

2022 LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES

City of Bellingham - Port of Bellingham - Whatcom County

The joint legislative agenda outlines and defines the shared objectives of the three entities and the commitment to work cooperatively with the Legislature, to strengthen the partnership between state and local governments, and to ensure that we have the full resources to implement the policies and goals as adopted by the State of Washington.

- **Capital Budget Priorities**
 - Preserve MTCA funding for environmental cleanup projects and brownfield redevelopment efforts
 - Increase funding for countywide broadband infrastructure
 - Provide funding for the proposed Families with Children Shelter
- **Transportation Budget Priorities**
 - Advocate for new transportation funding package
 - Support the 2015 Connecting Washington transportation projects slated to receive future state funds
 - Increase state funding to remove fish passage barriers
- **Economic Development**
 - Extend the .09% local sales and use tax for public facilities. Since 1997, Whatcom County's Economic Development Investment Program has stimulated private investment and facilitated the expansion, retention and attraction of businesses and increased employment opportunities
- **Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability**
 - Continued fiscal and policy support for energy efficiency and clean energy transition and development
 - Sustainable funding enhancements to DNR's Derelict Vessel Removal Program
- **Housing Affordability and Child Care**
 - Advocate for policies and funding that increase housing affordability measures
 - Provide prudent flexibility in County Investment Pool Funds to invest in Affordable Housing projects
 - Increase and stabilize funding for childcare facilities and operation, including subsidies
- **Fiscal Sustainability**
 - Protect and enhance local revenue sharing options
 - Preserve shared tax revenue for local governments
- **Criminal Justice and Social Services Funding**
 - Support funding for criminal and civil justice assistance and alternatives
 - Increase funding for behavioral health services and homeless serving efforts
 - Improve upon legislation intended to address law enforcement response and access to behavioral health services

