

## Association of WA Cities 2024 Legislative Priorities

- **Public safety – Officer recruitment and retention**

Additional funding tools and resources to support officer recruitment and retention, including but not limited to updating the Public Safety Sales Tax to allow an option to implement by councilmanic authority and providing greater flexibility on use of the funds.  
Expanded access to mandated training, especially for the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA), including more regional academies to get new officers on the street faster and to support recruitment and retention.
- **Infrastructure investment**

Continued state investment in local infrastructure (traditional and broadband), particularly for operations and maintenance.  
Expanded funding options for state and local transportation, particularly for preservation and maintenance.  
Climate Commitment Act funding for city priorities that support carbon reduction and climate resiliency.
- **Behavioral health**

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.
- **Property tax cap**

Revise the property tax cap to tie it to inflation, up to 3%, and population growth factors, so that local elected officials can adjust the local property tax rate to better serve their communities. The current 1% cap has created a structural deficit in the city revenue and expenditure model, resulting in a reliance on regressive revenues and artificially restricting the use of property taxes to fund community needs.