

**CITY OF SAMMAMISH  
WASHINGTON  
RESOLUTION NO. R2015- 611**

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**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SAMMAMISH CITY  
COUNCIL ADOPTING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2015**

WHEREAS, the City of Sammamish has an interest in influencing the development and amendment of state laws that affect the provision of City services, the construction of City facilities, and the associated revenues and costs; and

WHEREAS, to provide City services and facilities in the most efficient and cost-effective manner, the City of Sammamish should communicate its priorities and interests to state legislators and other interested parties; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) has established legislative priorities for 2015 under the themes of ensuring fiscal sustainability and flexibility, fostering and investing in infrastructure and economic development, and enhancing service provision, and the City of Sammamish supports these priorities; and

WHEREAS, the legislative priorities attached to this resolution reflect the needs and interests of the residents and businesses in the City of Sammamish, and further support the AWC priorities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAMMAMISH,  
WASHINGTON, RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

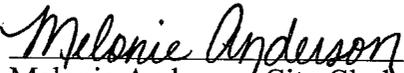
The legislative priorities described in "Attachment A: City of Sammamish Legislative Priorities for 2015" are hereby adopted. The City Manager shall provide these priorities to legislators in Legislative Districts 41 and 45 prior to the start of the 2015 session and to other interested parties upon request.

**PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AT A REGULAR MEETING THEREOF ON THE 6<sup>th</sup>  
DAY OF JANUARY 2015.**

CITY OF SAMMAMISH

  
Mayor Thomas E. Vance

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

  
Melonie Anderson, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

  
Michael R. Kenyon, City Attorney

Filed with the City Clerk: December 22, 2014  
Passed by the City Council: January 6, 2015  
Resolution No.: R2015-611

## City of Sammamish Legislative Priorities For 2015

### AWC Adopted and City Supported

**Maintain and Restore State-Shared Revenue and Funding for Infrastructure:** *It will be a priority of the city to protect "state-shared revenues" that are vital for local government operations, such as liquor taxes and municipal criminal justice assistance. Municipalities have aging and inadequate infrastructure and cities can't keep up with the increasing demands. If Washington is going to keep moving forward, we need the Public Works Trust Fund and other infrastructure programs intact, to allow for planned and sustained investments in communities.*

**Comprehensive Transportation Package Addressing City Transportation Needs:** *This includes continued support for improvements to I-90, SR520 and I-405 corridors. Transportation is critical for our economic vitality. Cities must have the resources to maintain and strengthen both local and state transportation systems.*

**Local revenue Options and Reforms and Greater Flexibility with Funding Sources:** *The long history of local/state revenue sharing, a partnership dating 80+ years, has been severely undermined in recent years as the state's needs for revenue have resulted in substantial diversion of the cities' revenue stream. The temporary ability for Cities to use a portion of their Real Estate Excise Tax for infrastructure maintenance should be made permanent. The State should grant additional revenue options to the cities to keep the cities in the state fiscally sustainable including expanding the 1% limit on property tax annual increase.*

**Preserve Regulatory Authority over Marijuana Business and Share Marijuana Excise Tax:** *The new marijuana industry is subject to a 75% state excise tax, but none of that funding is directed to local jurisdictions to address public safety needs and other complex local impacts. Additionally, Medical and recreational marijuana regulations need to be reconciled to meet the federal mandate for a tightly regulated system.*

### City Priorities

**Support Liquor Tax Restoration:** Continue to support AWC efforts to ensure that suspension of liquor excise taxes going to local governments remains temporary (not permanent) and is not further reduced.

### Economic Development/Land Use/Environment

**Support Legislation to ensure reliable cost recovery for upfront SEPA Work:** *Legislation is needed to allow local governments to fully recover SEPA review costs for infill development and planned actions via a latecomer's agreement or other mechanisms.*

**Support for the Public Works Trust Fund:** *The PWTF has served as a recurring and integral source of funding infrastructure for cities. Funding for the Public Works Trust Fund has been systematically diverted by the state to fill their budget shortfalls. The diminished pool's funding process and project ranking criteria set by the PWTF Committee should be used to set the project list for funding rather than an executive or legislative list.*

## Attachment A

**Support for the Marketplace Fairness Act:** *Extend Sales Tax Sourcing Methodology nationally ensuring tax collection on goods coming into the state and protection for Washington based businesses from competitors using tax free pricing.*

**Support Hi-Tech Industry through the “Washington Tech Cities Coalition” (WTC2):** The Washington Tech Cities Coalition supports initiatives that enhance competitiveness and invest in education and infrastructure to support hi-tech. The WTC<sup>2</sup> supports renewal of Research and Development (R&D) tax incentives and legislation to provide Business and Occupational (B&O) tax incentives to tech sector start-up companies.

**Support for Issaquah’s Urban Center Designation and Related Improvements to the Sammamish to I-90 Corridor:** Issaquah is currently seeking Urban Center designation from the GMPC, King County and PRSC. *Sammamish citizens will benefit from improved infrastructure that is part of the Central Issaquah Plan and Urban Center designation.*

**Reduce Unfunded Mandates:** *As an example, the costs to ratepayers and taxpayers to comply with NPDES requirements are substantial. Additionally, the city supports efforts to restore funding cuts previously made to Growth Management Act (GMA) planning grants.*

### **Affordable Housing Efforts**

**Support Funding of State’s Housing Trust Fund:** Also allow projects to be selected based on operative and effective criteria rather than on a Legislative List of Projects to be funded: *The State Housing Trust Fund has been a consistent funding source for East King County projects. The combination of reduced funding for the HTF and a project list set by the legislature resulted in a significant reduction of the ability to fund affordable housing projects in this geographic area.*

**Allow Housing Bonds to be sold using a portion of the Lodging Tax:** A portion of the Lodging Tax has been designated for affordable housing beginning in 2021. If King County is allowed to bond against this future revenue stream, the bonding capacity could be used to support affordable workforce housing in coordination with transit investments. *Several transit related projects are being funded in our geographic area and the affordable housing component is being delayed or jeopardized. This funding source could be used at the time it is needed.*

**Support through the State Budget Process an application for a Regional Mobility Grant (RMG) amounting to \$2.5 million for the Regional Equitable Development Initiative (REDI):** *The REDI fund is a structured revolving loan fund under development to enable the acquisition of land and buildings adjacent to high capacity transit service for use as affordable housing and community facilities utilizing a combination of public and private contributions. If received, this grant will provide half of the \$5 million public portion of the \$25 million REDI fund and leverage additional contributions from the ARCH Trust Fund.*

### **Other**

**Binding Arbitration:** *Change binding arbitration to take into consideration pertinent factors and use the final and best offer from either labor or management thus ensuring more realistic positions from the parties rather than allowing the arbitrator to write the labor contract.*

## Attachment A

**Annexation of Areas having Park Districts:** *There is no mechanism in state law allowing unincorporated properties annexed into a city to be removed from park district taxation, even though the municipality is then responsible to provide parks services. This results in double taxation to the homeowner. Ideally this should be treated as annexations from a Fire District to a City. Operating Property tax levy should shift to the city and any UTGO debt should remain with the property until extinguished.*