



City of Lacey, Washington

Lacey City Council and State Legislators Special Meeting Agenda

Refer to the bottom of the agenda for meeting information.

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

5:00 PM

Council Chambers and Online

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

A. Welcome and Introductions

Lacey City Council and State Legislators

3. Land Acknowledgment

We, the City of Lacey, are on the ancestral land of the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek, including the Nisqually Indian Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe. We acknowledge and remember those Tribal People not recognized today who were absorbed or relocated into other tribes for survival. We recognize the ancestors and their descendants who are still here. We recognize and respect the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek as the traditional stewards of this land since time immemorial and their role today in taking care of these lands in perpetuity. We recognize and have the responsibility to call attention to the histories of dispossession, forced removal, and abridged treaty rights that allowed our nation, state, and city to develop as they have today. We recommend that community members read the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854.

4. Approval of the Agenda

5. Public Comment

Refer to the bottom of the agenda for instructions on how to provide public comment.

6. Agenda Items

A. 2025 Legislative Session Discussion

7. Adjourn

Meeting Information:

Attendance (Remote or In-Person)

The public may attend the meeting in-person, or you may view or listen to the meeting using one of the following platforms:

In-Person: Council Chambers at Lacey City Hall
420 College Street SE, Lacey, WA 98503

Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CuYF9UutT_mVHMN9bDg-SQ

Website: <https://cityoflacey.org/government/public-meetings/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cityoflacey>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNCEqN-gw5s>

Phone: (888) 788-0099 or (877) 853-5247 (Webinar ID 858 4300 0013)

Verbal Public Comment

Each speaker is limited to three minutes. Comments are welcome on matters connected to City business or specific agenda items.

Prior to starting your comments, please provide your:

- a. Name
- b. City of residence or connection to the City
- c. Topic or subject matter of your comments

Those wishing to provide verbal public comment may do so in-person or by Zoom:

In-Person: Use the sign-up sheet located in the meeting room.

Zoom: Preregister using the following Zoom link no later than two hours prior to the meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CuYF9UutT_mVHMN9bDg-SQ

Instructions and access details will be provided once registration is complete.

Written Public Comment

Public comments may also be submitted by email to PublicComment@cityoflacey.org. The commenting period will close two hours before the meeting time. Written comments will be provided to the City Council electronically prior to the meeting. Comments will not be addressed during the Council meeting; however, comments received will be added to the official record.





2025 State Legislative Priorities

LACEY CITY COUNCIL

Andy Ryder, Mayor

Malcolm Miller, Deputy Mayor

Lenny Greenstein

Michael Steadman

Carolyn Cox

Robin Vazquez

Nicolas Dunning

Adopted by Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

1 DEVELOP LONG-TERM FUNDING SOLUTIONS FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING ACQUISITIONS



The City appreciates the state's continued leadership in responding to the homeless crisis, including funding for Maple Court. Since its inception, the plan for Maple Court has been to convert it from an enhanced shelter into needed permanent supportive housing. To date, the Regional Housing Council has allocated \$1.1M to support this transition.

The City requests funding to help convert Maple Court into permanent supportive housing and for sustainable operational funding for Rights-of-Way Initiative-funded programs.

2 THURSTON COUNTY REGIONAL BASIC LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMIES (BLEA) AT THE LACEY REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER

Police departments across Washington state face significant police staffing shortages. As communities continue growing and increasing numbers of law enforcement personnel retire, this program must receive adequate funding to provide training opportunities for new hires. Regional academies help reduce academy wait times and officer vacancy rates, and enhance local officer recruitment efforts. They also provide more equitable training opportunities as they increase the ability for community members to participate in academies by eliminating the need for extended stays away from home. Around the South Sound, recent vacancies have adversely impacted public safety services. The City strongly supports the creation of more regional BLEA academies.

The City requests \$1,000,000 for a regional BLEA at the Lacey Training Facility in 2026. Funding would support academy operations.

Law Enforcement Vacancy Rates (Nov. 2024)	
Lacey	0.0%
Olympia	10.1%
Tumwater	2.9%
Yelm	0.0%
Thurston County	8.6%

3 REGIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER AND CONTROL FACILITY

Joint Animal Services (JAS) is the animal shelter and control agency for the cities of Lacey, Tumwater, and Olympia, and unincorporated Thurston County ("Partners"). It serves over 303,976 community members in 774 square miles of urban and rural terrain. JAS provides humane law enforcement, sheltering, and medical care of strays (intake of over 2,600 animals in 2022), impounded and surrendered animals, adoption services, pet licensing, temporary emergency housing, and more. In 1996, JAS moved into their existing facility, a former warehouse. In addition to not meeting animal standards of care, **a recent study found the facility is failing and requires significant investment to maintain.** With the growth of the community, JAS operations have outgrown the space. A space needs assessment will take place in early 2025. This will determine facility needs and construction costs, estimated at \$25+ million. Facility design is anticipated to cost around \$2 million.

The City, with its partners, requests \$2,000,000 for facility design.



City of Lacey 2025 State Legislative Priorities

4 HUNTAMER PARK CIVIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

For decades, the City has actively worked to transform the Midtown District into a vibrant and community-centered urban core through planning and public project efforts. Huntamer Park, the “heart” of this area, is a 1.5-acre civic space in desperate need of updates to meet the growing community’s needs. Previous significant improvements at Huntamer Park occurred in 2005. Since then, the surrounding Midtown District has grown significantly with new mixed-use and residential (re)developments. This project would strengthen opportunities for civic engagement, improve equity by increasing park access and amenities in a Community Development Block Grant-qualified census tract, increase environmental resiliency, improve public health and wellness, and expand opportunities for economic growth and development.

Tentative Project Funding	
City	\$800,000
State	\$200,000
Federal	\$400,000
Total	\$1.4 million

The City seeks \$200,000 to improve Huntamer Park, including adding plazas, a water feature, new landscaping, pathways, and furniture designed to create spaces for daily use while preserving civic spaces for important community events.

POLICY ITEMS

5 Public Defense Standards Impact

The City is concerned about the impacts of the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) Recommended Revised Standards for Indigent Defense (Recommended Standards). The City asks that the State examine the financial impacts of these proposed changes on local jurisdictions and commit to financial support sufficient to offset these impacts before requiring implementation.

6 Authorize Animal Control and Shelter Districts

The City requests the creation of an Animal Control and Shelter Special Purpose District or the amendment of Metropolitan Municipal Corporations to allow for Animal Service Districts.

7 Continue funding for the Defense Community Compatibility Account (DCCA)

The City requests the State legislature prioritize ongoing investment in this grant program that supports civilian communities near military installations.

8 Increase Availability of Affordable and Accessible Childcare

The City supports efforts to increase affordable childcare access statewide, including reducing barriers for providers, supporting the construction of new facilities, enhancing workforce development, increasing access to state-subsidized childcare slots, and improving childcare availability in all areas.

9 Continue focus on I-5 Corridor between Mounts Road and Tumwater

Interstate 5 (I-5) is the lifeline of commerce, transportation, and JBLM’s mission readiness in the Puget Sound Region. Maintaining existing funding for this project is vital.

CITY OF LACEY ALSO SUPPORTS THE TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF:

Association of Washington Cities
South Sound Military & Communities Partnership
Thurston County Shared Legislative Agenda
Regional Housing Council
Washington Recreation & Park Association
Thurston Regional Planning Council
LOTT Clean Water Alliance

Government
Relations webpage:



FOR MORE INFORMATION

CITY OF LACEY

Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager
Shannon.Kelley-Fong@CityofLacey.org | 360.412.2891

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Brian Enslow, Arbutus LLC
Brian@arbutusllc.com | 360.489.8121



CITY OF **LACEY**

2025 State Legislative Priorities

LACEY CITY COUNCIL

Andy Ryder, Mayor

Malcolm Miller, Deputy Mayor

Lenny Greenstein

Michael Steadman

Carolyn Cox

Robin Vazquez

Nicolas Dunning

Adopted on December 3, 2024

View document online: QR code

CITY OF LACEY | 420 COLLEGE STREET SE | LACEY, WA 98503 | 360.491.3214 |
www.CityofLacey.org

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are on the ancestral land of the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek, including the Nisqually Indian Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe. We acknowledge, and remember those Tribal People not recognized today who were absorbed or relocated into other tribes for survival. We recognize the ancestors and their descendants who are still here. We recognize and respect the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek as the traditional stewards of this land since time immemorial and their role today in taking care of these lands in perpetuity. We recognize and have the responsibility to call attention to the histories of dispossession, forced removal, and abridged treaty rights that allowed our nation, state, and city to develop as they have today. We recommend that community members read the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854.

1. Develop long-term funding solutions for supportive housing acquisitions.

The City appreciates the state's continued leadership in responding to the homeless crisis, including funding for Maple Court. Since its inception, the plan for Maple Court has been to convert it from an enhanced shelter into needed permanent supportive housing. To date, the Regional Housing Council has allocated \$1.1M to support this transition.

The City requests funding to help convert Maple Court into permanent supportive housing and for sustainable operational funding for Rights-of-Way Initiative-funded programs.

2. Thurston County Regional Basic Law Enforcement Academies at the Lacey Regional Training Center

Police departments across Washington state face significant police staffing shortages. As communities continue growing and increasing numbers of law enforcement personnel retire, this program must receive adequate funding to provide training opportunities for new hires. Regional academies help reduce academy wait times and officer vacancy rates, and enhance local officer recruitment efforts. They also provide more equitable training opportunities as they increase the ability for community members to participate in academies by eliminating the need for extended stays away from home. Around the South Sound, recent vacancies have adversely impacted public safety services. The City strongly supports the creation of more regional BLEA academies.

The City requests \$1,000,000 for a regional BLEA academy at the Lacey Training Facility in 2026. Funding would be used to support academy operations.

Law Enforcement Vacancy Rates (Nov 2024)	
Lacey	0%
Olympia	10.1%
Tumwater	2.9%
Yelm	0%
Thurston County	8.6

3. Regional Animal Shelter and Control Facility

Joint Animal Services (JAS) is the animal shelter and control agency for the cities of Lacey, Tumwater, and Olympia, and unincorporated Thurston County ("Partners"). It serves over 303,976 community members in 774 square miles of urban and rural terrain. JAS provides humane law enforcement, sheltering, and medical care of strays (intake of over 2,600 animals in 2022), impounded and surrendered animals, adoption services, pet licensing, temporary emergency housing, and more. In 1996, JAS moved into their existing facility, a former warehouse. In addition to not meeting animal standards of care, **a recent study found the facility is failing and requires significant investment to maintain.** With the growth of the community, JAS operations have outgrown the space. A space needs assessment will take place in early 2025. This will determine facility needs and construction costs, estimated at \$25+ million. Facility design is anticipated to cost around \$2 million.

The City, with its partners, requests \$2,000,000 for facility design.

4. **Huntamer Park Civic Improvement Project**

For decades, the City has actively worked to transform the Midtown District into a vibrant and community-centered urban core through planning and public project efforts.

Huntamer Park, the “heart” of this area, is a 1.5-acre civic space in desperate need of updates to meet the growing community's needs. Previous significant improvements at Huntamer Park occurred in 2005. Since then, the surrounding Midtown District has grown significantly with new mixed-use and residential (re)developments. This project would strengthen opportunities for civic engagement, improve equity by increasing park access and amenities in a Community Development Block Grant-qualified census tract, increase environmental resiliency, improve public health and wellness, and expand opportunities for economic growth and development. **The City seeks \$200,000 to improve Huntamer Park, including adding plazas, a water feature, new landscaping, pathways, and furniture designed to create spaces for daily use while preserving civic spaces for important community events.**

Tentative Project Funding	
City	\$800,000
Federal	\$400,000
State	\$200,000
Total	\$1.4 million

POLICY ITEMS

5. **Public Defense Standards Impact**

The City is concerned about the impacts of the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) Recommended Revised Standards for Indigent Defense (Recommended Standards). The City asks that the State examine the financial impacts of these proposed changes on local jurisdictions and commit to financial support sufficient to offset these impacts before requiring implementation.

6. **Authorize Animal Control and Shelter Districts**

The City requests the creation of an Animal Control and Shelter Special Purpose District or the amendment of Metropolitan Municipal Corporations to allow for Animal Service Districts.

7. **Continue funding for the Defense Community Compatibility Account (DCCA)**

The City requests the State legislature prioritize ongoing investment in this grant program that supports civilian communities near military installations

8. **Increase availability of affordable and accessible childcare**

The City supports efforts to increase affordable childcare access statewide, including reducing barriers for providers, supporting the construction of new facilities, enhancing workforce development, increasing access to state-subsidized childcare slots, and improving childcare availability in all areas.

9. Continue focus on I-5 Corridor between Mounts Road and Tumwater

Interstate 5 (I-5) is the lifeline of commerce, transportation, and JBLM's mission readiness in the Puget Sound Region. Maintaining existing funding for this project is vital.

CITY OF LACEY ALSO SUPPORTS THE TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF:

Association of Washington Cities
South Sound Military & Communities Partnership
Thurston County Shared Legislative Agenda
Regional Housing Council
Washington Recreation & Park Association
TRPC
LOTT Clean Water Alliance

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CITY OF LACEY

Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager
Shannon.Kelley-Fong@CityofLacey.org | 360.412.2890

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Brian Enslow, Arbutus LLC
Brian@arbutusllc.com | 360.489.8121



CITY OF LACEY

2025 LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL





CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

Page intentionally left blank



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the ancestral land we are on today as the traditional territory of the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek, signed in 1854, including the Nisqually Indian Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe.

We acknowledge, remember, and must not forget those Tribal People that are named but not recognized today, and who were absorbed or relocated into other tribes for survival. We recognize the ancestors and their descendants who are still here.

We acknowledge, Indigenous People who called the land home before the arrival of settlers and have been here Since Time Immemorial.

We recognize the relationship that exists between Indigenous People and their traditional territories, which include the religious significance, self-determination, identity, and economic factors. The relationship helps all people heal from the past and learn how not to inflict new wounds today.

We recognize and respect Indigenous People as traditional stewards of this land, and acknowledge the Tribal Governments and their role today in taking care of these lands.

We recognize that this land acknowledgement, and the Nisqually-Lacey Accord of 2011, are small steps toward true allyship. We commit to partnering with the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek to continue to uplift the voices, experience, and histories of indigenous people of this land and beyond.

We recognize and have the responsibility to call attention to the histories of dispossession, forced removal, and abridged treaty rights that allowed our nation, state, and city to develop as they have today. We recommend that community members read the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854.

Visit www.CityofLacey.org/LandAcknowledgement for more information.



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	2
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	5
Local Authority	5
Public Records and Open Meetings	5
Prevent Liability Expansion, pursue crucial liability reforms	5
Continue funding for Defense Community Compatibility Account (DCCA)	6
LEED Building Standard	6
Public Defense Standards	6
Increase availability of affordable and accessible childcare	7
PERS 1 COLA.....	7
AFFORDABLE HOUSING HOUSING SERVICES	8
Develop long-term funding solutions for supportive housing acquisitions.	8
Other Support for Homelessness Services	8
Unfunded Social Service Mandates	8
Wildland Urban Interface	8
Quality Affordable Housing.....	8
Increasing Housing Density	9
COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	10
Economic Development Tools	10
Climate Resources and Tools.....	10
Airport Siting Concerns	10
Lacey MakerSpace.....	11
Project Timeline Review	11
Emergency and Transitional Housing Compliance	11
Electric Fences	12
PARKS, CULTURE AND RECREATION COMMUNITY SERVICES	13
CAPITAL REQUEST: Huntamer Park Civic Improvement Project	13
Future Project: Lacey Museum and Cultural Center	13
Future Project: Early Learning Access - Young Child and Families Center of Lacey.....	13
Park and Recreation Funding	14
Parks Rx programs	15
Active Transportation Funding	15



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	16
I5 Corridor: Mounts Road to Tumwater and the Nisqually River Delta	16
Stormwater and Culvert Funding	16
Public Property and Rights of Way Control.....	16
Definition of Public Works.....	16
Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) Model.....	16
FINANCE.....	17
Business Tax Simplification.....	17
State-Shared Revenues	17
General Fund Revenue	17
City Financial Liability for Indigent Defense.....	17
Unfunded Mandates (general)	17
PUBLIC SAFETY	18
CAPITAL REQUEST: Thurston County Regional Basic Law Enforcement Academies and Training Center.....	18
Authorize Animal Control and Shelter Districts.....	18
Joint Animal Services: Regional Animal Facility.....	18
Expand Behavioral health access and funding.....	19
Address Law Enforcement Vehicle Pursuits	19
Non-moving Traffic Stops.....	19
Auto-theft prevention and enforcement programs.....	19
School Resource Officers	19
Binding Interest Arbitration	19
Officer recruitment and retention	20
Thurston County Regional BLEA Training Academy and Training Center.....	20
Jail and Court Costs.....	20
Office of Independent Investigation (OII).....	20
CITY OF LACEY ALSO SUPPORTS THE TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF:.....	21
South Sound Military and Communities Partnerships	21
Association of Washington Cities	21
Thurston County Shared Legislative Agenda.....	21
Regional Housing Council	21
Washington Recreation and Park Association:.....	21



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Local Authority

The City supports preserving the authority of local governments regarding local taxation, land use planning, zoning and regulation consistent with the GMA (RCW 36.70A) and SEPA (RCW 43.21C.)

Public Records and Open Meetings

The City respects the right of the public to have access to legitimate public records and documents. The City believes its ability to recover the costs of searching for, gathering and reviewing requested documents is also in the public's interest. The City supports reasonable reforms to the Public Records Act. The City opposes requiring the recording of executive sessions or other restrictions on legitimate uses of executive sessions.

Prevent Liability Expansion, pursue crucial liability reforms

The City is staunchly opposed to legislation that would modify the accrual date for interest on tort judgments to the date the cause of action, such as 2023's SB5059.

The City is a member of Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA), a risk pool made up of 165 municipal entities across the state. The civil litigation environment is bad and getting worse for public entities in the State of Washington. Multimillion-dollar verdicts, also known as nuclear verdicts, were not common against public entities and were often awarded against large for profit private corporations. Over the last several years public entities have now been hit with nuclear verdicts. Risk pools are shouldering millions of dollars of exposure that are being passed down to their members in terms of additional assessments. The additional costs mean that our community is diverting money from community priorities to fund WCIA's assessment. Our pool relies on partnering with traditional insurance to provide further coverage above their self-funded \$4 million per loss. Those traditional insurance carriers are either refusing to write any coverage or doing so at significant costs. The future outlook is that our communities will have less coverage and will need to redirect money to cover losses rather than providing valuable services, programs and much needed maintenance.

The City requests opposing any efforts to expand tort law liability and/or the remedies available under tort law. If expansions are approved by the legislature, then the State should consider creating a fund to cover those costs. Cities and their risk pools cannot be expected to shoulder the staggering costs imposed by legislative changes. At a minimum that State should provide a reinsurance fund that risk pools and individual entities could utilize.

Tort reform for all public entities needs to be addressed and the balance restored between protecting harmed individuals with reasonable verdicts and appropriate defenses. Tort reform could include:



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

- Caps on the amount of damages that can be collected against public entities (which is law in 33 States)
- Reinstating immunities that have been eroded by the courts and amending the law on joint and several liability which incentivizes claims against public entities as deep pockets.

Continue funding for Defense Community Compatibility Account (DCCA)

The 2023-25 Capital Budget invests \$35.8 million in defense community compatibility projects throughout the state. This investment leverages over \$126 million in local and federal funds, including the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP). The City requests the State legislature prioritize ongoing investment in this grant program that supports civilian communities near military installations. In the future, the DCCA and DCIP could serve as important funding opportunities for the Young Child and Family Center of Lacey.

LEED Building Standard

Since 2005, the State has required LEED Silver certification for all new state agency, state college and university and K-12 school construction and major renovation projects over 5,000 square feet. While the City recognizes the need for making buildings more efficient to reduce costs and lower pollution from fossil fuels, we believe that there are other meaningful and more cost-effective metrics and standards that could be used in lieu of the expensive and cumbersome LEED rating system.

Public Defense Standards

The City is concerned about the impacts of the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) Recommended Revised Standards for Indigent Defense (Recommended Standards). While we support the main objectives of the Recommended Standards, the abrupt increase in required legal support would represent a drastic, unfunded escalation for the City's limited general fund, more than tripling the \$3M the City had projected spending over the next five years. Absorbing this financial burden in the existing general fund revenue structure is unreasonable and untenable without a substantial increase in state funding to support implementation. Compounding this issue, there is also a severe shortage of public defenders across Washington. Even if the state provided sufficient funding to hire the required number of defenders, contracted firms, like the City, would face significant challenges in finding enough qualified candidates to hire and manage in a short period. This issue extends to required support staff, prosecutors, and other connected services. The Recommended Standards necessitate substantial financial resources, which pose the risk of reducing or eliminating funding for various and vital preventative community City programs. The City asks that the State examine the financial impacts of these proposed changes on local jurisdictions and commit to financial support sufficient to offset these impacts before



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

requiring implementation, including considering caseload decreases and the timing of phases to minimize impact.

Increase availability of affordable and accessible childcare

With AWC and SSMCP, the City supports efforts to increase affordable childcare access statewide. These efforts include reducing barriers for providers, supporting the construction of new facilities, enhancing workforce development, increasing access to state-subsidized childcare slots, and improving childcare availability in all areas. Childcare is a vital component of economic development. In Thurston County, data shows that 15.32% of the necessary infant care supply is available, 19.78% of the required toddler care supply is accessible, 29.99% of the needed preschool care is provided, and 10.28% of the requisite school-age care is available.

PERS 1 COLA

The City supports COLAs for PERS 1 retirees to lessen the impact of inflation on their benefits; however, with AWC, the City opposes PERS 1 COLA plans funded by the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) surcharge. The UAAL surcharge impacts current local government budgets, including the City's, to pay for unplanned benefit increases. Recent legislation was expected to mostly phase out UAAL surcharges. According to past fiscal analysis, a permanent PERS 1 COLA funded by the UAAL surcharge would cost local governments an additional \$1.27 billion over the next 15 years.



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

AFFORDABLE HOUSING | HOUSING SERVICES

Develop long-term funding solutions for supportive housing acquisitions.

The City appreciates the state's continued leadership in responding to the homeless crisis, including funding for Maple Court. Since its inception, the plan for Maple Court has been to convert it from an enhanced shelter into needed permanent supportive housing. To date, the Regional Housing Council has allocated \$1.1M to support this transition. The City requests funding to help convert Maple Court into permanent supportive housing and for sustainable operational funding for Rights-of-Way Initiative-funded programs.

Other Support for Homelessness Services

The City allocates approximately 2% of its general fund to support social services in the community that benefit low-income and vulnerable community members. The City requests the state's partnership in supporting programs and services that help prevent temporary and recurrent homelessness.

Unfunded Social Service Mandates

While recognizing that there is a significant need for enhanced social services throughout Washington, the City strongly opposes any unfunded state mandates regarding behavioral health, crisis relief, housing and shelter, co-responder programs, and employment services. The City supports working with the State Legislature to create state-led, sustainable tools and resources.

Wildland Urban Interface

The State Building Code Council adopted the International Wildland Urban Interface Code with amendments and maps that will significantly drive up the cost of housing in areas which are not at risk of wildfires, including most of Lacey and its Urban Growth Area. The requirements for fire rated construction materials in areas adjacent to a park or high density but vacant land will add significant costs to housing developers. The requirement for defensible spaces will serve to lower achieved densities, driving the need for more land for the same number of housing units.

The Association of Washington Cities along with the Cities of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater as well as Thurston County are working with the Code Council to amend the code to lessen the impacts to housing costs, but a legislative review of the intent of the code is warranted.

Quality Affordable Housing

The City supports legislation that incentivizes developers to build affordable housing, such as the multifamily housing tax exemption, and funding allocated for public and nonprofit affordable housing, including the Housing Trust Fund.



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

Increasing Housing Density

Housing affordability and access is a high priority issue for Lacey and the greater Thurston County region. The City recently updated its zoning code to allow for at minimum 6 residential units per acre in all residential zones. The City supports continuing to work collaboratively between the state and local jurisdictions to create a variety of affordable housing options and tools. The City supports creating consistent standards between the City and its Urban Growth Area.



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development Tools

The City supports robust and sustainable funding for the Economic Development Strategic Reserve Fund, Tax Increment Financing, Community Economic Revitalization Board, Public Works Assistance Account, Public Facility Districts, and other programs that assist local governments in neighborhood residential and commercial area rehabilitation. The City also supports legislation that provides optional economic development tools for cities, such as the multi-family housing tax incentive, lodging tax, the Main Street Act, complete streets grant program, community facility financing, shared state revenue for construction of convention and special event centers, additional shared state revenue for public facility improvements, etc.

Climate Resources and Tools

Climate change is already affecting our communities. Impacts like hotter summers, wildfire smoke, and flooding endanger our homes and affect public health and local business. Lacey, Thurston County, Olympia, and Tumwater partnered to create the Thurston Climate Action Plan to reduce climate polluting greenhouse gases while maintaining - and even improving - quality of life. The Thurston Climate Action Plan includes mitigation and action strategies that are ready for implementation. However, some of the most impactful greenhouse gas reduction projects and programs are not feasible given funding limitations. The City supports the creation of a sustainable state program using unallocated Climate Commitment Act funds, or other state resources, to fund local climate capital projects that enhance community resiliency. The City also supports the state working with local governments for future climate initiatives in the transition to green energy alternatives to ensure solutions are feasible for all parties.

The City supports building electrification programs that complements the funding in the federal Inflation Reduction Act and helps residents and building owners transition to all-electric buildings, with an emphasis on ensuring low- and moderate-income residents, multifamily housing, and small businesses are prioritized.

The City also supports Medium and Heavy-Duty Vehicle electrification incentive programs that would provide vouchers that purchasers can use at participating dealers.

Airport Siting Concerns

The City, along with Thurston County and the cities of Olympia, Tumwater, Rainier, Yelm, Tenino, and town of Bucoda, opposed the former Commercial Aviation Coordination Commission's (CACC) Thurston County two-runway airport expansion site. An airport in Thurston County would endanger environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., wetlands, prairies, and endangered species), further decrease rapidly-dwindling agricultural lands, augment



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

environmental health challenges and exacerbate existing health disparities, and irrevocably damage the quality of life for Thurston County community members. For future study of this issue, the City supports (re)adding previously vetoed language ensuring military compatibility in consideration of increasing commercial aviation.

Lacey MakerSpace

Lacey MakerSpace, currently serving members in Pierce, Thurston, Lewis, and Mason Counties, is a collaborative “innovator’s workshop” designed to support small businesses, entrepreneurs, artists, product developers and manufacturers. Lacey MakerSpace endeavors to 1) reduce barriers for community members by offering instruction and access to state-of-the-art fabrication and prototyping equipment, 2) develop new workforce training and apprenticeship programs aimed at growing advanced manufacturing businesses in the region, 3) foster collaboration and outreach as a hub of a larger ecosystem of business and networking services. Since opening its doors in 2019, every year Lacey MakerSpace has grown and increased its impact on our region’s economic development and workforce readiness. To enhance operations over the next few years to meet future growth and workforce needs, Thurston County partners have diligently worked to obtain funding to expand the footprint of the MakerSpace to over 9500 square feet and obtain additional advanced manufacturing technologies. The Thurston County partners are requesting the creation of a grant program that would allow innovation spaces, like Lacey MakerSpace, to continue to provide and enhance workforce training and development opportunities throughout the state.

Project Timeline Review

The City prides itself in being responsive to all forms of public service, including land use project review. The City has concerns that it will be difficult to demonstrate compliance with shortened state established project review timelines without adequate tracking tools in place. Specifically, there is no efficient and consistent portal for local staff to track the stop clocks when the delay is due to the developer and the time does not count towards the timelines.

Emergency and Transitional Housing Compliance

The City opposes code and permit changes for Emergency housing that create unreasonable time requirements. These bills are often designed for a few “bad actors” and penalizes those who are in good faith complying. Creating an alternative process to challenge local review authority outside the regular appeal process would increase the risk of litigation and create unnecessary work and cost for the City. The City opposes any unfunded mandates related to emergency and transitional housing.



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

Electric Fences

The City opposes legislation that would pre-empt local jurisdictions from adopting or enforcing regulations prohibiting the installation or use of an electrified security alarm system on certain properties.



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

PARKS, CULTURE AND RECREATION | COMMUNITY SERVICES

The City has worked to create more equitable access to parks for all community members. The City's investments in local parks and requested state partnership reflect work toward this goal.

CAPITAL REQUEST: Huntamer Park Civic Improvement Project

For decades, the City has actively worked to transform the Midtown District into a vibrant and community-centered urban core through planning and public project efforts. Huntamer Park, the “heart” of this area, is a 1.5-acre civic space in desperate need of updates to meet the growing community's needs. Previous significant improvements at Huntamer Park occurred in 2005. Since then, the surrounding Midtown District has grown significantly with new mixed-use and residential (re)developments. This project would strengthen opportunities for civic engagement, improve equity by increasing park access and amenities in a Community Development Block Grant-qualified census tract, increase environmental resiliency, improve public health and wellness, and expand opportunities for economic growth and development. **The City seeks \$200,000 to improve Huntamer Park, including adding plazas, a water feature, new landscaping, pathways, and furniture designed to create spaces for daily use while preserving civic spaces for important community events.**

Future Project: Lacey Museum and Cultural Center

The City is developing a new museum and cultural center that will enrich the community and engage visitors by sharing vibrant stories of the past through the preservation and celebration of Lacey and the South Sound's cultural heritage. The design is currently 100 percent complete, with an estimated completion cost of \$15 million.

Future Project: Early Learning Access - Young Child and Families Center of Lacey

There is a critical need for early learning and indoor recreation resources in Lacey. The demand for high-quality childcare programs has outpaced industry growth for several years. The City supports policies and programs that increase access to affordable, quality childcare in Washington and policies that expand access to preschool. According to the Washington State Department for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), most of the North Thurston Public Schools (NTPS) service area falls within an “extreme childcare access desert.” NTPS is moving forward with the Early Learning Center portion of this project thanks to state funding for design and the passage of a bond. The City and its partners are assessing the feasibility of a recreation center to include an indoor child aquatics and play space, and outdoor spray park.



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

Park and Recreation Funding

The City supports ongoing funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Aquatic Land Enhancement Account (ALEA), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) grant programs. The City supports ongoing funding for the following:

- **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP):** Continuing to fund \$150M or greater. Funding at this level could support the following Lacey projects:
 - **Playground replacement at William A. Bush Park.** The project goals are to create a safer, more inclusive, more accessible, and more engaging play environment - \$221,000.
 - **Rainier Vista Park improvements.** This project includes the addition of four (4) pickleball courts, two (2) outdoor ping pong tables, and safety netting between the pickleball courts and softball fields. The project goals are to meet the public's need by providing additional active outdoor recreation opportunities for all ages, increasing capacity for use at current facilities, and increasing safety - \$500,000
- **Aquatic Land Enhancement Fund (ALEA)**
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**
- **Youth Athletic Fund (YAF):** Support for full funding at new grant limits.
- **Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities program (COAF):** Support and maximize funding of the \$25M allocated and expanding funding closer to the original \$42M.
- **Local Parks Maintenance Grants (LPMG)**
- **No Child Left Inside (NCLI):** The City supports renewing operating funding for this initiative.
- **Recreation Access Grant:** The City supports renewing and continue with operating funds and include a cohort grant program WRP is authorized and funded to facilitate.



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

Parks Rx programs

There are currently more than 400 studies that demonstrate the numerous health benefits of spending time in nature. Park Rx programs involve health or social service providers who encourage people to spend time in nature to encourage physical activity and improve health and well-being. These programs often include collaboration between park and public land agencies, public health, healthcare providers, and community partners. The City supports the advancement of Park Rx programs.

Active Transportation Funding

The City supports the inclusion of parks in future funding allocations of "Active Transportation" components of the Move Ahead Washington package to support local trails and projects that extend out of the road right of way for safe routes to schools, parks and other business and community centers that can reduce local travel.



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

I5 Corridor: Mounts Road to Tumwater and the Nisqually River Delta

Interstate 5 (I-5) is the lifeline of commerce, transportation, and JBLM's mission readiness in the Puget Sound Region. However, its current design impedes critical ecological functions of the Nisqually River Delta, critical for salmon survival. I-5 is also at risk of flooding from the Nisqually River, resulting in national security concerns, and it fails to meet the increasing commerce and transportation demands of our state. Maintaining existing funding for this project is vital.

Stormwater and Culvert Funding

Cities have significant stormwater and culvert funding needs. The City joins AWC in requesting secure, ongoing and sufficient funding for city culvert repair and replacement. The City supports funding for current and new grant programs for local stormwater and culvert projects.

Public Property and Rights of Way Control

The City opposes any efforts that would diminish the City's control of public property and rights of way.

Definition of Public Works

The City opposes the expansion of public works projects to include work supported in part or in whole by grants or loans of public dollars, or by tax deferral or reimbursement. This would cause significant increased costs for local governments without adding any substantial public benefit. Additionally, the proposed changes would be a disincentive to non-profits and developers looking to utilize property tax exemptions and other financial tools that were developed to specifically incentivize the construction of multi-family housing and other affordable housing options.

Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) Model

As the State Legislature considers VMT, the City requests that City perspectives be included in future stakeholder discussions.



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

FINANCE

Business Tax Simplification

The City supports business tax simplification across the state provided changes are, at minimum, revenue neutral for the City.

State-Shared Revenues

Cities have relied on state-shared revenues to provide critical funding for essential public services. Recognizing the state is facing a budget shortfall, it is critical that commitments to sharing revenues with local governments be honored. During the last recession, the state reduced state-shared revenues when many local governments were already struggling to maintain basic services. The City joins AWC in supporting restoration and continued appropriation of committed state shared funds, such as Liquor Excise Taxes and Profits, City-County Assistance Account, Municipal Criminal Justice Account, Annexation Sales Tax Credit, and public health funding. State shared revenues are used to support city activities, including police, infrastructure development, public defenders, municipal court, etc.

General Fund Revenue

The City supports legislation that will increase, expand, or favorably restructure its revenue-raising ability. In consideration of 1) the continued growth in demand for services that exceed revenue growth and inflation, and 2) intimate knowledge of individual community needs, the City supports unrestricted uses of all general government tax revenue.

City Financial Liability for Indigent Defense

Indigent defense is a constitutional right that should be funded by the state. The City supports state funding for indigent defense that is standardized and non-competitive in order to ensure more equitable funding.

Unfunded Mandates (general)

Mandates from the Federal and State governments are rarely accompanied with adequate new revenues or taxing authority, but instead force the City to reduce funding levels for other services. The City opposes efforts by the State Legislature to balance budgets by shifting responsibilities to cities.



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

PUBLIC SAFETY

CAPITAL REQUEST: Thurston County Regional Basic Law Enforcement Academies and Training Center

Police departments across Washington state face significant police staffing shortages. As communities continue growing and increasing numbers of law enforcement personnel retire, this program must receive adequate funding to provide training opportunities for new hires. Regional academies help reduce academy wait times and officer vacancy rates, and enhance local officer recruitment efforts. They also provide more equitable training opportunities as they increase the ability for community members to participate in academies by eliminating the need for extended stays away from home. Around the South Sound, recent vacancies have adversely impacted public safety services. The City strongly supports the creation of more regional BLEA academies. The City requests \$1,000,000 for a regional BLEA academy at the Lacey Training Facility in 2026. Funding would be used to support academy operations.

Authorize Animal Control and Shelter Districts

Joint Animal Services (JAS) is the animal shelter and control agency for the cities of Lacey, Tumwater, and Olympia, and unincorporated Thurston County. See item #2 for more information. The City requests the creation of an Animal Control and Shelter Special Purpose District or the amendment of Metropolitan Municipal Corporations to allow for Animal Service Districts. The purpose of the Animal Service Districts would be for the management, control, improvement, maintenance, and acquisition of animal control and shelter activities. These districts would improve and expand animal care, sheltering, and field response. Like other special districts, this could require a simple majority of voters to impose property taxes.

Joint Animal Services: Regional Animal Facility

Joint Animal Services (JAS) is the animal shelter and control agency for the cities of Lacey, Tumwater, and Olympia, and unincorporated Thurston County ("Partners"). It serves over 303,976 community members in 774 square miles of urban and rural terrain. JAS provides humane law enforcement, sheltering, and medical care of strays (intake of over 2,600 animals in 2022), impounded and surrendered animals, adoption services, pet licensing, temporary emergency housing, and more. In 1996, JAS moved into their existing facility, a former warehouse. In addition to not meeting animal standards of care, a recent study found the facility is failing and requires significant investment to maintain. With the growth of the community, JAS operations have outgrown the space. A space-needs assessment will take place in early 2025. This will determine facility needs and construction costs, estimated at \$25+ million. Facility design is anticipated to cost around \$2 million. The City, with its partners, requests \$2,000,000 for facility design.



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

Expand Behavioral health access and funding

With AWC, the City supports greater access to the entire continuum of behavioral health services and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment for adults and juveniles, including crisis treatment, inpatient, intensive outpatient, and ongoing behavioral and mental health treatment and SUD treatment. This includes, but is not limited to, support to improve workforce and staffing issues at community treatment centers, and additional state funding for establishment and expansion of treatment facilities.

Address Law Enforcement Vehicle Pursuits

The City supports recent revisions to state law empowering law enforcement to engage in vehicle pursuits under proper supervision and using risk/benefit analysis to continue an active pursuit. Cities will continue to support safety standards and training for officers who engage in vehicle pursuits.

Non-moving Traffic Stops

The City opposes any effort to restrict or eliminate the ability of local law enforcement to conduct traffic enforcement for non-moving violations. This would remove the ability of the City to ensure that all vehicles operating on our public roadways are mechanically safe, as well as, being properly registered and licensed. Further, the City has a public safety interest to reduce injuries from traffic collisions by confirming that drivers are wearing their seatbelts and are not operating vehicles while distracted. The City is committed to protecting the environment and has a vested interest in ensuring that vehicles operating upon its public roadways are not producing excessive audible or climate altering exhaust pollution due to vehicle operators bypassing manufacturer installed pollution control systems.

Auto-theft prevention and enforcement programs

The City supports additional tools to address auto theft and property crime including additional investment in auto-theft prevention and enforcement programs, regional property crimes task forces, and prosecution, public defense, and judicial resources.

School Resource Officers

While the City participates in a highly effective program with North Thurston Public Schools to offer School Resource Officers (SROs) at each of the high schools, the City opposes any legislation mandating SROs that add an unfunded mandate and exacerbate the existing officer shortage across Washington state.

Binding Interest Arbitration

The City recognizes the importance of having a tool to help resolve potentially devastating strikes by essential service personnel, such as police and firefighters. The City opposes expanding binding arbitration and supports revising the current arbitration system, including creating a system to review the qualifications, standards, and performance of appointed arbitrators to reduce bias, enhance equity, and achieve objective decision making.



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

Officer recruitment and retention

The City supports additional funding tools and resources to support officer recruitment and retention, including but not limited to pursuing changes to eligibility requirements to allow those in DACA status to serve as police officers.

Thurston County Regional BLEA Training Academy and Training Center

Police departments across Washington state are experiencing significant police staffing shortages. As communities continue to grow and increasing numbers of law enforcement personnel retire, it is imperative this program receive adequate funding to provide training opportunities for new hires. The City supports the creation of more regional BLEA academies. Regional academies help decrease academy wait times and officer vacancy rates, enhance local recruitment of officers, and provide more equitable opportunities as they increase accessibility for community members to participate in academies by eliminating the need to stay away from family for extended periods of time. Around the South Sound, recent vacancies have adversely impacted public safety services. The City requests \$1,000,000 for a regional BLEA academy at the Lacey Training Facility in 2026. Funding would be used to support academy operations.

Jail and Court Costs

The City supports legislative proposals that reduce jail and court costs, and maintain its flexibility in providing jail and court services. The City also supports maintaining the flexibility to select the most appropriate way to provide jail services.

Office of Independent Investigation (OII)

The City supports independent and transparent investigations into the use of deadly force by law enforcement. The City holds that it is unreasonable to expect local jurisdictions to assist OII with their investigations of other jurisdiction's law enforcement without compensation. Further, the City believe it is unreasonable to not provide the assisting jurisdiction with the same level liability granted to OII and its personnel.



CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 3, 2024

CITY OF LACEY ALSO SUPPORTS THE TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF:

South Sound Military and Communities Partnerships

- Create a centralized military affairs position
- Improve Access to Child Care
- Support the DCCA
- Support the Tumwater and Nisqually River Delta

Association of Washington Cities

- Provide sustainable financial tools for cities
- Increase grant funding for Behavioral Health Programs
- Create new regional Basic Law Enforcement Academies
- Increase Housing Supply and affordability

Thurston County Shared Legislative Agenda

- ENTER

Regional Housing Council

- Increase funding for rent assistance
- Provide long-term operational funds for ROW Initiative Projects
- Increase capital funding in the Housing Trust Fund for affordable housing
- Provide capital funding for Maple Court transition to permanent supportive housing

Washington Recreation and Park Association:

- Keep funding vital park and recreation grant programs
- Provide equitable Parks and Programs

TRPC

LOTT Clean Water Alliance