



City of Bothell™
2021-22 Policy Manual

The City of Bothell strongly promotes local control and home rule for cities and will support or oppose legislation and proposed constitutional amendments based on whether they advance maximum local control by city governments over city budgets, land use, community development, and other municipal activities.

Administrative and Employment Related

- Oppose legislation that shifts payments for City employee's pension and benefit programs from the state to cities.
- Support proposals that assist local governments to defend against and respond to cyber-attacks.
- Monitor any legislative proposals that impact the state's current sick leave laws.

Affordable Housing, Health, Human Services and Homelessness

- Support initiatives that increase the availability of resources that add services and shelter, and assist communities in addressing issues of mental health, substance use disorder, and homelessness.
- Support legislative efforts and additional funding to combat the heroin/opioid epidemic and to aid those hampered by addiction.
- Support legislative efforts toward fair housing and anti-discrimination.
- Support options to increase the supply of affordable housing in the Central Puget Sound region through investments in the Housing Trust Fund and providing local option funding mechanisms.
- Support creation of a statewide fund to preserve manufactured housing communities, including public purchase of privately owned communities and replacement assistance for individual homes that have reached the end of their usable life.
- Support local option for extending MFTE for rehabilitation of existing housing and for increasing duration of exemption.
- Oppose state mandates of local actions without commensurate funding sources to plan for and implement the actions.

Budget and Fiscal Matters

- Oppose legislation that would impose state-mandated costs for which there is no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefit.
- Support full cost reimbursement to the City for all state mandated programs.
- Support legislative efforts to address property tax cap limits.
- Protect state shared revenues (liquor, marijuana, MRSC).
- Oppose legislation that would preempt or reduce local discretion over locally imposed taxes.
- Support legislation that preserves tax exempt municipal bonds and advanced refunding of municipal bonds.



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Community and Economic Development

- Support legislation that expands community and economic development tools and funding options for infrastructure and affordable housing - including, but not limited to expanding LIFT and/or adopting tax increment financing.
- Support legislation that enhances the City's ability to promote economic development and job creation.

Education

- Support for the WSOS – Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (Student Support Pathways Account) program. This allows the State of Washington to match municipal and private sector investments in eligible professional-technical degrees and certificates through an application process in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) and healthcare, and to encourage scholarship recipients to work in the state upon completion of their degrees.

Environment

- Support stable and increased funding for contaminated site remediation and policies that encourage greater than 50% state match for projects.
- Support increased staffing at Department of Ecology to operate contaminated site remediation programs and streamline the administrative processes.
- Support sustainability measures which protect the environment, including those related to waste reduction and diversion policies, clean air, and clean renewable energy, after careful assessment of each for adverse impacts on existing City resources.
- Support for the preservation of Shelton View Forest.

Land Use and Planning

- Oppose legislation that requires cities to modify their permitting process.
- Oppose legislation that limits cities' ability to set and collect impact fees.
- Oppose legislation that erodes local land use decisions and long-range planning.
- Support tools that incentivize, but do not mandate, cities to increase density within their jurisdiction.
- Oppose additional Growth Management requirements (e.g. buildable lands reporting, mandatory permit procedures or timelines) that are not fully reimbursed by state funding.
- Support legislation that streamlines the annexation requirements and process for cities that have a designated annexation area approved by the county.
- Support efforts to better integrate SMA, GMA and SEPA.
- Support local option to use a portion of permit fees to support long range planning.

Public Safety



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- Bothell supports the need to retain local control over city law enforcement (LE) policy decisions to ensure that they meet community needs and expectations and appropriately contain costs.
- Bothell supports statewide action on the following, with the need to recognize local authority and cost implications:
 - Expand the grounds for decertification to include those terminated for use of force violations;
 - Reform binding interest arbitration to provide greater authority for chiefs and sheriffs to dismiss officers who are not helpful to the agency's mission or betray the public's trust;
 - Creation of a statewide standard for use of force so long as local jurisdictions are not prohibited from enacting a more robust standard;
 - Creation of a statewide database to track officers who have been fired or resign from their employment for misconduct;
 - Require that officer misconduct investigations be completed, regardless of an officer's resignation;
 - Establishing a duty for all LE officers to immediately intervene and report any misconduct or illegal activity on the part of another LE officer;
 - Requiring that all LE officers receive a psychological evaluation after any fatal use of force incident, prior to returning to duty;
 - Recognition that statewide LE requirements should not be subject to local bargaining.
- Bothell will monitor statewide action on the following:
 - Requiring all fatal use of force investigations to be conducted by an independent state entity;
 - Requiring a completed investigation of a fatal use of force to be prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office when prosecution is warranted, rather than a local prosecuting attorney;
- Bothell supports narrowing of who can receive public records requests to those individuals directly involved in an active case.
- Support sufficient funding for law enforcement training through Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) classes.
- Support legislation to change the maximum amount of time a newly hired officer has to attend the Basic Law Enforcement Academy from 6 months to 2 months.
- Support ongoing state funding for co-responder programs such as the Response Awareness, De-Escalation and Referral (RADAR) program. RADAR is a partnership between the Bothell, Kenmore, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, and Shoreline police departments to address the rights and needs of individuals with behavioral health issues and/or developmental disabilities.
- Support legislation that does not unduly impact law enforcement officials from obtaining video surveillance from public or private entities.



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- Support legislation that makes it easier for public service agencies to collaborate with social services providers in order to implement emergency prevention and risk reduction programs for at-risk populations.
- Support legislation that provides funding for disaster preparedness, Homeland Security, and other local emergency management and law enforcement activities.
- Support and promote programs that enhance the benefits of mutual aid agreements between local governments.
- Support legislation and budget requests to fund immediate and critical court services.
- Support legislative changes to increase the state's contribution towards indigent defense services.
- Support efforts to move toward restorative justice in the court system.

Transportation, Utilities and Public Works

- Support sustainable funding for the Public Works Assistance Account.
- Support continuation of Transportation Improvement Board grant funding.
- Support implementation of the WSDOT I-405 Master Plan, including potential alternative funding sources if bonding of toll revenue will not allow the improvements along the north corridor to proceed in a timely manner.
- Support improvements to SR 522 and SR 527 as major arterials through Bothell.
- Support legislation that provides a fair, reliable, equitable, and continuous funding source for transportation projects, allocates funding for local street maintenance projects, and increases revenues for infrastructure repair and maintenance.
- Support legislation that provides funding to local governments for local transportation, water, sewer, and storm system projects.
- Support efforts to ensure and protect the water supply for local agencies.
- Oppose legislation that seeks to lessen the City's ability to enforce contractual language agreed to and contained within existing franchise documents.
- Oppose legislation that diminishes or does not assure local franchise fees for all utilities' use of City right-of-way.
- The City of Bothell is a member of the Eastside Transportation Partnership (ETP), a collaborative organization representing 21 Eastside King County cities and King County. The City supports the ETP's 2021 Legislative Priorities that align with city transportation priorities.
- The City supports policies and funding that provide greater access and equity for broadband services, including the potential expansion of authority to cities and other public entities.
- Support authorizing parks and recreation service areas to use the small works roster.
- Support providing tools and resources to ensure cities are made whole from overdue utility bills during the COVID-19 pandemic.