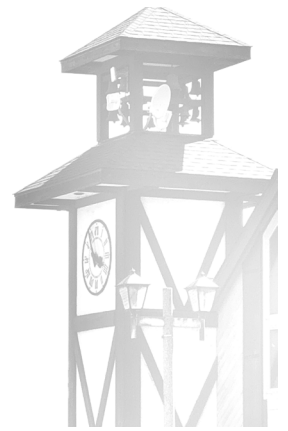


WHITE SALMON 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

As a small community, we are not immune to the burdens felt by our urban neighbors, yet often don't receive the same funding opportunities or consideration. Issues of aging infrastructure, vulnerable public transportation, limited affordable housing, and law enforcement burdened by an increasing mental health crisis, are as pressing in our community. We support the legislative efforts outlined below in the interest of addressing these issues.



INFRASTRUCTURE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Transportation Funding:** Develop new transportation specific revenue options as well as a statewide package that includes increased resources for rural public transportation needs. *(Shared AWC Priority)*
- **Public Works Trust Fund:** Especially for small, rural communities, the Public Works Trust Fund is a critical resource for realizing necessary infrastructure improvements. As such, White Salmon supports efforts to fully fund the Public Works Trust Fund, as well as uphold the existing 2% state share of dedicated REET funds and end ongoing revenue diversions as soon as possible. *(Shared AWC Priority)*
- **Adjust 1% property tax cap** for one that accounts for inflation and population growth.
- **Support Carbon Reduction and Resiliency in Small Cities:** Provide additional funding and support to allow small cities to access funding available to larger cities to reduce carbon emissions and improve resiliency. Specifically, small cities could use help purchasing electric and alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure for car and truck fleets.

HOUSING

- **Multifamily Housing:** Change the multifamily tax exemption program to open it to cities with populations under 15,000. This would aid in our ability to encourage construction of new, rehabilitated, or converted multifamily affordable housing in designated areas.
- **Tenant Protections:** We support passing state-wide tenant protections requiring a landlord to have just or “good” cause to terminate a tenancy. The current residential-landlord laws allowing for 20-day “no cause” terminations contribute to feeding a cycle of housing instability and can provide a cover for discriminatory or retaliatory practices.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Freeze funding requirements** for the Basic Law Enforcement Academy. When factored into the other costs associated with onboarding new officers, the anticipated burden of continued increased contributions by local agencies will ultimately impair the ability of small communities to adequately support their law enforcement.
- **Support the state** in pursuing enhancements and reforms to improve the overwhelmed mental health and drug abuse response systems.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

- **Increase Purchasing Limits:** The current purchasing thresholds for equipment, services, and materials unrelated to public works projects on code cites under 20,000 population have not changed in over 30 years. Those limits are \$7,500 requiring multiple quotes and \$15,000 for formal competitive bidding. A consideration of reevaluating current thresholds and instituting a system more in line with economic factors accounting for inflation would ease the burden currently carried by Washington's smaller municipalities.



A Proud Community Working Together to Create and Sustain a Desirable Place to Live, Work, Play, and Stay.

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