

AGENDA

**DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
City Council Chambers
21630 11th Avenue S, Des Moines, Washington
Thursday, August 1, 2024 - 6:00 PM**

City Council meeting can be viewed live on the City's website, Comcast Channel 21/321 or on the City's [YouTube](#) channel.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

CORRESPONDENCE

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Comments from the public must be limited to the items of business on the Study Session Agenda. Please sign in prior to the meeting and limit your comments to three (3) minutes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Item 1. EMERGING ISSUES
1. Port of Seattle Part 150 Update
 2. City Manager Recruitment Update
 3. Police Department Community Update
- Item 2. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF 2025 CITY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
[Preliminary Discussion of 2025 City Legislative Priorities](#)
- Item 3. NOVEMBER 05, 2024 PUBLIC SAFETY LEVY LID LIFT: PRO AND CON COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS
[November 5, 2024 Public Safety Levy Lid Lift Pro and Con Committee Appointments](#)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NEXT MEETING DATE

August 08, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

AGENDA ITEM

BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
City of Des Moines, WA

SUBJECT: Preliminary Discussion of 2025
City Legislative Priorities

FOR AGENDA OF: August 1, 2024

DEPT. OF ORIGIN: Administration

DATE SUBMITTED: July 25, 2024

ATTACHMENTS:

CLEARANCES:

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

APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER

FOR SUBMITTAL: *[Signature]*

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this agenda item is for the City Council to generally discuss potential 2025 City Council Legislative Priorities for the 2025 Legislative Session.

Suggested Motion

Motion:

Background

The State Legislative Session convenes January 13, 2025 for a scheduled 105-day session.

This is the first year of a biennial budget for all three State budgets - Operating, Capital and Transportation.

This will be a very different Washington State government than existed at the sine die (closing) of the 2024 Legislative session. November's election will include all statewide offices (except for one US Senate seat). Unusually there are four open seats – so there will be a new Governor, Attorney General, Public Lands Commissioner and Insurance Commissioner. All House seats are up for election and half the State Senate seats are as well. Due to a late court-mandated redistricting that shifted boundaries of 14 Legislative districts in Central Washington (drawing several current legislators out of their districts), plus the high number of open statewide seats, there is an unusually high number of Legislators who are retiring or running for higher office. At least 20% of the Legislators will be new in 2025.

Political Representation and Outlook

Des Moines is split between the 33rd (Senator Karen Keiser, Reps. Tina Orwall & Mia Gregerson) and 30th (Senator Claire Wilson, Reps. Jamila Taylor and Kristine Reeves) Legislative Districts (LD). Neither Senator is up for re-election in 2024, but of course all House members run every two years and are on the ballot. While all House members in these districts have challengers, it is likely that all the incumbents will return.

Nevertheless, the change mentioned above will also impact Des Moines' own representation. Most of Des Moines is in the 33rd Legislative District (LD). This has been a very stable, high-powered delegation for many years. At the end of the 2024 session, Senator Karen Keiser announced she'll retire this December. Senator Keiser will be stepping down halfway through her current term. Thus, an appointment process will take place in December/January to fill her position. Democratic Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) in the 33rd will select three candidates for the King County Council to pick from.

Senator Keiser serves as Speaker Pro Tem and is one of the more influential members of the Legislature. She has been a great ally of Des Moines and will be missed.

With a new Legislature at the start of a new biennium, this is when most Committee changes take place, so even current Legislators could shift onto different Legislative Committees.

Budget Outlook

The last several sessions have seen economic growth, and the influx of new funds from various new taxes (primarily Climate Commitment Act and capital gains) along with Federal covid response funding. Washington's ERFC budget group regularly announced that State tax revenues were outpacing their economic forecasts.

This session is likely to be quite different. The most recent economic forecast came in \$500 million below expectations. There will be no additional covid response funds, and we'll see after the November election if CCA and capital gains taxes are repealed. If those are repealed it could hit expected revenues by well over \$2 billion.

Compounding challenges, the State has seen the same project cost inflation that Des Moines has experienced on its own projects. The State Transportation budget has a roughly \$2 billion budget shortfall for projects and maintenance that have already been approved. This will need a new Transportation package, and/or

cancelling approved projects, a lengthening of project timelines and/or a transfer from the Operating budget to fix.

There will be two more economic forecasts between now and when the budgets are put together – those will be watched closely as will the election results. These will help determine how the 2025 budget will look. All isn't doom and gloom - the US economy grew an unexpectedly strong 2.8% last quarter so State revenues could also start trending upwards again.

Session Outlook

Last Biennium 2023 & 2024 Sessions: In the last biennium Des Moines received considerable State funds. These included three different earmarks in the Capital Budget - \$1 million each for the Marina Steps and for the Redondo Fishing Pier and \$100,000 towards electrification upgrades at the marina. In the Transportation Budget we secured \$3.5 million in Transportation funds for the Barnes Creek Trail project. In policy, Des Moines was involved in getting new legislation passed to combat street racing, catalytic converter theft and to help with airport community noise mitigation.

We recommend continuing this policy of pursuing just one or two budget asks per year along with some targeted policy pushes.

Recommended Budget Requests

Due to the success in pursuing funding in recent years, plus the recent bond issuance, Des Moines has several considerable capital projects proceeding right now. Due to limited staff resources for executing these various projects it may be prudent to focus on augmenting funding for those projects rather than new projects.

It makes it much easier for our Legislators if we limit our asks to very top priority issues that can ideally have a larger regional impact. These include:

Helping City Provide Needed Services: As Des Moines, like many cities, is facing a very tight budget, we could strongly advocate for more State help and/or local authority for funding City services. There are several local government revenue enhancements that are being discussed now that could be introduced in the 2025 session. DM could join coalitions to push for some of the below if Council wishes.

This could include:

- Public Safety – Allowing councilmanic sales tax to support local public safety
- Public Safety – New State grant funding program for local public safety recruitment/retention
- General Fund – Lifting the 1% annual property tax increase limit
- Housing – Increasing REET % for local governments
- Transportation – Retail delivery fee on e-commerce

Redondo Fishing Pier: We have already received two State Capital Budget earmarks for the Redondo Fishing Pier and had expected for that to be proceeding towards construction now. Unfortunately, the expenses for the project have increased much faster than expected and the fishing pier reconstruction itself is not part of the initial project at Redondo. As the City's Public Works Department looks at ways to re-engineer the Fishing Pier reconstruction and looks for cost savings, this could likely be a priority ask for additional State funds. Amount to be requested TBD.

Ferry Related Funding: As the Council heard in the recent presentation by Peter Philips on ferry-related issues, King County Metro could potentially ask for funds towards a Vashon-Des Moines water taxi (or Vashon-DM-Seattle). We could heavily support this request. The likelihood of success will greatly increase if the CCA isn't repealed in November. As we've been successful in pursuing grant funding to electrify the marina area, we'll be well positioned to pursue getting funds for electric water taxis. Amount requested TBD.

Policy Issues

Many different policy bills that could directly impact Des Moines will arise during the session. While we will work on those as needed, we recommend pursuing some policy issues proactively.

Public Safety: Public Safety remains a top concern for Des Moines residents. Continue to support bills that promote public safety.

Airport Issues: Continue working to minimize and mitigate SEA's health and environmental impact on Des Moines residents. Important airport-related legislation was passed in the last session. There could be follow-up legislation on Port Packages and other air/noise/environmental impacts. We could also try and augment the duties of the new Commercial Aviation Work Group (CAWG) that was set-up to replace the CAAC, but most of its duties and budget were vetoed by Governor Inslee.

Historic Preservation: Support prospects to enhance area historic preservation opportunities.

Banning Aftermarket Mufflers: There hasn't been much appetite for this issue at the State level. We'll look for the right champion if Council wants to pursue new legislation on this topic.

A G E N D A I T E M

BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
City of Des Moines, WA

SUBJECT: November 5, 2024 Public Safety Levy
Lid Lift: Pro and Con Committee Appointments

FOR AGENDA OF: August 01, 2024

DEPT. OF ORIGIN: Administration

ATTACHMENTS:

DATE SUBMITTED: July 24, 2024

- 1. Applications (To be provided July 30, 2024).

CLEARANCES:

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

APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER

FOR SUBMITTAL: *[Signature]*

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this Agenda Item is for Council to approve the appointments to the Committees to write Pro and Con statements regarding the November 5, 2024 Public Safety Levy Lid Lift. This is required pursuant to RCW 29A.32.280.

Suggested Motion

Motion: "I move to confirm the Mayoral appointments of _____ to the Pro Committee, and the appointment of _____ to the Con Committee, for the November 5, 2024 Public Safety Levy Lid Lift Ballot Proposition."

Background

For each ballot measure that will appear in the voters' pamphlet, RCW 29A.32.280 requires the legislative body (City Council) to formally appoint two committees no later than the resolution filing deadline (August 06, 2024):

- A **“Pro” Committee** of no more than three people to prepare arguments advocating for the measure's approval. This committee must consist of people known to favor the measure.
- A **“Con” Committee** of no more than three people to prepare arguments against the measure. Whenever possible, this committee must consist of people known to oppose the measure.

These Committees may seek the advice of others but public facilities or resources cannot be used to support or oppose the ballot measure. The statements submitted by the Pro and Con Committees will appear in the local voters' pamphlet.

Discussion

The City has been actively promoting the application for the Pro and Con Committee through the City website and social media as well as direct solicitations to members of the August 6, 2024 Pro and Con Committees. The deadline to apply is July 29, 2024. Once the deadline passes, the City Clerk will update this Agenda Item with the names and applications of those that have applied.

Alternatives

The Council could decide not to approve these appointments to the Pro and Con Committees. By doing so, King County Elections may appoint interested citizens to the Committees. If no appointments are made, there would be no statement for and no statement against included in the voters' pamphlet.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Council to approve the proposed motion with the names of applicants.