

# 2017 CITY OF RENTON Legislative Agenda

Renton's Key Priorities at a Glance

## Address Public Safety— Fund Critical Needs

**Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA):** Renton will strongly support a \$2.4 million supplemental operating budget appropriation to address a severe backlog at the BLEA.

## Enhance Quality of Life

**Sunset Neighborhood Park:** Renton will seek \$3.05 million in the 2017-19 Capital Budget for the construction of Phase II and Phase III of the 3.1-acre Sunset Neighborhood Park for the Sunset Area, an area with low income levels and socio-economic challenges. The gateway park will be a catalyst for transforming the neighborhood and bringing the community together.

**Affordable Housing, Homelessness Prevention, Mental Health:** Renton will strongly support funding initiatives and options to help local communities tackle affordable housing, homelessness prevention, and mental health/chemical dependency programs.

- » Support efforts to extend and increase the document recording fee for homelessness prevention.
- » Support a \$200 million capital budget request for the Housing Trust Fund.
- » Support operating budget allocation to use "1115 Medicaid Waiver" for supportive housing services.
- » Support legislation to provide local funding options and tools to add affordable housing.
- » Support legislation to place a statewide prohibition on source of income discrimination in housing.

## Invest in Transportation

**Ensure that Interstate 405 project savings are re-invested back into the corridor:** Renton will strongly support a transportation budget proviso to continue the practice of designating I-405 savings back into the corridor, specifically preserving Washington State Department of Transportation authority to

- » Invest \$25 to \$30 million on 405 peak-use shoulder lanes on 405 between State Route 167 and State Route 169.
- » Improve two freeway bridge structures.
- » Build a multi-modal direct-access entrance onto I-405/44th Street near the Seahawks training facility.

## Promote Fiscal Stability

**Protect state-shared revenues, fund key programs, make structural changes to help local agencies, support legislative changes to enhance efficiency:**

- » Support legislation to restructure the 1 percent property cap on local governments and instead use a growth and inflation factor that helps revenues maintain pace with annual inflation.
- » Support legislation to remove the cap on and restore liquor "profit" account revenues to cities and counties and support a provision dedicating 60 percent of restored funds to public safety.
- » Protect Fire Insurance Premium Tax distributions to cities such as Renton that continue to incur significant LEOFF 1 medical costs.
- » Support modifications to the Public Records Act to make it more efficient and less susceptible to abuse.

# Support / Oppose Issues

## Budget and Fiscal Matters

**Track and monitor** legislation on the potential merging of the Law Enforcement and Firefighters' Plan 1 (LEOFF 1) and Teachers' Retirement System Plan 1 (TRS 1); encourage options that protect LEOFF 1 funding and assist cities with LEOFF 1 medical costs.

**Oppose** legislation that would undermine local B&O tax collection/administration authority but **support** EHB 2959 Task Force recommendations to streamline the business licensing process.

**Oppose** legislation that undermines hotel-motel tax revenue authority.

## Criminal Justice / Public Safety / Fire / Courts

**Strongly support** legislation to reinstate the Public Safety Enhancement Account (PSEA) discontinued in 2009. Approximately \$52 million/biennium was collected in PSEA for local governments for public safety that is now absorbed into the state's General Fund.

**Support** legislation that makes a fourth Driving Under the Influence offense a felony.

**Support** "Use of Force" legislation that increases officers' accountability while still allowing them to protect themselves in life-threatening, crisis settings.

**Support** funding for gang intervention grants and gang database training for officers.

**Support** legislation allowing Regional Fire Authorities (RFAs) to renew benefit service charge levies on a majority vote.

**Support** funding to upgrade the Fire Training Academy in North Bend.

**Support** protecting funds for Court Management System computer upgrades in courts of limited jurisdiction.

**Oppose** legislation that prohibits local governments from using data on traffic citations to help evaluate officers.

**Oppose** legislation that would weaken current "civil forfeiture" authority.

**Oppose** "Justice Reinvestment Initiative" (JRI) legislation unless it is accompanied by significant funding and does not place new burdens on local law enforcement.

## Environment / Natural Resources

**Oppose** initiatives to extend Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife fee authority for Hydraulic Permit Approvals (HPAs), unless it is paired up with assurances that the Agency is not unduly expanding its jurisdictional authority.

## Land-Use/Growth Management Act / Shoreline Management Act

**Support** initiatives to streamline the State Environmental Policy Act including expansion of the use of infill exemptions.

**Support** funding to assist cities and counties with required shoreline management program updates.

## Economic Development / Infrastructure

**Support** Capital Budget programs that invest in key infrastructure including stormwater grants, Model Toxics Control Act, Public Works Assistance Account, Floodplains by Design program, Washington Wildlife and Recreation program, and the Youth Athletic Facilities program.

**Support** legislation to expand per-project and annual caps on the "Main Street" program utilized by downtown partnerships.

**Support** initiatives to re-establish state funding and partnerships for economic development incentive programs such as the Local Revitalization Financing program or the Local Infrastructure Assistance Tools program.

**Support** legislation allowing local governments' expanded use of "Small Works Rosters" for infrastructure and public works jobs in-house.

## Local Government in General / Miscellaneous

**Support** initiatives that help reduce costs for cities and counties or make service delivery more efficient.

**Oppose** legislation that imposes unfunded mandates on local governments or seek to pre-empt or remove local authority.

## Personnel, Pension, and other Human Resource Issues

**Oppose** legislation that would add new costs and requirements to employee benefit programs without funds.

**Oppose** legislation that would expand "presumptive disease" laws and definitions in the area of Workers' Compensation claims.

**Oppose** bills or budget initiatives that would result in increased employer/employee pension rates.

## Transportation

**Support** I-405 High-Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes as a key component of "Bus Rapid Transit" (BRT) service along the 405 corridor with stations on the north and south ends of Renton consistent with the current plan that there is no reduction in the number of free general purpose lanes, and two-person carpools are admitted free into the HOT lanes for as many hours per day as possible. While the city sees HOT lanes as a way to accommodate BRT, manage congestion, and save travel time for some, Renton is also aware of concerns regarding the toll lanes. The city wants ongoing evaluation to ensure the lanes provide equity, lane capacity, rewards for carpooling, and daily performance that minimizes bottlenecks and backups while ensuring they provide the speed capability to support the fast BRT that Renton citizens are paying for with their Sound Transit 3 taxes.

**Support** changes to federal formula funding distributions under the "FAST Act" that enables a higher percentage of new dollars to be directed to local governments vis-à-vis state programs.