



# CITY OF LACEY

## 2026 LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL



Approved December 2, 2025



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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the ancestral land we are on today as the traditional territory of the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek, signed in 1854, including the Nisqually Indian Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe.

We acknowledge, remember, and must not forget those Tribal People that are named but not recognized today, and who were absorbed or relocated into other tribes for survival. We recognize the ancestors and their descendants who are still here.

We acknowledge, Indigenous People who called the land home before the arrival of settlers and have been here Since Time Immemorial.

We recognize the relationship that exists between Indigenous People and their traditional territories, which include the religious significance, self-determination, identity, and economic factors. The relationship helps all people heal from the past and learn how not to inflict new wounds today.

We recognize and respect Indigenous People as traditional stewards of this land, and acknowledge the Tribal Governments and their role today in taking care of these lands. We recognize that this land acknowledgement, and the Nisqually-Lacey Accord of 2011, are small steps toward true allyship. We commit to partnering with the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek to continue to uplift the voices, experience, and histories of indigenous people of this land and beyond.

We recognize and have the responsibility to call attention to the histories of dispossession, forced removal, and abridged treaty rights that allowed our nation, state, and city to develop as they have today. We recommend that community members read the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854.

Visit [www.CityofLacey.org/LandAcknowledgement](http://www.CityofLacey.org/LandAcknowledgement) for more information.



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## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

### Local Authority

The City supports preserving the authority of local governments regarding local taxation, land use planning, zoning and regulation consistent with the GMA (RCW 36.70A) and SEPA (RCW 43.21C.)

### Protection of Local Funding for State-Mandated Responsibilities

The City opposes any state actions that redirect or repurpose historically allocated local funding—such as formula-based grants—toward state agency operations or new competitive processes that diminish predictable support for local governments (examples: Department of Ecology Formula Grants and HEAR Program Funding Shift). When the state reallocates or reappropriates these funds, local jurisdictions are left to carry out state-mandated responsibilities without the resources previously allocated for this purpose. This practice threatens local compliance with statutory and comprehensive plan requirements, including climate and environmental mandates, by reducing reliable access to the funding necessary for implementation. The City supports preserving dedicated, formula-based funding for local governments to ensure consistent, equitable, and effective delivery of state-mandated programs.

### Public Records and Open Meetings

The City respects the right of the public to have access to legitimate public records and documents. The City believes its ability to recover the costs of searching for, gathering and reviewing requested documents is also in the public's interest. The City supports reasonable reforms to the Public Records Act. The City opposes requiring the recording of executive sessions or other restrictions on legitimate uses of executive sessions.

### Modernizing Public Notice and Ordinance Publishing Requirements

The City supports legislation that removes the requirement for the City to publish notices and ordinances in a designated “paper of record” and instead allows official notices to be posted on the City's website. This change increases transparency, removes paywall barriers for the public, and reflects modern, accessible communication practices.

### Prevent Liability Expansion, pursue crucial liability reforms

The City is staunchly opposed to legislation that would modify the accrual date for interest on tort judgments to the date the cause of action, such as 2023's SB5059.

The City is a member of Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA), a risk pool made up of 165 municipal entities across the state. The civil litigation environment is bad and getting worse for public entities in the State of Washington. Multimillion-dollar verdicts, also known as nuclear verdicts, were not common against public entities and were often awarded



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against large for-profit private corporations. Over the last several years public entities have now been hit with nuclear verdicts. Risk pools are shouldering millions of dollars of exposure that are being passed down to their members in terms of additional assessments. The additional costs mean that our community is diverting money from community priorities to fund WCIA's assessment. Our pool relies on partnering with traditional insurance to provide further coverage above their self-funded \$4 million per loss. Those traditional insurance carriers are either refusing to write any coverage or doing so at significant costs. The future outlook is that our communities will have less coverage and will need to redirect money to cover losses rather than providing valuable services, programs, and much-needed maintenance.

The City requests opposing any efforts to expand tort law liability and/or the remedies available under tort law. If expansions are approved by the legislature, then the State should consider creating a fund to cover those costs. Cities and their risk pools cannot be expected to shoulder the staggering costs imposed by legislative changes. At a minimum that State should provide a reinsurance fund that risk pools and individual entities could utilize. Tort reform for all public entities needs to be addressed and the balance restored between protecting harmed individuals with reasonable verdicts and appropriate defenses. Tort reform could include:

- Caps on the amount of damages that can be collected against public entities (which is law in 33 States)
- Reinstating immunities that have been eroded by the courts and amending the law on joint and several liability which incentivizes claims against public entities as deep pockets.

## **Continue funding for the Defense Community Compatibility Account (DCCA)**

The 2023-25 Capital Budget invests \$35.8 million in defense community compatibility projects throughout the state. This investment leverages over \$126 million in local and federal funds, including the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP). The City requests the State legislature prioritize ongoing investment in this grant program that supports civilian communities near military installations. In the future, the DCCA and DCIP could serve as important funding opportunities for the Lacey Education and Family Center (LEAF).

## **LEED Building Standard**

Since 2005, the State has required LEED Silver certification for all new state agencies, state colleges and universities, and K-12 school construction and major renovation projects over 5,000 square feet. While the City recognizes the need for making buildings more efficient to reduce costs and lower pollution from fossil fuels, we believe that there are other meaningful



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and more cost-effective metrics and standards that could be used in lieu of the expensive and cumbersome LEED rating system.

## **Public Defense Standards**

We are highly concerned about the impacts of the caseload limits adopted by the Washington State Supreme Court, which will reduce the number of unweighted misdemeanor cases from 400 to 120 over the next 10 years. We recognize and support the intent behind the new public defense caseload standards — to ensure quality legal representation and uphold constitutional rights. However, implementing these standards will have significant financial impacts at the local level. For the City, we estimate the changes will result in an increased annual cost of approximately \$100,000, adding up to over \$1 million in new yearly expenses by 2036. Over the ten-year implementation, the City estimates an increase of over \$4 million in total new expenses. These added costs stem primarily from the need to hire additional public defenders and support staff to comply with the lower caseload limits, as well as potential infrastructure and administrative adjustments. We urge the Legislature and relevant agencies to recognize the funding gap created at the local level and to partner with cities to ensure this mandate is adequately and sustainably funded. Without meaningful financial support, local jurisdictions will struggle to maintain current service levels across other essential programs while meeting the new public defense requirements. In addition, as implementation of these standards progresses, we urge the state to re-evaluate its funding formula to ensure that cities receive a fair and adequate share of public defense resources.

## **Increase the availability of affordable and accessible childcare**

We support efforts to increase affordable childcare access statewide. This includes providing state funding to construct new facilities, supporting programs that prioritize access for working families and low- to moderate-income community members, incentives to enable private and public partnerships, and increasing access to state-subsidized childcare slots. In Thurston County, data shows that 15.32% of the necessary infant care supply is available, 19.78% of the required toddler care supply is accessible, 29.99% of the needed preschool care is provided, and 10.28% of the requisite school-age care is available.

## **PERS 1 Cost of Living Adjustment**

The City supports COLAs for PERS 1 retirees to lessen the impact of inflation on their benefits; however, with AWC, the City opposes PERS 1 COLA plans funded by the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) surcharge. The UAAL surcharge impacts current local government budgets, including the City's, to pay for unplanned benefit increases. Recent legislation was expected to mostly phase out UAAL surcharges. According to past fiscal analysis, a permanent PERS 1 COLA funded by the UAAL surcharge would cost local governments an additional \$1.27 billion over the next 15 years.



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## **Unsustainable, unfunded Mandates: Focus on Community-based Decision Making**

We are committed to providing high-quality services to our community members. However, state-imposed unfunded mandates continue to strain our limited resources, diverting critical funds from community-led priorities. These mandates require us to implement new programs or comply with regulations—often without any accompanying funding. This puts pressure on our local budget and forces us to make difficult decisions, such as cutting services or delaying infrastructure projects. While we recognize the intent behind many of these mandates, we believe that state policies should be accompanied by the necessary funding to implement them effectively. Local governments need flexibility and support—not one-size-fits-all requirements that don't account for our fiscal realities.

We are seriously concerned about:

- State Right-of-Way maintenance and other programming responsibility
- Long-term sustainability of Encampment Resolution Program
- Continued changes to land use and the Growth Management Act
- Vague Homeless Response laws
- Prohibitions on the use of Artificial Intelligence

## **Support for Permanent Public Facility District (PFD) Funding**

Public Facility Districts (PFDs) are vital tools that allow local jurisdictions to finance and operate regional venues such as convention centers, stadiums, performing arts centers, and other community assets. The Capital Facilities District (CAR-PFD) helps fund the Regional Athletic Complex in Lacey. These facilities generate significant economic, cultural, and tourism benefits, supporting local jobs and driving regional growth. PFDs rely primarily on a state-authorized local sales tax rebate to fund capital construction and ongoing maintenance. However, the current statutory authority is subject to eventual expiration, creating long-term uncertainty. We request that the PFD funding authority be permanent. Stable, long-term funding is essential for responsible planning, debt repayment, and the continued viability of these community-serving facilities.

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING | HOUSING SERVICES**

### **Develop Long-term Funding Solutions for Right of Way Initiative-funded Programs**

We appreciate the state's continued leadership in responding to the homeless crisis, including funding for Maple Court. We strongly urge the establishment of a sustainable, long-term funding mechanism for existing Right-of-Way Initiative-funded programs, rather than relying on the instability of short-term funding.



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## **Other Support for Homelessness Services**

The City allocates approximately 2% of its general fund to support social services in the community that benefit low-income and vulnerable community members. The City requests the state's partnership in supporting programs and services that help prevent temporary and recurrent homelessness.

## **Unfunded Social Service Mandates**

While recognizing that there is a significant need for enhanced social services throughout Washington, the City strongly opposes any unfunded state mandates regarding behavioral health, crisis relief, housing and shelter, co-responder programs, and employment services. The City supports working with the State Legislature to create state-led, sustainable tools and resources.

## **Quality Affordable Housing**

The City supports legislation that incentivizes developers to build affordable housing, such as the multifamily housing tax exemption, and funding allocated for public and nonprofit affordable housing, including the Housing Trust Fund.

## **Landlord Tenant Act Update**

We respectfully request that the state legislature amend the Landlord-Tenant Act to explicitly exempt emergency and transitional shelters from its provisions. These facilities provide critical, temporary housing and services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and are fundamentally different from traditional landlord-tenant arrangements. Clarifying this exemption will help ensure shelters can operate effectively, maintain safety standards, and focus on providing supportive services without being constrained by regulations intended for long-term residential leases.

## **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **Annexation Sales and Use Tax Credit Extension**

We appreciate the inclusion of the sales and use tax credit in HB 1425 (2024), which provides critical support for cities undertaking annexations. To ensure cities and counties have sufficient time to thoughtfully and collaboratively evaluate and implement these complex processes, we respectfully request extending the sunset date from July 1, 2028, to July 1, 2038. Based on the 2023-2024 state annexation data, no jurisdictions have met the threshold to use this tax credit, demonstrating the need for additional time to support implementation.

### **Economic Development Tools**

The City supports robust and sustainable funding for the Economic Development Strategic Reserve Fund, Tax Increment Financing, Community Economic Revitalization Board, Public



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Works Assistance Account, Public Facility Districts, and other programs that assist local governments in neighborhood residential and commercial area rehabilitation. The City also supports legislation that provides optional economic development tools for cities, such as the multi-family housing tax incentive, lodging tax, the Main Street Act, complete streets grant program, community facility financing, shared state revenue for construction of convention and special event centers, additional shared state revenue for public facility improvements, etc. In addition, the City partners with entities such as the Thurston Economic Development Council and other regional organizations — that work directly with micro-enterprises, small businesses, and entrepreneurs and encourages state investment in these organizations to help strengthen the broader economic development ecosystem in Thurston County.

## **Climate Resources and Tools**

Climate change is already affecting our communities. Impacts like hotter summers, wildfire smoke, and flooding endanger our homes and affect public health and local businesses. Lacey, Thurston County, Olympia, and Tumwater partnered to create the Thurston Climate Action Plan to reduce climate-polluting greenhouse gases while maintaining—and even improving—the quality of life. The Thurston Climate Action Plan includes mitigation and action strategies that are ready for implementation. However, some of the most impactful greenhouse gas-reduction projects and programs are not feasible due to funding limitations. The City supports the creation of a sustainable state program using unallocated Climate Commitment Act funds, or other state resources, to fund local climate capital projects that enhance community resiliency. The City also supports the state working with local governments for future climate initiatives in the transition to green energy alternatives to ensure solutions are feasible for all parties.

The City supports building electrification programs that complement the funding in the federal Inflation Reduction Act and help residents and building owners transition to all-electric buildings, with an emphasis on ensuring low- and moderate-income residents, multifamily housing, and small businesses are prioritized.

The City also supports Medium and Heavy-Duty Vehicle electrification incentive programs that would provide vouchers that purchasers can use at participating dealers.

## **Airport Siting Concerns**

The City, along with Thurston County and the cities of Olympia, Tumwater, Rainier, Yelm, Tenino, and the town of Bucoda, opposed the former Commercial Aviation Coordination Commission's (CACC) Thurston County two-runway airport expansion site. An airport in Thurston County would endanger environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., wetlands, prairies, and endangered species), further reduce rapidly dwindling agricultural lands, worsen environmental health challenges, exacerbate existing health disparities, and irrevocably



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damage the quality of life for Thurston County community members. In addition, the City will oppose any recommendations that are incompatible with the operations of a military installation, including Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

## **Lacey MakerSpace**

Lacey MakerSpace, currently serving members in Pierce, Thurston, Lewis, and Mason Counties, is a collaborative “innovator’s workshop” designed to support small businesses, entrepreneurs, artists, product developers, and manufacturers. Lacey MakerSpace endeavors to 1) reduce barriers for community members by offering instruction and access to state-of-the-art fabrication and prototyping equipment, 2) develop new workforce training and apprenticeship programs aimed at growing advanced manufacturing businesses in the region, 3) foster collaboration and outreach as a hub of a larger ecosystem of business and networking services. Since opening its doors in 2019, every year Lacey MakerSpace has grown and increased its impact on our region’s economic development and workforce readiness. To enhance operations over the next few years to meet future growth and workforce needs, Thurston County partners have diligently worked to obtain funding to expand the footprint of the MakerSpace to over 9500 square feet and obtain additional advanced manufacturing technologies. The Thurston County partners are requesting the creation of a grant program that would allow innovation spaces, like Lacey MakerSpace, to continue to provide and enhance workforce training and development opportunities throughout the state.

## **Project Timeline Review**

The City prides itself on being responsive to all forms of public service, including land-use project reviews. Now that Cities have implemented the time requirements established in SB5290. Developing a statewide system that could collect the local data electronically and consistently would reduce the burden of the manual process created by the Department of Commerce for reporting.

## **Emergency and Transitional Housing Regulation Authority**

The City opposes any legislation that would diminish local authority over the siting of emergency and transitional housing. We also oppose any provisions that allow such facilities to be permitted by right in all locations or at any scale.



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## PARKS, CULTURE AND RECREATION | COMMUNITY SERVICES

The City has worked to create more equitable access to parks for all community members. The City's investments in local parks and requested state partnership reflect work toward this goal.

### Park and Recreation Funding

The City supports ongoing funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Aquatic Land Enhancement Account (ALEA), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) grant programs. The City supports ongoing funding for:

- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)
- Aquatic Land Enhancement Fund (ALEA)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- Youth Athletic Fund (YAF):
- Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities program (COAF)
- No Child Left Inside (NCLI)
- Recreation Access Grant

### Youth Recreational Facilities Grant Program – Eligibility Clarification

The City supports a legislative fix to resolve inconsistencies in RCW 43.63A.135 that have led the Department of Commerce to narrow eligibility for the Youth Recreational Facilities Grant Program. While the program is intended to prioritize nonprofit youth organizations, the current interpretation excludes other eligible entities, including local governments. The City supports clarifying that public agencies may apply for these grants, which cover up to 25% of project costs.

### Active Transportation Funding

The City supports the inclusion of parks in future funding allocations of “Active Transportation” components of the Move Ahead Washington package to support local trails and projects that extend out of the road right of way for safe routes to schools, parks and other business and community centers that can reduce local travel.

### Additional Public Facilities District (PFD) Extension

E2SSB 5001 (2023–2024) amended Chapter 35 RCW to allow jurisdictions with an existing PFD to create a second district before July 1, 2026, specifically to support regional aquatics and sports facilities. Because multi-jurisdictional planning and interlocal agreements take substantial time to develop, very few—if any—agencies have been able to utilize this new authority within the short window provided. Extending the deadline to July 1, 2028, or



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beyond, would preserve the Legislature's intent and allow agencies the opportunity to appropriately consider and develop projects.

## TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### **I5 Corridor: Mounts Road to Tumwater and the Nisqually River Delta**

Interstate 5 (I-5) is the lifeline of commerce, transportation, and JBLM's mission readiness in the Puget Sound Region. Maintaining existing funding for this project is vital. Additionally, completing the three planned roundabouts on SR 507 is crucial for enhancing safety and improving traffic flow between Pierce and Thurston counties. This corridor serves as a critical alternate route during I-5 congestion or closure, providing vital secondary access to Joint Base Lewis-McChord. For the project to progress, \$33.7M is needed in the 2027-29 biennium.

### **Transportation Benefit District – Removal of Ongoing Voter Approval Requirement**

We, like other local jurisdictions across Washington, rely on Transportation Benefit Districts (TBDs) to fund critical transportation infrastructure and maintenance. TBDs enable cities to address aging infrastructure and growing transportation demands with dedicated, locally controlled funding sources. We respectfully request that the TBD statutes be amended to remove recurring voter approval requirements and to make extensions councilmanic. This change would bring TBD revenue tools into better alignment with other local sales tax authorities, such as those for public safety, which do not require repeated voter reauthorization. It would also reduce administrative burdens, election costs, and the risk of service disruption caused by funding uncertainty. Transportation improvements are long-term investments that demand stable, predictable funding streams. Gas tax revenue — the only dedicated funding source for transportation — has steadily declined for years, highlighting the urgent need to identify more stable and sustainable funding alternatives.

### **Stormwater and Culvert Funding**

Cities have significant stormwater and culvert funding needs. The City joins AWC in requesting secure, ongoing and sufficient funding for city culvert repair and replacement. The City supports funding for current and new grant programs for local stormwater and culvert projects.

### **Public Property and Rights of Way Control**

The City opposes any efforts that would diminish the City's control of public property and rights of way.

### **Definition of Public Works**

The City opposes expanding public works projects to include work supported in whole or in part by grants or loans of public dollars, or by tax deferral or reimbursement. This would cause significant increased costs for local governments without adding any substantial public



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benefit. Additionally, the proposed changes would be a disincentive to non-profits and developers seeking to use property tax exemptions and other financial tools designed to specifically incentivize the construction of multi-family housing and other affordable housing options.

## Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) Model

As the State Legislature considers VMT, the City requests that City perspectives be included in future stakeholder discussions.

## FINANCE

### Business Tax Simplification

The City supports business tax simplification across the state, provided that changes are, at a minimum, revenue-neutral for the City.

### State-Shared Revenues

Cities have relied on state-shared revenues to provide critical funding for essential public services. Recognizing that the state is facing a budget shortfall, it is critical that commitments to sharing revenues with local governments be honored. During the last recession, the state reduced state-shared revenues when many local governments were already struggling to maintain basic services. The City joins AWC in supporting restoration and continued appropriation of committed state shared funds, such as Liquor Excise Taxes and Profits, City-County Assistance Account, Municipal Criminal Justice Account, Annexation Sales Tax Credit, and public health funding. State-shared revenues are used to support city activities, including police, infrastructure development, public defenders, and municipal court.

### General Fund Revenue

The City supports legislation that will increase, expand, or favorably restructure its revenue-raising ability. In consideration of 1) the continued growth in demand for services that exceed revenue growth and inflation, and 2) intimate knowledge of individual community needs, the City supports unrestricted uses of all general government tax revenue.



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## PUBLIC SAFETY

### **OPERATING REQUEST: Thurston County Regional Basic Law Enforcement Academies and Training Center**

Police departments across Washington state continue to face significant staffing shortages. As communities grow and more law enforcement personnel retire, the state's Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) must receive adequate funding to provide training opportunities for new hires. Regional academies help reduce academy wait times and officer vacancy rates, and enhance local officer recruitment efforts. They also improve equity in training by enabling greater participation from local community members, eliminating the need for extended time away from home. In addition, establishing a regional BLEA in Lacey would be an effective use of limited public dollars, as we will have a new, purpose-built training center in early 2026. This would expedite an academy start date. Lacey is ideally located to serve five contiguous counties throughout the South Sound region. We request an annual allocation of \$1,000,000 for the Criminal Justice Training Center (CJTC) to operate a regional BLEA academy at the Lacey Training Facility for five years. After five years, CJTC could reevaluate the impact of regional facilities and the status of potential upgrades to the main CTJC campus.

### **Local Law Enforcement Grant Program Update**

We urge amending the Local Law Enforcement Grant Program to prioritize funding for WASPC-accredited agencies. Accreditation requires departments to meet established best practices in policing — covering everything from use-of-force policies to officer training, improving operational efficiencies, reducing risk and liability, and increasing community engagement. It also affirms that a department operates with transparency, accountability, and commitment to continuous improvement. Providing prioritization for accredited agencies would incentivize accreditation, improving public safety in the state. We also recommend the grant funding period extend 36 months from the date an entity receives grant funding to maximize the benefits of increased public safety impacts.

### **Authorize Sustainable Animal Control and Sheltering Funding Mechanism**

We request the creation of a dedicated funding mechanism to support animal control and sheltering. This funding would help support the ongoing operations and capital planning for Joint Animal Services (JAS). JAS established in 1977, is operated by the cities of Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, and Thurston County. JAS has an 8,000 sq. ft. facility that serves as the community's primary shelter for animal rescues and homeless pets. The agency serves almost 304,000 residents in 774 square miles of urban and rural terrain.



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## **Expand Behavioral health access and funding**

With AWC, the City supports 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 the establishment and expansion of treatment facilities.

## **Address Law Enforcement Vehicle Pursuits**

The City supports recent revisions to state law empowering law enforcement to engage in vehicle pursuits under proper supervision and using risk/benefit analysis to continue an active pursuit. Cities will continue to support safety standards and training for officers who engage in vehicle pursuits.

## **Non-moving Violation Traffic Stops**

The City opposes any effort to restrict or eliminate the ability of local law enforcement to conduct traffic enforcement for non-moving violations. This would remove the ability of the City to ensure that all vehicles operating on our public roadways are mechanically safe, as well as being properly registered and licensed. Further, the City has a public safety interest to reduce injuries from traffic collisions by confirming that drivers are wearing their seatbelts and are not operating vehicles while distracted. The City is committed to protecting the environment and has a vested interest in ensuring that vehicles operating upon its public roadways are not producing excessive audible or climate-altering exhaust pollution due to vehicle operators bypassing manufacturer-installed pollution control systems.

## **Auto-theft prevention and enforcement programs**

The City supports additional tools to address auto theft and property crime, including additional investment in auto-theft prevention and enforcement programs, regional property crimes task forces, and prosecution, public defense, and judicial resources.

## **School Resource Officers**

While the City participates in a highly effective program with North Thurston Public Schools to offer School Resource Officers (SROs) at each of the high schools, the City opposes any legislation mandating SROs that add an unfunded mandate and exacerbate the existing officer shortage across Washington state.

## **Binding Interest Arbitration**

The City recognizes the importance of having a tool to help resolve potentially devastating strikes by essential service personnel, such as police and firefighters. The City opposes expanding binding arbitration and supports revising the current arbitration system,



# CITY OF LACEY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MANUAL

Adopted by the Lacey City Council on December 2, 2025

including creating a system to review the qualifications, standards, and performance of appointed arbitrators to reduce bias, enhance equity, and achieve objective decision-making.

## **Officer recruitment and retention**

The City supports additional funding tools and resources to support officer recruitment and retention.

## **Jail and Court Costs**

The City supports legislative proposals that reduce jail and court costs, and maintain its flexibility in providing jail and court services. The City also supports maintaining the flexibility to select the most appropriate way to provide jail services.

## **Office of Independent Investigation (OII)**

The City supports independent and transparent investigations into the use of deadly force by law enforcement. The City holds that it is unreasonable to expect local jurisdictions to assist OII with their investigations of other jurisdictions' law enforcement without compensation. Further, the City believes it is unreasonable not to provide the assisting jurisdiction with the same level of liability granted to OII and its personnel.