

# 2021 Legislative PRIORITIES

The League of Oregon Cities' 2021 legislative priorities are reflective of the major issues that city officials throughout Oregon are concerned about. The priorities represent opportunities and challenges that, when addressed by the Legislature, will make Oregon a stronger state.

1. **Mental Health Investment** – improve behavioral health service delivery by advocating for increased investments, the decriminalization of mental health, greater access to mental health parity in health insurance and increased public safety dollars to respond to alcohol related events.
2. **COVID-19 Economic Recovery Investments** – work in coordination with the business community and state and local economic development partners to advocate for long-term recovery and economic development support.
3. **Comprehensive Infrastructure Package** – advocate for investment that addresses the water, transportation and broadband infrastructure needs across the state.
4. **Property Tax Reform** – advocate for legislation that restores local choice, achieves equity, and enhances fairness and adequacy to the property tax system.
5. **Housing and Services Investments** – advocate for increased investments for affordable housing, homeless assistance, and related services including funding for: shelter, homeless services, case management, rent assistance, the development and preservation of affordable housing, and permanent supportive housing.
6. **Water Utility and Rate Assistance** – identify funding for water utility ratepayer assistance and work to establish a framework for the distribution of funds. In addition, ensure that any assistance programs are targeted to acknowledge existing inequities, especially for Black, Indigenous, other Communities of Color and for rural Oregonians.
7. **Disaster Relief and Recovery** – provide additional tools and support existing programs that allow communities to rebuild and reduce the impacts and risk of natural disasters.

The LOC is urging the state to partner with us and, more importantly, to avoid legislation that could further degrade a city's ability to meet core service delivery and address the challenges of city budgets. The IGR team will be communicating the specific principles below as part of this organizational priority.

- **Avoid unfunded mandates.**
- **Preserve local decision-making and problem-solving authority.**
- **Preserve Local Revenue Streams.**
- **Serve in a supportive role to provide local tools and resources.**
- **Avoid shifting additional costs onto local government partners.**

# League of Oregon Cities

REPRESENTING OREGON'S 241  
INCORPORATED CITIES

The League of Oregon Cities (LOC) and the members of the Oregon Legislature are partners in government. They share constituencies in mutual effort to establish and manage sustainable communities to provide jobs, affordable housing, quality schools, modern infrastructure, strong public safety, and good recreational opportunities.

The team of legislative advocates representing the LOC and its members during the 2021 session includes:

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*Oversight of all League activities and programs*

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*Advocacy issues: Transportation and building codes*

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*Advocacy issues: Land use and housing*

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