RESOLUTION R-5755

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND APPROVING THE CITY'S STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 2027 SESSION OF THE WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, actions of the Washington State Legislature with respect to local government issues, services, and funding have a profound impact upon the ability of local governments to provide local services; and

WHEREAS, the City Council supports legislation that promotes the Council's goals, plans, policies, and initiatives that enable Kirkland to provide basic municipal services and meet the needs of current and future community members; and

WHEREAS, the Council seeks to protect shared State revenue sources available to the City and provide new revenue options and flexibility of existing revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Council supports the partnership between cities and the state to ensure that critical mandates are funded, and vital services are provided to all community members, including community-based behavioral health and other critical human services; and

WHEREAS, the Council seeks to advance initiatives identified in the City's Work Program; Council Goals; Budget; Comprehensive Plan; Sustainability Strategic Plan; Transportation Strategic Plan; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging 5-year Roadmap; Housing Strategy Plan; Homelessness Action Plan, and related documents; and

WHEREAS, the Council supports state legislation that protects residents and businesses from loss of critical assistance programs or civil liberties due to federal actions; and

WHEREAS, the Council supports funding and implementation tools that expand housing affordability and preserve local planning authority when necessary to achieve our City's goals; and

WHEREAS, the Council supports legislative clarification under the Growth Management Act that allows affordable housing credits to cities that provide funding through sub-regional entities that build or fund affordable housing projects; and

WHEREAS, the Council supports legislative actions that improve regional affordability by addressing the cumulative impacts of utility rates; and

WHEREAS, the Council supports legislation that improves the safe and legal operation of electric motorcycles and similar vehicles through balanced approaches to enforcement, product safety, education, equity, sustainability, and manufacturer responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the Council seeks to preserve and expand policy and funding tools that support a safe, reliable, and affordable transportation system, including local transportation resources and local funding authority, transportation infrastructure investments, and technologies that improve community safety; and

WHEREAS, the Council supports legislation that improves the long-term sustainability of municipal jail operations through standards-based liability protections; and

WHEREAS, the Council supports investments in behavioral health systems, crisis response, crisis clinics, and Mobile Integrated Health programs that improve outcomes while providing stable and sustainable funding; and

WHEREAS, the Council supports legislation that addresses increasing public defense costs; and

WHEREAS, the Council supports legislation that expands ballot box buffer zones to preserve voter access and privacy and reduce the potential for intimidation or interference when returning a ballot.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as follows:

Section 1. The "General Principles," "Legislative Priorities," and "2027 Budget Requests" set forth in the "City of Kirkland 2027 State Legislative Agenda," attached as Exhibit A and by this reference incorporated, are adopted as the City's recommendations to the Washington State Legislature during its 2027 session.

Section 2. The City Manager or designee is directed to transmit the 2027 State Legislative Agenda, including any subsequent changes or updates, to members of the State Legislature, representing the legislative districts in which Kirkland is located, together with other members of the State Legislature, and to the Association of Washington Cities, the Sound Cities Association, and other organizations as identified by Council.

Section 3. The list included in the section on "Further Monitoring of Other Policy Organizations" set forth in Exhibit A is adopted as the organizations that the City Manager, in partnership with the City Council's Legislative Work Group, is directed to monitor. If such monitoring results in the identification of legislation with great interest or impact to the City, the Legislative Work Group must seek Council approval prior to directing advocacy engagement efforts to support or oppose such legislation. This list may be amended from time to time by the Council without further resolutions.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Signed in authentication thereof this ____ day of _____, 2026.

_____
Kelli Curtis, Mayor

Attest:

_____
Anastasiya Warhol, City Clerk

Exhibit A

CITY OF KIRKLAND

2027 Legislative Agenda

General Principles

Kirkland supports legislation that promotes the City Council's goals, plans, policies, and initiatives that enable Kirkland to provide basic municipal services and meet the needs of current and future community members.

- Protect shared State revenue sources available to the City and provide new revenue options and flexibility of existing revenues.
- Support the partnership between Cities and the State to ensure that critical mandates are funded, and vital services are provided to all community members, including community-based behavioral health and other critical human services.
- Advance initiatives identified in the City's Work Program; Council Goals; Budget; Comprehensive Plan; Sustainability Strategic Plan; Transportation Strategic Plan; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging 5-year Roadmap; Housing Strategy Plan; Homelessness Action Plan, and related documents.
- Support State legislation that protects our residents and businesses from loss of critical assistance programs or civil liberties due to federal actions.

2027 Legislative Priorities

Housing & Affordability

- Support funding and implementation tools that expand housing affordability and preserve local planning authority when necessary to achieve our City's goals.
- Support legislative clarification of local government's role in planning for and accommodating affordable housing under the Growth Management Act that allows for sub-regional credit through regional entities that build or fund affordable housing projects.
- Support legislative actions that improve regional affordability by addressing the cumulative impacts of utility rates.

Transportation & Sustainability

- Support legislation that improves the safe and legal operation of electric motorcycles and similar vehicles through balanced approaches to enforcement, product safety, education, equity, sustainability, and manufacturer responsibility.
- Preserve and expand policy and funding tools that support a safe, reliable, and affordable transportation system, including local transportation resources and local funding authority, transportation infrastructure investments, and technologies that improve community safety.

Public Safety & Behavioral Health

- Support legislation that improves the long-term sustainability of municipal jail operations through standards-based liability protections.
- Support investments in behavioral health systems, crisis response, crisis clinics, and Mobile Integrated Health programs that improve outcomes while providing stable and sustainable funding.
- Support legislation that addresses increasing public defense costs.
- Support legislation that expands ballot box buffer zones to preserve voter access and privacy and reduce the potential for intimidation or interference when returning a ballot.

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CITY OF KIRKLAND

2027 Legislative Agenda

2027 Budget Requests

Kirkland requests capital budget funding for:

- 1st Legislative District: **Green Loop Trail Implementation** - Requesting $500,000 for trail construction, boardwalks, pedestrian bridges, stairs, and signage.
- 45th Legislative District: **North Kirkland Community Center Improvements** - Requesting $500,000 for accessibility improvements.
- 48th Legislative District: **South Reservoir Replacement** - Requesting $500,000 to support the replacement of the South Reservoir, which supplies water to Kirkland, Redmond, and Bellevue.
- 48th Legislative District: **Pickleball Court Weatherization** - Requesting $500,000 to construct and install a roof and lighting over six pickleball courts at Peter Kirk Park, expanding opportunities for year-round play and evening recreation.

Further Monitoring of Other Policy Organizations[1]

Kirkland monitors legislation proposed by the following organizations for alignment with the City's General Principles and Legislative Priorities.

Transportation
- Eastside Transportation Partnership
- Transportation Choices
- Eastrail Partners

Housing
- Washington Low Income Housing Alliance
- Housing Development Consortium

Human Services
- Eastside Human Services Forum
- King County Behavioral Health
- Faith Action Network

Environmental
- King County-Cities Climate Collaboration
- People for Climate Action Kirkland
- Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA8) Partners

Water
- Cascade Water Alliance

First Response
- Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs
- Washington Fire Chiefs Association
- Alliance for Gun Responsibility

Parks
- Washington Recreation & Parks Association

Open Government & Transparency
- Washington Coalition for Open Government

Educational Institutions
- Lake Washington School District
- Lake Washington Institute of Technology
- Cascadia College

Regional & Statewide
- Association of Washington Cities
- King County
- Puget Sound Regional Council
- Sound Cities Association

Other Issue Areas
- Pro-Choice Washington
- Planned Parenthood
- Washington Co-Responder Outreach Alliance
- Kirkland Chamber of Commerce

[1]*This is a list of organizations in which the City is involved or that, historically, have supported policies that align with previous or current Council goals, including policies that may advance initiatives identified in the City-adopted plans listed above in the General Principles. Inclusion on this list does not imply automatic support of an organization's legislative agenda. The primary purpose of this list is to aid Kirkland's Legislative Work Group in monitoring legislation and to signal where the City, with subsequent discussion by the Council, may choose to invest additional effort on advocacy. Intentionally keeping this list narrow allows the Legislative Work Group to focus on high-priority policies and bills, while remaining open to dedicating additional time and effort to particular legislation, if and when priorities align.*

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