operate a driving school at the above address, which is allowed under special property use. At their April 1st meeting planning commission recommended approval of the special property use.

STAFF CONTACT:

Irene Rutikanga, Planner

Attachments:

1. 1338 Commerce Ave Driving School Staff Report
2. Exhibit A-Aerial Image
3. Exhibit B- Application



STAFF REPORT
to the
LONGVIEW APPEAL BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

PRESENTED BY: Irene Rutikanga, Planner

STAFF REPORT DATE: March 31st, 2026

HEARING DATE: April 9th, 2026

APPLICATION NO: SPU-3

APPLICANT: Three Rivers Driving School

PROPERTY OWNER: Caitlin Properties Inc

REQUEST: Special Property Use Permit (SPU) in accordance with LMC 19.44.020 for establishment of a driving school in the Downtown District (D-C) at 1338 Commerce Ave.

LOCATION: 1338 Commerce Ave. Parcel number involved: 00485.

ASSOCIATED CASES: N/A

ZONING DISTRICT: D-C Downtown Commerce

BACKGROUND AND PROPOSAL

The applicant three rivers driving school is proposing to establish a driving school on the property at 1338 Commerce Ave. The property is zoned Downtown Commercial (D-C) and driving schools are allowed in the D-C district through a special property use (SPU) per LMC 19.44.020. Per LMC 19.44.030 special property use in the downtown commerce district are granted by the city council, by conducting an open-record public hearing prior to their decision. With the planning commission making recommendations to the city council for the granting or denial of such permits.

The business will operate with office drop-in hours from 12:00pm to 5:00pm on weekdays and offer weekend visits by appointment. Student driving sessions will run from 3:00pm to 8:00pm, with one-hour drives using two vehicles, resulting in staggered parent drop-off and pick-up times at the top of each hour. Classes will be held from 6:00pm to 8:00pm in both virtual and limited in-person formats, with in-person attendance capped at 20 students, though demand is expected to be primarily virtual. No new signage will be added beyond inclusion on the building's existing directory. The facility includes a private parking lot with designated client and employee spaces, including two permits for school vehicles, with additional availability during evening hours when other businesses are closed. The program includes six total student drives using vehicles equipped with dual controls and additional mirrors for instructor visibility, and most routes are designed to take students out of the downtown area early in the lesson.

Neighboring land-uses include:

North – Commercial

South – Commercial

East – Commercial

West – Commercial

The Comprehensive Plan classification for the site is General Commercial.

In accordance with LMC §19.12.090(1), written notice of the public hearing for the Special Property Use Permit petition was mailed to the applicant and to the owners of all properties adjacent to or abutting this proposal.

The property was posted with a notice of public hearing announcing the proposed special property use application. Legal notice of the public hearing appeared in the Longview Daily News. No comments have been provided as of the date of this report.

SEPA DETERMINATION

Not required.

CRITICAL AREA ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

None.

APPLICABLE CODE SECTIONS

Section 19.44.030 the Longview Municipal Code (LMC) requires the issuance of a Special Property Use Permit by City Council with recommendation from planning commission.

“ In the downtown commerce district special property use permits are granted by the city council. Per LMC [2.03.060](#), the city council shall conduct an open-record public hearing prior to their decision. Per LMC [2.27.070](#), the planning commission shall make recommendations to the city council for the granting or denial of such permits”.

Furthermore, the criteria for review of a special use can be found in LMC 19.12.050(3):

“No such special property use permit shall be granted by the board unless it finds:

- (a) That the use for which such permit is sought will not be injurious to the neighborhood or otherwise detrimental to the public health, safety, morals and general welfare;*
- (b) In making such determination the board shall be guided by the following considerations and standards:*
 - (i) That the use will not be detrimental to the character and use of adjoining buildings and those in the vicinity,*
 - (ii) That the use will not create a hazard in the immediate area either for pedestrian or vehicular traffic,*
 - (iii) That adequate ingress and egress will be available for fire and other vehicular emergency equipment,*
 - (iv) That adequate off-street parking will be provided to prevent congestion of public streets”*

STAFF DISCUSSION

The City’s Community Development Department has reviewed the proposal for the establishment of a driving school at 1338 Commerce Ave. The property is zoned Downtown Commerce (D-C) and driving schools are allowed within the D-C zoning district as special property use. The driving school is proposed to be established in an existing building that comply with the D-C development standards.

STAFF ANALYSIS

In reviewing LMC §19.12.050, which contains the approval criteria for Special Property Use staff finds the following:

- (i) That the use will not be detrimental to the character and use of adjoining buildings and those in the vicinity.*

Driving Schools are allowed in the downtown commerce districts under a special property use. The driving school operations is relatively low impact, consisting primarily

of scheduled classes and individual driving sessions rather than high-volume or continuous traffic. Additionally, the driving school will be operating in an existing building that is consistent in character with the adjoining buildings in the downtown district.

- (ii) That the use will not create a hazard in the immediate area either for pedestrian or vehicular traffic.*

The proposed driving school is not expected to create a hazard for either pedestrian or vehicular traffic in the immediate area. Traffic associated with the use will be limited with only two instructional vehicles operating at a time and clearly scheduled one hour driving sessions. Pick-up and drop-off activity will be conducted in an organized manner at the top of each hour, reducing the likelihood of congestion vehicle movement.

The driving routes are designed to quickly direct students out of the downtown area, minimizing exposure to higher pedestrian zones. In addition, the use of private on-site parking lot allows for safe, off-street pick-up and drop-off, avoiding interference with public roadways or sidewalks.

- (iii) That adequate ingress and egress will be available for fire and other vehicular emergency equipment.*

Adequate ingress and egress is available for the fire department and emergency vehicles to access the building the driving school will be operating out of. The site has multiple point of access for emergency and fire to enter, exist and maneuver as needed. The site can be accessed by fire and emergency vehicles from Broadway st, 12th Avene and Commerce Ave.

- (iv) That adequate off-street parking will be provided to prevent congestion of public streets*

The building site includes a private parking lot with multiple rows of spaces, including designated areas for clients. The driving school will have two designated parking spaces within the lot. Classes will take place outside of normal business hours for the other offices in the building, so the parking lot should remain largely available for parents dropping off and picking up students. Additionally, per LMC 19.78.105, there is no minimum off-street parking requirement for the downtown commercial district.

LMC §19.12.050 also requires the Board to adopt the following finding if granting the Special Property Use Permit:

- (a) That the use for which such permit is sought will not be injurious to the neighborhood or otherwise detrimental to the public health, safety, morals and general welfare.*

The proposed driving school will not be injurious to the neighborhood or detrimental to public health, safety, morals, or general welfare. The use is low-impact, with scheduled classes and structured, one-on-one driving instruction rather than high-volume or disruptive activity. Operations will primarily occur in the late afternoon and evening hours, which helps reduce overlap with surrounding businesses and limits overall neighborhood impact.

Traffic will be minimal and predictable, with scheduled driving sessions and most routes designed to leave the downtown area shortly after beginning. Instructional vehicles are equipped with dual controls and additional mirrors, allowing for safe and controlled operation at all times. The use does not introduce excessive noise, new signage, or other changes that would alter the character of the area.

Overall, the proposal is consistent with surrounding uses and will not negatively impact the health, safety, or general welfare of the community.

As of this writing, staff have not received any written comments regarding this proposal as a result of the notice of public hearing that was mailed to all adjoining or adjacent property owners, posted at the site, or legal ads published in the newspaper.

STAFF FINDINGS

1. Based on the nature of operation of the driving school and consistency in characteristics of the business site to that of surrounding buildings, the proposed driving school will not be detrimental to the character of the adjoining uses and area.
2. The site has multiple points of access for emergency and fire to enter, exist and maneuver as needed ensuring adequate ingress and egress is available for fire and emergency.
3. The proposed driving school is not anticipated to generate vehicular or pedestrian traffic that would cause a hazard to the downtown area.
4. Parking is available to serve the driving school operations.

RECOMMENDATION

Motion to grant approval for Special Property Use application by Three Rivers Driving School based on the findings and conclusions in the staff report dated January 6th, 2026.

EXHIBITS

- A. Aerial Image
- B. Application
- C. Notice to Neighbors

Staff Report Date: Monday, March 31st, 2026



LuA 2026-0015



Special Property Use Permit Application to the Appeal Board of Adjustment

Community Development Department ♦ 1525 Broadway, P.O. Box 128 ♦ Longview, WA 98632 ♦ 360.442.5086/Fax 360.442.5953

Special Property Use Permit Application To the Appeal Board of Adjustment LMC 19.12 Case Number: Related Case Number:	THIS SECTION FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:																																
APPLICATION AND AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES Each current property owner of record must sign the application or provide a letter authorizing an agent or representative to act on his or her behalf. <i>I hereby apply for the Special Property Use Permit as described in this application and certify that the information provided is accurate. I further certify that I am authorized to make the application and that there are no covenants, conditions, or restrictions that may limit or prohibit the Special Property Use Permit requested.</i>																																	
<table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">Property Owner:</td> <td style="width: 40%;">PAC-3, LLC (C/O Cathin Properties Inc.)</td> <td style="width: 20%;">Phone: 360-636-2897</td> <td style="width: 20%;">(Cathin Properties)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mailing Address:</td> <td>1105 3rd Ave</td> <td>Fax: 360-423-3021</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">(Street or PO Box)</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>City: Kelso</td> <td>State: WA</td> <td>Zip: 98626</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Property Owner:</td> <td></td> <td>Phone:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mailing Address:</td> <td></td> <td>Fax:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">(Street or PO Box)</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>City:</td> <td>State:</td> <td>Zip:</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Property Owner:	PAC-3, LLC (C/O Cathin Properties Inc.)	Phone: 360-636-2897	(Cathin Properties)	Mailing Address:	1105 3rd Ave	Fax: 360-423-3021			(Street or PO Box)			City: Kelso	State: WA	Zip: 98626		Property Owner:		Phone:		Mailing Address:		Fax:			(Street or PO Box)			City:	State:	Zip:	
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Relationship to Property Owner:	Tenant																																

BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE SITE AND PROPOSAL (attach additional pages if necessary)

Briefly describe the proposed project (land use) and/or type of business you wish to conduct:

Drivers Education Both in person (20 kids max)
and Zoom

Address of Property: 1338 Commerce Ave #F

Parcel No. 00485

Comprehensive Plan Designation:

Zoning District:

Current Use of Property:

Business/Prof Office

Gross land area of the site to be developed: N/A

Square Feet

Acres

Net land area (gross land area minus land dedicated for public purposes):

Describe any existing structures on the site: Office Building

Number and surface type of all existing driveways at the site:

Number, type and dimensions of existing signage at the site:

1-12x6 with multiple business

Describe signage proposed for the land use requested:

1-12x6 existing sign w/ multiple business

Existing zoning and land uses of adjacent properties (including across the street, if applicable):

North: 53 Current Land Uses: Retail trade

South: 53 Current Land Uses: Retail trade

East: Current Land Uses: Parking lot

West: 53 Current Land Uses: Retail trade

Describe any Critical Areas identified on or located within 300 feet of the site:

N/A

Describe any private wells, septic tanks, drain fields, etc. located on the site:

N/A

BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE SITE AND PROPOSAL (CONT'D)

Proposed hours of operation: 12:00pm-5:00pm M-F By appointment we'll start

Describe how parking will be accommodated for the proposed use:

Private lot in back

Describe how the proposed use will impact traffic circulation:

There may be a few cars dropping and picking up kids at 6:00pm and 8:00pm

To assess whether the City will need additional information and/or whether you need to obtain additional permits or applications from other departments or agencies, please answer the following questions:

Will the proposed land use:

- | | | |
|--|-----|---------------|
| a) Require removal or demolition of any existing structure(s)? | Yes | No |
| b) Affect historic structures or historically significant features? | Yes | No |
| c) Require a Variance from a development standard? | Yes | No |
| d) Involve fill or removal of contaminated soils or hazardous materials? | Yes | No |
| e) Involve grading/fill over an existing public storm drain, sanitary sewer or water line? | Yes | No |
| f) Involve land that has a slope of 15% or greater? | Yes | No |
| g) Require an Environmental Checklist be submitted and reviewed under the SEPA Rules (WAC 197-11)? | Yes | No |
| h) Be located within 300 feet of a shoreline? | Yes | No |

If you answered yes to any of the above, please contact the Planning Division before submitting your application.

SPECIAL PROPERTY USE PERMIT REVIEW CRITERIA AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

In accordance with LMC 19.12.050, the Appeal Board of Adjustment shall exercise jurisdiction in receiving, granting or denying applications for Special Property Uses. No Special Property Use Permit shall be issued by the Board until after a public hearing, and until after the Building Official has found that all other provisions of the Longview Municipal Code have been fulfilled.

Criteria reviewed by the Appeal Board of Adjustment include:

- 1) The proposed use is consistent with the intended character of the zoning district and the operating characteristics of the neighborhood.
- 2) The proposed use will be compatible with existing or anticipated uses in terms of size, building scale and style, intensity, setbacks, or that the proposal identifies acceptable mitigation measures.
- 3) The transportation system is capable of supporting the proposed land use in addition to the existing land uses in the area. Evaluation factors include street capacity and level of service, availability of off-street parking to accommodate the proposed land use, access requirements, neighborhood impacts, and pedestrian safety.
- 4) Public services for water, sanitary and storm sewer, and to ensure that fire and police protection are capable of servicing the proposed land use and the immediate area.

Criteria that the Board utilizes to review all applications is established in LMC §19.12.050.

FILING FEES:

Public Hearing Fee: Per LMC 19.06.060

SEPA Review Fee(if applicable): Per LMC 17.02.070

Total Fees: _____

Comments:

LONGVIEW APPEAL BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT:

Public Hearing Scheduled: Date: 4:30 PM

Comments:

FOR STAFF USE ONLY:

Telecommunications Facility Propagation Map provided, if applicable.

Legal Description of Property.

Copy of Deed Restrictions and Restrictive Covenants (CCR's).

One copy of the property deed; and, if the applicant is not the owner, a notarized statement (affidavit of legal interest) from the owner stating the applicant is authorized to submit this application.

Title Report, if applicable.

Critical Area Permit, if required.

SEPA Environmental Checklist, if required.

Certificate of Appropriateness issued by the Historic Preservation Commission, if applicable.

Comments:

NOTES TO APPLICANT/OWNER:

1. If the Appeal Board of Adjustment or City Staff determine that additional and/or revised information is needed, and/or if other unforeseen circumstances arise, any dates outlined for processing the application may be rescheduled by the City.
2. All items shall be completed as determined by the Community Development Department prior to the application being deemed complete for processing.
3. All costs incurred by the City in reviewing this application shall be paid prior to any public hearings.
4. The applicant or authorized representative must attend the Appeal Board of Adjustment public hearing and be prepared to respond to any questions the Appeal Board may have.
5. **Time limitation for Special Property Uses:** if such building permit and/or occupancy permit is not obtained by the applicant within six months from the date of the board's decision, the board's decision shall cease to be effective.

Comments:

SIGNATURES:

I/we understand that if it is determined the application is not complete, the City shall immediately reject the application and identify in writing what is needed to make the application complete for a public hearing. No public hearings will be scheduled on this application until all outstanding issues have been resolved and the application is considered complete.

I/we agree that the City of Longview staff may enter upon the subject property at any reasonable time to consider the merits of the application, to make assessments, take photographs and to post public hearing notices.

I/we declare under penalty of the perjury laws that the information provided on this form/application is true, correct and complete.

Signature of Property Owner: Melani McDaniel - Property Manager Date: 2-19-26

Signature of Property Owner: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Applicant: [Signature] Date: 2/19/26
(If different than property owner)



City of Longview

Agenda Summary

ORDINANCE NO. 3577 – RESCINDING CHAPTER 16.24 ELECTRICAL CODE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

HOLD THE PUBLIC HEARING AND MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 3577

COUNCIL INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:

Strengthen economic conditions and create new opportunities
Continue effective financial management

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The proposal would remove the Electrical Code, Chapter 16.24, from the Longview Municipal Code.

Authority for the review, issuance, and inspection of electrical permits was transferred to the Washington Department of Labor and Industries in early 2024. As such, the City of Longview no longer reviews, issues, or inspects electrical permits. Development is still required to comply with all provisions of the state adopted electrical code. The proposed code rescission would bring LMC up to date with current practice and procedures and reduce confusion regarding permitting needs and responsibilities.

STAFF CONTACT:

Nick Little, Community Development Director

Nick.little@ci.longview.wa.us

Attachments:

1. Ordinance No. 3577

ORDINANCE NO. 3577

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON, REPEALING CHAPTER 16.24 OF THE LONGVIEW MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE ELECTRICAL CODE

WHEREAS, the City of Longview previously adopted and administered an Electrical Code under Chapter 16.24 of the Longview Municipal Code (LMC); and

WHEREAS, in early 2024, authority for the review, issuance, and inspection of electrical permits within the City of Longview was transferred to the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (L&I); and

WHEREAS, the City of Longview no longer reviews electrical plans, issues electrical permits, or conducts electrical inspections; and

WHEREAS, electrical work performed within the City remains subject to compliance with the state-adopted electrical code as administered by L&I; and

WHEREAS, retaining Chapter 16.24 within the Longview Municipal Code may cause confusion among applicants, contractors, and the public regarding permitting responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, rescinding Chapter 16.24 will align the Longview Municipal Code with existing practice and current legal authority, thereby improving clarity, efficiency, and customer service;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 16.24 of the Longview Municipal Code, titled “Electrical Code,” is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 2. No Effect on State Electrical Code Requirements. The repeal of Chapter 16.24 does not alter or diminish any obligations under the Washington State Electrical Code, nor does it affect the authority of the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries to administer electrical permitting and inspection within the City of Longview.

Section 3. Severability. If any section, subsection, phrase, or clause of this ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

Section 4. That the City of Longview City Clerk is hereby ordered and directed to cause the Ordinance to be published.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect 5 days after passage and publication as required by law.

Passed by the City Council this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Approved by the Mayor this ____ day of _____, 2026.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Charlotte Archer
City Attorney

Published: _____



City of Longview Agenda Summary Sheet

1525 Broadway
Longview, WA 98632
www.mylongview.com

Introduced by: Erik Halvorson, Mayor

Date: April 6th, 2026

For Agenda of: April 9th, 2026

SUBJECT TITLE: Protecting Infants from Fentanyl: Proposed Ordinance

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The recent, preventable death of a three-month-old infant in Longview, found with 20 times the lethal adult dose of fentanyl is a tragedy that demands immediate local action. While our community mourns, we must also address the legal limitations that hinder our first responders.

Under current state law (RCW 9A.42.100), it is a felony to expose children to methamphetamine. However, despite the extreme potency and rising prevalence of fentanyl, attempts to address this gap in the State Legislature have stalled. This leaves a significant void in our ability to protect infants and children from one of the most dangerous substances on our streets today.

PREVENTION WITH "TEETH"

The primary goal of this ordinance is to stop the 911 call before it happens. By criminalizing the act of exposure at the local level, we provide our officers and the legal system with the necessary tools to:

Intervene Early: Address the danger at the endangerment stage-where a child is living in a contaminated environment-rather than waiting for a medical emergency to occur.

Encourage Accountability: A gross misdemeanor charge carries up to 364 days in jail and a \$5,000 fine. This gives law enforcement and the court real tools to hold offenders accountable and remove the threat from the child's environment.

Longview is not alone in identifying this legislative gap. The City of Everett recently passed a similar ordinance after investigating over thirty child overdoses in recent years. By establishing this local law, Everett has provided its law enforcement with a proactive framework to protect minors from fentanyl. Longview can do the same.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance for council adoption, establishing the crime of "Endangerment of a Minor with a Controlled Substance" to address the lethal threat of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids.

COUNCIL GOAL ADDRESSED: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY

Project title: An ORDINANCE adopting a new chapter of the Everett Municipal Code relating to Endangerment with a Controlled Substance.

Council Bill # *interoffice use*

CB 2602-08

Agenda dates requested:

Briefing 2/25/26

2nd Reading 3/04/26

Consent

Action 3/11/26

Ordinance x

Public hearing

Yes X No

Budget amendment:

Yes X No

PowerPoint presentation:

Yes X No

Attachments:

SD_1-ordinance

Department(s) involved:

Legal

Police

Contact person:

Lacey Offutt

Phone number:

425-257-8528

Email:

LOffutt@everettwa.gov

Project: Ordinance relating to Endangerment with a Controlled Substance**Partner/Supplier:** NA**Location:** NA**Preceding action:** NA**Fund:** NA**Fiscal summary statement:**

NA

Project summary statement:

This proposed ordinance would create a new gross misdemeanor crime known as Endangerment with a Controlled Substance. Under this new ordinance, a person is guilty of the crime if he or she knowingly or recklessly caused a child, someone under 18 years of age, to be exposed to a Schedule I or Schedule II controlled substance, as scheduled in state or federal law. Schedule I and Schedule II controlled substances include, among others, heroin, fentanyl, LSD, ecstasy, and cocaine. The ordinance provides that providing a scheduled drug to a child pursuant to a valid prescription is not a violation of the ordinance.

Exposing a minor to methamphetamine is a class B Felony under RCW 9A.42.100. This ordinance does not regulate violations that amount to a violation of RCW 9A.42.100.

Recommendation (exact action requested of Council):

Adopt an Ordinance creating a new chapter of the Everett Municipal Code relating to Endangerment with a Controlled Substance.

Initialed by:

Department head

Administration

Council President

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ORDINANCE adopting a new chapter of the Everett Municipal Code relating to Endangerment with a Controlled Substance.

WHEREAS,

- A.** The City of Everett has the power to provide for the punishment of all practices dangerous to public health or safety, and to make necessary for the preservation of public health, peace, and good order, and to provide for the punishment of all persons charged with violating any city ordinance.
- B.** It is a Class B felony under RCW 9A.42.100 to knowingly or intentionally permit dependent children or adults to be exposed to, ingest, inhale, or have contact with methamphetamine or specific ingredients utilized for its production.
- C.** Efforts to amend RCW 9A.42.100 to include the knowing or intentional exposure to fentanyl and other synthetic opioids have repeatedly stalled in the State Legislature.
- D.** The Everett Police Department has investigated thirty-three overdoses involving minor victims since 2019. Over 35% of those investigations (36%) involved children ages 1-3¹. One was fatal. Of those involving very young children, seven are known to have involved fentanyl, including the fatal exposure.
- E.** Controlled substances come in all forms, and they are regularly made into powders, pills, candies, eye droppers, and nasal sprays.
- F.** Users are unable to discern by sight, taste, or smell just how potent and dangerous these illicit drugs may be due to unregulated sources. The identity, purity, and quantity are uncertain and inconsistent, thus posing significant adverse health risks not only to the user, but also to their family members or members of the public who may be exposed inadvertently or through secondhand contact.
- G.** The Washington State Office of the Family and Children's Ombuds Child Fatalities and Near Fatalities in Washington State 2025 report states that 25% of DCYF-investigated child fatalities, and 66% of near-fatalities, were caused by accidental ingestions and overdoses of controlled substances, with 78% of those combined incidents involving fentanyl². Fentanyl accounted for 30 of the 38 accidental ingestions by children under 11.
- H.** These risks are particularly high for infants and toddlers who may live in close proximity to and come in contact with controlled substances through no fault of their own. Over half (52.5%) of

¹ Accurate as of Feb. 13, 2026.

² Office of the Family and Children's Ombuds (OFCO), *2025 Annual Report* (Dec. 2025), <https://ofco.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-12/2025%20OFCO%20Annual%20Report.pdf> (accessed Feb. 13, 2026).

children involved in accidental ingestions and overdoses investigated by DCYF in 2024 involved children aged 0 and 1 years old³.

- I. For those who survive exposure, non-fatal opioid-involved overdoses can result in immediate and long-term complications such as brain injury, developmental difficulties, psychiatric effects, and respiratory complications.
- J. The City encourages the State Legislature to amend RCW 9A.42.100 in such a way that appropriately criminalizes recklessly or knowingly permitting a child to be exposed to, ingest, inhale, absorb or have contact with any controlled substance, including synthetic opioids.
- K. In the interim, the City Council finds that it is necessary and appropriate in protecting the public health, safety, and welfare to take immediate steps to protect children from the dangers of exposure to powerful controlled substances such as fentanyl and deter the endangerment of children caused by exposure to these substances.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF EVERETT DOES ORDAIN:

Section 1. Findings adopted

The findings set forth in the above recitals are hereby adopted and incorporated by reference. Further, the City Council specifically finds that the regulation of the conduct addressed in this Ordinance is a valid exercise of police power.

Section 2. New Chapter 10.xx EMC

A new chapter 10.41 is hereby added to the Everett Municipal Code as chapter 10.41 EMC as follows:

Chapter 10.41

Endangerment with a Controlled Substance

10.41.010 Definitions

For the purpose of this Chapter, the following terms shall apply:

- A. "Child" shall mean the same as the term is defined in RCW 9A.42.010.
- B. "Controlled Substance" shall mean the same as the term is defined in RCW 69.50.101.
- C. "Prescription" shall mean the same as the term is defined in RCW 69.50.101.

10.41.020 Endangerment with a Controlled Substance

- A. Under circumstances not amounting to endangerment with a controlled substance under RCW 9A.42.100, a person is guilty of the crime of endangerment with a controlled substance if the

³ Office of the Family and Children's Ombuds (OFCO), *2025 Annual Report* (Dec. 2025), <https://ofco.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-12/2025%20OFCO%20Annual%20Report.pdf> (accessed Feb. 13, 2026).

person knowingly or recklessly causes a child to be exposed to, ingest, inhale, absorb, or have contact with any controlled substance classified in Schedule I or Schedule II as set forth in State or Federal law, or the smoke of a substance that the person knows, or reasonably should know, contains, or is contaminated with, a controlled substance classified in Schedule I or Schedule II.

- B. Administering or providing a controlled substance to a child in the course of delivering health care services pursuant to and in accordance with a valid prescription is not a violation of this Section.
- C. This chapter shall not apply to, nor be deemed or construed to conflict with, conduct specifically prohibited by RCW 9A.42.100.

10.41.030. Penalty for Violations

Any person who violates this section is guilty of a gross misdemeanor punishable by up to 364 days in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

10.41.040. Preemption

In the event the Washington State Legislature passes a law preempting this Chapter, this Chapter shall cease to have effect on the same date the state statute comes into effect. Any violation of this Chapter that occurs prior to the preempting statute coming into effect may be prosecuted and punished pursuant to this Ordinance.

Section 3. The City Clerk and the codifiers of this Ordinance are authorized to make necessary corrections to this Ordinance including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any internal references.

Section 4. The City Council hereby declares that should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance be declared invalid for any reason, it is the intent of the City Council that it would have passed all portions of this ordinance independent of the elimination of any such portion as may be declared invalid.

Section 5. The enactment of this Ordinance shall not affect any case, proceeding, appeal or other matter currently pending in any court or in any way modify any right or liability, civil or criminal, which may be in existence on the effective date of this Ordinance.

Section 6. It is expressly the purpose of this Ordinance to provide for and promote the health, safety and welfare of the general public and not to create or otherwise establish or designate any particular class or group of persons who will or should be especially protected or benefited by the terms of this Ordinance. It is the specific intent of this Ordinance that no provision or any term used in this Ordinance is intended to impose any duty whatsoever upon the City or any of its officers or employees. Nothing contained in this Ordinance is intended nor shall be construed to create or form the basis of any liability on the part of the City, or its officers, employees or agents, for any injury or damage resulting from any action or inaction on the part of the City related in any manner to the enforcement of this Ordinance by its officers, employees or agents.

CASSIE FRANKLIN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

Passed: _____

Valid: _____

Published: _____

Effective: _____



City of Longview

Agenda Summary

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Based upon the authentication and certification of claims and demands against the city, prepared and signed by the City's auditing officer, and in full reliance thereon, it is moved and seconded as shown in the minutes of this meeting that the following vouchers/warrants are approved for payment:

SECOND HALF MARCH 2026 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: \$1,815,230.92

SECOND HALF MARCH 2026 PAYROLL:

\$474,858.22, checks
\$1,093,968.78, direct deposits
\$979,217.39, wire transfers
\$2,548,044.39 Total

STAFF CONTACT:

Lindy Kennedy, Accountant
Sara Rios, Payroll Specialist

Attachments: None



City of Longview

Agenda Summary

2026 EXTENSION AND RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT FOR COWLITZ COUNTY MINI-RURAL PARTIAL LIBRARY DISTRICT SERVICES

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE 2026 EXTENSION AND RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT FOR LIBRARY SERVICES

COUNCIL STRATEGIC INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:

Address Quality of Place Issues
Continue Effective Financial Management

CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW: REQUIRED

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Cowlitz County Mini-Rural Library District Board wishes to extend the agreement with the City of Longview for the continuation of library services from May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027. (The original contract began on May 1, 1998). The 2026-2027 agreement is in the amount of \$447,193.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Motion to authorize the City Manager to sign and approve the extension/renewal of Cowlitz County Mini-Rural Partial Library District Services Contract.

STAFF CONTACT:

Jacob Cole, Library Director

Attachments:

1. MRLD Renewal 2026-27 final

**2026 EXTENSION AND RENEWAL OF
AGREEMENT FOR LIBRARY SERVICES**

THIS EXTENSION AND RENEWAL AGREEMENT, is entered into this ____ day of _____, 2026, by and between the CITY OF LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON, a code city of the State of Washington, (hereinafter referred to as "City") and COWLITZ COUNTY MINI-RURAL PARTIAL LIBRARY DISTRICT, a political subdivision of the State of Washington, organized and existing under and by virtue of RCW 27.12.080, (hereinafter referred to as "District"):

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the City owns, maintains, and operates a Public Library, including real property, the Public Library Building, and including an extensive collection of library materials, as well as computers, software, furnishings, and fixtures, all of which was originally provided as a gift from Robert A. Long and Ella M. Long, and all of which has been maintained, improved and operated by funds derived from fees and taxes imposed upon the residents and citizens of the City; and

WHEREAS, heretofore, the City has permitted non-residents of the City to purchase the use of "Library Cards" and use the facilities of said Library, including the privilege of removing books and other materials for their temporary personal use; and

WHEREAS, the District was created to provide library services for its residents, and said District entered into an agreement with the City for such services to its residents for the period commencing May 1, 1998 and ending April 30, 1999; which said agreement has been renewed and extended annually; and said District now desires to extend and renew said agreement for the period commencing May 1, 2026 and ending April 30, 2027, by which the City will agree to provide library services to the residents of said District in the manner that such services are provided to residents of the City, and the voters of said District have approved an ad valorem tax levy in the sum of \$.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value of taxable real property within the boundaries of said District to pay for the privilege of such services to such residents; and

WHEREAS, said District has heretofore incurred certain indebtedness that should be paid from the ad valorem taxes described above; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of said City has agreed to extend and renew said AGREEMENT with said District for a period of one (1) year, commencing May 1, 2026 to provide Library Cards to the qualified residents of said District in order that they may use the facilities of said library and obtain the privilege of removing books and other materials therefrom for their personal use, subject to all of the rules and regulations regarding the use of said library and those relating to the removal and return of such books and materials;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby, in consideration of mutual benefits to be derived therefrom, the parties hereto hereby promise and agree as follows:

1. LIBRARY CARDS: The City will issue Longview Public Library cards to residents of the District who meet the same qualifications as residents of the City, except for the residence qualification. Such Library Cards shall each be for a term of one (1) year, may be renewable.

2. LIBRARY SERVICES: Holders of Longview Public Library cards, issued pursuant to this 2026 EXTENSION AND RENEWAL AGREEMENT shall be entitled to all of the privileges of Library use that are accorded to residents of the City

3. PAYMENT FOR SERVICES: The District shall pay to the City an amount equal to the sum of \$447,193. \$22,653.66 of that total is specifically designated for the cost of the 50% P.T. Library Clerk I PE position that will deliver resources to residents of the Mini Rural District and perform Outreach services. Payment of all such taxes collected prior to May 10, 2026, shall be made on or about May 31, 2026; and payment of all such taxes collected after May 10, 2026 and prior to November 15, 2026, shall be made on or about November 29, 2026. Any such taxes thereafter collected shall be paid as and when received.

4. TERM OF AGREEMENT - EXTENSIONS: This 2026 EXTENSION AND RENEWAL AGREEMENT is for a term of one (1) year, commencing on the 1st day of May, 2026, and ending on the 30th day of April, 2027. Any books, materials, or other property of the Longview Public Library, then in the hands or possession of residents of the District who possess Library Cards, shall be returned to said library within the time required by the rules and regulations of the Longview Public Library. The City shall monitor the costs of providing services under the terms of this Agreement, and periodic reports shall be provided to the City Manager. Subject to a review of such costs by the City Council for rendering library services hereunder, and subject to the sole discretion and determination of the City Council of the City, this 2025 EXTENSION AND RENEWAL AGREEMENT may be extended for additional annual terms by an Extension Agreement or Agreements, executed by the District and by the City, and containing any additional agreements of the parties hereto, including any increases or decreases in annual payments to the City and the amount of any future ad valorem taxes levied within the District.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 2026.

CITY OF LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON

COWLITZ COUNTY MINI-RURAL
PARTIAL LIBRARY DISTRICT

By: _____
City Manager

By: _____
Chairperson

Attest: _____
City Clerk

Attest: _____

(title)

Approved as to form:

City Attorney



City of Longview

Agenda Summary

PROJECT COMPLETION – CLONEY PARK STORM PIPE REPLACEMENT

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION TO ACCEPT AS COMPLETE THE CLONEY PARK STORM PIPE REPLACEMENT

COUNCIL INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:

Preserve and enhance neighborhoods

CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Cloney Park Storm Pipe replacement project has been completed in accordance with the plans and specifications under Contract No. 25-1576-D entered into between the City of Longview and Swofford Excavating. The City Council must accept the project as complete before final contract closeout can be accomplished.

STAFF CONTACT:

Ivona Kininmonth, PE, Project Engineer

Attachments: None



City of Longview

Agenda Summary

SET A PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 14TH FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ALLOCATIONS

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THURSDAY MAY 14TH FOR CDBG FUNDING ALLOCATIONS.

COUNCIL INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:

Preserve and enhance neighborhoods

CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The City of Longview is allocated Community Development Block Grant funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Funding is allocated to projects by City Council. A public hearing must be held at the time of allocation to allow for public comment.

STAFF CONTACT:

Kenny Robinson, Program Coordination Specialist

Attachments: None



City of Longview

Agenda Summary

SET A PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 14TH FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THURSDAY, MAY 14TH FOR HOME FUNDING ALLOCATIONS.

COUNCIL INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:

Preserve and enhance neighborhoods

CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The City of Longview is allocated HOME Investment Partnership Program funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Funding is allocated to projects by City Council. A public hearing must be held at the time of allocation to allow for public comment.

STAFF CONTACT:

Kenny Robinson, Program Coordination Specialist

Attachments: None

Longview Fire Department

Phase 1: Landscape & Risk Analysis Summary

City Council Meeting

April 2026

Process Review

Landscape Analysis & Initial Engagement (February–March 2026)

Research & Message Testing (April–May 2026)

Pre-Ballot Measure Referral Public Education (May–July 2026)

Post-Ballot Measure Referral Public Education (August–November 2026)

Process Review

Landscape Analysis & Initial Engagement (February–March 2026)

- Conduct a comprehensive review of funding, plans, and community sentiment
- Interview key stakeholders, including city officials, fire staff, unions, and community groups
- Develop initial messaging, branding, and update the project website with FAQs

Landscape Analysis and Risk Scope



- Evaluate current fire and EMS service capacity
- Review operational trends and service demand
- Identify risks affecting long-term service delivery
- Early stakeholder engagement

What Was Reviewed?

- Longview Fire Department Annual Reports (2022–2024)
- Incident and call volume data (fire, EMS, and service calls)
- Response time performance and Standard of Cover metrics
- Fire department staffing levels and organizational structure
- Apparatus inventory and replacement schedules
- Ambulance utilization and EMS transport data
- Fire prevention, inspection, and community risk reduction activities
- City budget documents and fire department funding trends
- Washington State property tax and EMS levy statutes
- Benchmark comparisons with similar Washington cities' fire/EMS funding models

Major Risks Facing the System

- **Increasing EMS workload:** Emergency calls now account for most responses & are likely to increase further as populations age & behavioral health issues grow.
- **Response capacity during concurrent incidents:** Limited staffing challenges maintaining response times during multiple calls.
- **Aging apparatus and infrastructure:** Many fire apparatus are near the end of their lifespans, with longer replacement timelines.
- **Workforce sustainability challenges:** Rising call volume leads to overtime, fatigue, & recruitment issues.
- **Structural funding limitations:** State property tax limits hinder the City's ability to fund emergency services without voter approval.

What Happens if Nothing Changes?

- **Gradual decline in response time:** As call volume increases, available units may be committed more frequently, resulting in slower response times.
- **Increasing reliance on mutual aid:** Neighboring agencies may be required more frequently to support Longview during simultaneous incidents or major events.
- **Delayed apparatus replacement:** Without new funding, the City may need to defer replacement of critical fire engines, ladder trucks, and other equipment.
- **Higher maintenance and operational costs:** Operating older equipment longer can lead to increased repair expenses and reduced reliability.
- **Growing strain on EMS transport system:** High medical call volume combined with limited ambulance availability may increase patient wait times and keep fire crews tied up longer.

Fiscal Context

Washington Property Tax Growth Limit (1%), which restricts the City's ability to keep pace with rising service costs, unless voters approve an increase.

Public Safety Costs Outpacing Revenue Growth Personnel, benefits, training requirements, and equipment costs for fire and EMS services typically increase faster than the allowable 1% revenue growth.

Increasing Capital Replacement Costs: Fire apparatus, ambulances, and emergency equipment have become significantly more expensive, with longer manufacturing timelines and higher replacement costs.

Reliance on Voter-Approved Funding Tools: Many Washington cities rely on voter-approved mechanisms such as Levy Lid Lifts or EMS Levies to sustain emergency service funding. Without new revenue sources, cities may face increasing pressure to defer investments in staffing, equipment, and facilities.

- 1% Revenue Growth Limit
- 80% + of calls = EMS
- 6,000+ Annual Incidents
- 3-4 year Replacement Lead Time
- Increased estimated funding gap

SWOT Analysis



Positive attributes **inside the organization** that you can influence or leverage.



Internal limitations or areas that **hinder performance** and can be addressed.



Favorable **external conditions** impacting your organization.



External factors that **could harm your organization** or impede goals

Strengths

- **Highly trained professional firefighting workforce:** ensures reliable fire suppression and advanced EMS care.
- **Strong medical response capability:** supports critical emergency care and high survival outcomes.
- **Regional special operations expertise:** enables response to hazardous materials, technical rescues, and large-scale incidents.
- **Established industrial response partnerships:** provide revenue and specialized support for high-risk facilities.
- **Strong community trust in fire and EMS services:** improves compliance, engagement, and public support for funding initiatives.

Weaknesses

- **Staffing levels below optimal for call volume:** limits the ability to respond simultaneously to multiple emergencies.
- **Limited ambulance transport capacity:** increases reliance on mutual aid and slows patient transport.
- **Aging equipment:** increases maintenance costs, risk of downtime, and reduces operational reliability.
- **Gaps in coverage** and longer response times in some areas.
- **Difficulty meeting full fire response time standards:** may affect safety metrics and community perception.

Opportunities

- **Levy lid lift to stabilize fire service funding:** provides potential for long-term staffing and capital investments.
- **EMS levy aligned with dominant workload:** allows funding to match the majority of service demand.
- **Construction of additional fire station(s):** improves coverage, reduces response times, and supports growth areas.
- **Expansion of community paramedicine and prevention programs:** reduces non-emergency call volume and improves health outcomes.
- **Regional partnerships and industrial contract revenue:** strengthens financial base and resource sharing with nearby jurisdictions.

Threats

- **Continued growth in EMS demand:** could overwhelm current staffing and resources without new funding.
- **Behavioral health and opioid crisis impacts:** increase call complexity, requires specialized response and training.
- **Rising equipment replacement costs:** capital expenditures may outpace revenue growth limits.
- **Property tax growth limitations:** constrain ability to fund services despite increasing demand.
- **Risk of declining response performance without new funding:** may reduce public safety outcomes and community trust.