



MEMORANDUM

TO: Whatcom County Council
FROM: Whatcom County Executive's Office
RE: 2024 Draft State Legislative Agenda
DATE: November 9, 2023

Background

The Washington State Legislature will convene on January 8th to begin the 2024 legislative session. The Executive's Office has worked with the City of Bellingham, Port of Bellingham, Council, County Departments and Elected Officials, as well as numerous Boards & Committees to create a proposed legislative agenda for Council's consideration. Our intention is for this legislative agenda to represent the joint positions of the County Council and County Executive.

We are requesting Council discussion and feedback on the attached agenda as well as a motion of support during the November 21st Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Enclosed Documents

- DRAFT Whatcom County Executive & County Council 2024 State Legislative Priorities
- DRAFT City of Bellingham / Port of Bellingham/ Whatcom County Joint Legislative Objectives

Next Steps

The Executive's Office will work with legislators from the 40th and 42nd Legislative Districts to prepare for success during session. As opportunities for advocacy arise, we look forward to engaging Council in testimony opportunities, letter writing, and other opportunities. As you see bills and issues that interest you throughout session, we are here to support Council as a body with legislative engagement.

Though these draft documents reflect our effort to capture all potential issues, we expect additional opportunities to arise throughout session. The Executive will react to those issues based on the policy guidance provided by Council through adoption of these priorities documents.

Please reach out to Kayla Schott-Bresler (x5220) with any questions.