

## State Policy Priorities

### *Housing Needs:*

- **Addressing Homelessness** – Support proposals that increase funding for homelessness response and substance abuse support while maintaining jurisdictions’ local discretion in homelessness policy implementation.
- **Affordable Housing and Development** – Support legislation that improves housing affordability, increases housing supply, and expands opportunities for housing at all income levels while maintaining local discretion in affordable housing, permitting, and implementation of development policy. Track proposals relating to the Growth Management Act (GMA) to ensure legislation and the GMA itself meets the intended planning goals articulated in RCW 36.70A.020.

### *Public Safety:*

- **Law Enforcement Recruitment and Retention** – Support proposals/amendments designed to provide sustained funding for law enforcement and public safety support programs that aim to enhance officer recruitment and retention efforts.
- **Co-Response and Behavioral Health** – Support co-responder programs and resources for local human services to enhance behavioral health response.

### *Legal Reform:*

- **Indigent Defense Standards** – Strongly support proposals that provide state funding to municipalities in response to increasing local costs associated with newly adopted Indigent Defense Standards. Encourage state support for increasing the indigent defense workforce including programs that encourage more public defenders.
- **Public Records Litigation** – Support legislation to reduce the impact of vexatious and costly public records litigation.
- **Tort Reform** – Explore tort reforms to reduce liability and related costs for cities. Oppose legislation that would drive additional claims and litigation.

## *Support AWC’s 2026 Legislative Priorities*

## Project Funding Priorities

### *Capital Budget*

- **Railroad Crossings** – Request funding (\$320,000) for a feasibility study for potential grade separation of five at-grade railroad crossings that bifurcate the City.

### *Transportation Budget*

- **State Route 522** – Maintain the current funding level and project schedule for the SR 522 Paradise Lake Rd. to Snohomish River Br – Interchange & Widening Project: 2025-27 Transportation Budget (\$17.19 Million) and 2027-2029 Transportation Budget (\$4.77 Million). Support further funding for full construction costs currently estimated at \$257 million.
- **US Route 2** – Support requests from the City of Sultan and other jurisdictions for capacity and corridor safety improvements on US 2. Funding of \$16.65 million from the Connecting Washington Account has been identified to, in part, replace the signalized intersection in Sultan at US 2 and Old Owen Road/Fern Bluff Road with a roundabout. Construction is currently expected to be completed in late 2026.
- **US 2 Monroe Bypass** – Support plans for the bypass to connect US 2 and SR 522 to Chain Lake Road in Monroe, creating a new northerly alignment of US 2 between the City of Snohomish and the east city limits of Monroe. Total project funding need is currently estimated at \$633 million.