



AWC's 2013 preliminary major priorities

Fiscal sustainability, economic development, service provision

Ensure fiscal sustainability and flexibility

- Restore diverted liquor revenue and retain existing state-shared city revenues during these fiscally challenging times.
- Preserve current local revenue authorities like local business licensing taxes and seek to develop new options.

Foster and invest in infrastructure and economic development

- Collaborate with the state to increase multi-modal transportation funding and expand sustainable revenue options.
- Authorize tax increment financing and fine-tune other tools that help foster job creation and retention in cities.
- Keep funding for critical infrastructure programs like the Public Works Trust Fund and don't divert capital investment dollars to the general fund.

Enhance service provision

- Allow cities to be more flexible and responsive to fiscal challenges, such as managing personnel costs.
- Fund critical mandates like municipal stormwater and refrain from adding any new unfunded or underfunded mandates.
- Strengthen public records efforts by curbing abusive requests.

Details about how cities want these addressed are being worked out over the remainder of 2012, after which priorities will be affirmed and advanced.

AWC contact

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AWC's 2013 reform agenda taking shape

Cities need budget relief

As cities and towns across the state continue to face significant budget challenges AWC is working to identify ways the state legislature might be able to help lessen those challenges. Beyond working to maintain and restore state shared revenues we will also pursue cost savings and efficiency measures that could help cities balance their budgets now and into the future. We are continually seeking ideas from our members and we have recently shared some of those ideas with the Governor's staff upon their request.

Over the coming weeks we intend to collect more new ideas, refine old ones and work with our Legislative Committee and Board of Directors to identify a list of items that we can translate into a bill or bills for the legislature to consider. We'll also partner with the Association of Counties on these efforts as we have in the past.

We expect the bill(s) to generate discussion among legislators and other interests and we will continue to stress that many of the "easy" things like delaying various mandates, have already been done. Our successful 2011 efforts (**SSB 6611**) resulted in a number of mandate delays.

In 2012, we focused less on mandates and more on efforts to protect existing revenues and seek authorization for new ones. While less successful than in 2011, we were able to find agreement (**E2SSB 6406**) on several reforms dealing with the State Environmental Policy Act and Municipal Stormwater Permits.

Talk to legislators

Moving into 2013 every idea is likely to be opposed by numerous interests but it's incumbent upon legislators to seriously consider ways they can help local governments save money now. As you talk to legislators and candidates remind them that the state has been cutting revenues to cities at the same time that we have been hit hard by the downturn in the economy. We need their help in finding ways to cut our costs so that we can manage our own budgets more effectively and be in a better position to contribute to the ongoing recovery of the economy in our state.

Below is a list of just some of the cost-savings/reform ideas we are exploring:

- Further delay the deadline or modify the mandate for conversion of local government fleets to alternative fuel vehicles (current deadline is 2018).
- Put in place new guidelines for binding interest arbitration
- Eliminate "Buildable Lands" reporting requirements (currently required of cities in King, Pierce, Snohomish, Kitsap, Thurston and Clark counties)
- Reaffirm local authority to set standards for public defenders (requires the legislature to clarify a recent Supreme Court rule)
- Liability reform - Limit joint liability for public entities, especially in the context of proposed expanded wrongful death claimants and damages. Work to amend the law so that juries know if a person involved in an injury accident was wearing a seatbelt.
- Amend the frequency of required financial audits for cities and towns with records of clean audits (Legislation may not be required, could be done by the state auditor. Current auditor and both candidates have expressed support for this idea)
- Amend or eliminate requirement for cities to send pavement condition reports to WSDOT
- Amend or eliminate requirement for cities to submit hotel/motel tax expenditure reports to Department of Commerce.

To view a complete list of mandates or potentially unnecessary reports under consideration at AWC, please go to www.awcnet.org/portals/0/documents/legislative/ofmmartybrownunfundedmandatelist.pdf.

Share your ideas

If you have additional ideas that you would like AWC to consider please send them to Dave Catterson at davec@awcnet.org.