



MERCER ISLAND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON
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(206) 275-7600 | www.mercergov.org

January 10, 2018

Senator Lisa Wellman
PO Box 40441
Olympia, WA 98504-0441

Representative Judy Clibborn
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Representative Tana Senn
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Re: City of Mercer Island's 2018 State Legislative Priorities

Dear Senator Wellman, Representative Clibborn, and Representative Senn:

Enclosed you will find the City of Mercer Island's 2018 State Legislative Priorities as adopted by the Mercer Island City Council on January 9, 2018.

The Mercer Island City Council joins me in urging you to support the attached Legislative Priorities during the upcoming 2018 Washington State Legislative Session. We have always appreciated your efforts on the behalf Mercer Island citizens and look forward to mutually embracing these priorities.

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss these priorities, and would be happy to expand on the background or history of any of these items. Please let us know if there is anything else we can provide you in your efforts to forward these important legislative items.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Bertlin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Debbie Bertlin
Mayor, City of Mercer Island

Cc: Mercer Island City Council
City Manager Julie Underwood
Assistant City Manager Kirsten Taylor

Enclosure



City of Mercer Island

2018 State Legislative Priorities

The City of Mercer Island supports the following legislative priorities for 2018:

- 1. IMPROVE I-90 ACCESS AND REDUCE IMPACTS TO LOCAL STREETS:** Request State Legislature to 1) require that the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) maintain Mercer Island traffic safety and mobility by implementing improvements to I-90 access ramps in 2018, and 2) create a path to new “Timed HOV” access and potential HOT ramp designations for the Island Crest way on- and off-ramps, and 3) find solutions to the I-90/I-405 interchange.
- 2. FULLY FUND EDUCATION:** In conjunction with the Mercer Island School Board, request State Legislature to adopt policies and a budget that will address remaining funding issues as outlined in the Washington State School Directors’ Association (WSSDA) 2018 Legislative Priorities. In addition, request State Legislature to 1) re-balance the funding mechanisms responding to the McCleary ruling to provide relief to districts with higher property valuations, and 2) support mental health counseling and social emotional learning in all schools.
- 3. ALLOCATE RECREATION/TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR AUBREY DAVIS PARK MASTER PLAN:** Include state funding of at least \$200,000 for Aubrey Davis Park Master Planning project to ensure the completion of master planning work for this important regional pedestrian and bicycle corridor, much of which is located on WSDOT-owned land. As an alternative, provide funding of \$100,000 and direct WSDOT to provide technical staffing review and services at no additional cost to the City.
- 4. ADDRESS FUNDING OF CITY SERVICES:** Stable tax revenues for local government are essential to providing quality, predictable services to the community. 1) Expand upon the different options available to local governments to raise revenue including, but not limited to, replacing the annual 1% cap on property tax revenues with a growth limit whose maximum is inflation plus the rate of population growth. 2) Retain State shared revenues. 3) Loosen restrictions on REET 2 funds to more closely match REET 1 funds, and remove technology and equipment restrictions on both.
- 5. ENHANCE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND ADDRESS THE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS CRISIS:** Support legislation to: 1) expand mental health prevention, 2) increase the purchase age for tobacco and vapor products from 18 to 21 via SHB 1047 or its equivalent, 3) support health and human services to address the opioid crisis that also impacts the level of homelessness experienced as a direct result of opiate use disorder, and 4) support legislation in favor of providing dedicated sources for the construction of affordable housing.
- 6. PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT:** Support legislation, and partner with other organizations to support the following: 1) support a statewide price on carbon pollution and direct at least half of those funds to climate change mitigation, 2) reduce transportation-related carbon emissions, 3) continue to support a clear, accelerated timeline for retirement of coal from Puget Sound Energy’s (PSE) portfolio, 4) support distributed solar energy generation, 5) support green building and energy efficiency, including the increase in the State Building Code Council fee from \$4.50 to \$10.00 per building permit to fund the work of the building code council which includes development of new building code and energy code, and 6) endorse sign-on letters that advocate for increasing clean energy or promoting environmental health measures, and 7) request that the State Legislature review the incentives for renewable electricity generated from wind and solar to encourage more investor-funding community solar installations.
- 7. SUPPORT AWC & SCA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:** Support legislative priorities of the following organizations: Association of Washington Cities and Sound Cities Association.
- 8. PASS LEGISLATION TO APPROVE A CAPITAL BUDGET:** Support legislation that adopts the 2017 Capital Budget and adopts a supplemental 2018 Capital Budget.