

2023 Legislative Priorities



The League of Oregon Cities' (LOC) Board of Directors unanimously adopted eight legislative priorities for cities for the 2023 and 2024 sessions. The priorities were identified through a committee process this spring and a vote by the LOC's 241 member cities this summer. The following eight issues received the most votes from members, and were adopted by the LOC Board:

1 Infrastructure Finance & Resilience, and Funding for Critical Infrastructure for Needed Housing

The LOC will advocate for an increase in the state's investment in key community level infrastructure funding sources. In addition, the LOC will advocate for funding of critical infrastructure that provides incentives for needed housing so there are more affordable housing options available.

2 Local Funding to Address Homelessness

The LOC will seek state funding to support coordinated, local community responses to addressing homelessness.

3 Address Measure 110 Shortcomings

The LOC will advocate for the state to restore criminal justice incentives for seeking treatment for addiction while ensuring a path for expungement when a treatment program is completed successfully.

4 Economic Development Incentives

The LOC will support legislation to preserve and strengthen discretionary local economic development incentives, including the Enterprise Zone (EZ) Program, the Long-Term Rural Enterprise Zone (LTREZ) Program and the Strategic Investment Program (SIP).

5 Community Resiliency & Wildfire Planning

The LOC will support investments for climate and wildfire resiliency planning, as well as infrastructure upgrades, to fill existing gaps and assist cities in planning for extreme weather events and wildfire

6 Transportation Safety Enhancement

The LOC supports legislation that improves the overall safety of the statewide transportation network in local communities. The LOC will achieve this outcome by: expanding authority for establishing fixed photo radar to all cities; increasing flexibility for local speed setting authority; increasing investment in the “safe routes to schools” program; and expanding the “great streets” programs.

7 Full Funding & Alignment for State Land Use Initiatives

The LOC will support legislation to streamline and fully fund local implementation of any recently adopted or proposed state land use planning requirements, including administrative rulemaking.

8 Lodging Tax Flexibility

The LOC will advocate for legislation to enhance flexibility in cities’ use of transient lodging tax revenues. The goal is to help cities better serve visitors and improve local conditions that support the tourism industry.

LOC Organizational Priority

In addition to adopting eight legislative priorities for 2023-24, the LOC Board has adopted an overarching organizational priority that will be a focus for grassroots advocacy between cities and their respective legislators, and for the LOC’s advocacy team to use as a key message with legislative leadership and the governor’s office.

The purpose of this organizational priority is to make it clear to the state that cities play an integral role in providing critical core services to our citizens, but are being asked to do more with fewer resources. In past legislative sessions, the LOC has seen unfunded mandates, attacks on local revenues and preemption of local control. Many cities are facing significant budget challenges that have been intensified by recent events, but the need for critical core service delivery remains and is more even more important due to these unprecedented times. The LOC is urging the state to partner with us, and more importantly, to avoid legislation that could further restrict a city’s ability to meet core service delivery and address the challenges of city budgets.

The LOC’s Intergovernmental Relations team will be communicating the following specific principles below as part of this organizational priority.

- **Reform Oregon’s Property Tax System**
- **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 to Local Government Partners**