

A G E N D A I T E M

BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL City of Des Moines, WA

SUBJECT: Discussion of 2026 City Legislative
 Priorities

FOR AGENDA OF: Nov 6, 2025

DEPT. OF ORIGIN: Administration

DATE SUBMITTED: October 27, 2025

ATTACHMENTS:

1. City of Des Moines Draft Legislative
 Priorities

CLEARANCES:

- City Clerk _____
- Community Development _____
- Courts _____
- Emergency Management _____
- Finance _____
- Human Resources _____
- Legal /s/ TG
- Marina _____
- Police _____
- Parks, Recreation & Senior Services _____
- Public Works _____

APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER

FOR SUBMITTAL: *Katherine Coffey*

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this agenda item is for the City Council to continue discussing (and potentially adopt) the 2026 City Council Legislative Priorities for the 2026 Legislative Session.

Suggested Motion

Motion: “I move to adopt the 2026 City of Des Moines Legislative Priorities.”

Background

The State Legislative Session will convene on January 12, 2026, for a scheduled 60-day session ending March 12, 2026. Although this is the second year of the biennial budget, the State is already facing significant shortfalls, and the session's primary focus is expected to be on difficult budget decisions.

The City's Legislative Advocate, Anthony Hemstad, will lead the City Council in a continued discussion about the upcoming session and potential legislative priorities for the coming year. This conversation will build on the Council's direction—and subsequent developments—from the October 2, 2025 study session.

Anthony will also provide an update on the potential legislative impacts of the November 4 General Election results.

One topic not discussed at the October 2 meeting was housing, which is again expected to receive considerable legislative attention in 2026.

Draft 2026 Legislative Priorities are attached for Council review.

If Council wishes to make substantial changes to the draft agenda, staff will bring a revised version back for consideration at a future meeting.



2026 City of Des Moines City Council State Legislative Priorities

PUBLIC SAFETY

Collaborate with AWC, WASPC and other groups in efforts to secure more public safety (in particular behavioral health) funding for local governments, including:

- Ensuring HB-2015 funding remains and is accessible.
- Looking for more flexible councilmanic public safety funding options. One option includes allowing fees from school and park zone cameras for public safety purposes.

FUNDING CITY OF DES MOINES PROJECTS

The City of Des Moines Council recognizes the challenging State budget and is not requesting earmarks for Des Moines public works projects in the 2026 session. We thank our Legislators for their support in past years.

ENHANCING LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL RESOURCES

We seek new options to enhance local government financing tools, particularly unrestricted funds. We oppose unfunded mandates from the State.

AIRPORT ISSUES

Support efforts to find mitigation funding for the disproportionate impact that residents near SeaTac Airport face due to noise/air-pollution and other negative airport impacts. Ongoing, structural funding is needed for area cities.

Support State funding for an independent study evaluating the SAMP's impacts on airport communities.

Support reinstatement of port-package funding for sound insulation repair and replacement.

Support working with other airport community cities and entities on shared agenda items.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Support historic preservation funding opportunities in Des Moines.

FERRY DEVELOPMENT

Passenger-only ferries have the potential to improve connectivity and mobility around Puget Sound. *Des Moines supports efforts to spur the return of Mosquito Fleet passenger-only ferries that will include routes connecting Des Moines.*

*For information, please contact City of Des Moines Legislative Advocate
Anthony Hemstad, 253.335.9163, anthony@hemstad.us*