

**POULSBO DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-13**

**SUBJECT: 2024 Legislative Agenda**

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**CONFORM AS TO DATES & SIGNATURES**

- Filed with the City Clerk: 11/15/2023
- Passed by the City Council: 12/06/2023
- Signature of Mayor
- Signature of City Clerk
- Publication: \_\_\_\_\_
- Effective: \_\_\_\_\_

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Kati Diehl  
Deputy City Clerk

12/07/2023  
Date

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-13**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF POULSBO,  
WASHINGTON, ADOPTING THE 2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.**

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**WHEREAS**, in 2018, the City hired BMcConsulting LLC to benefit the citizens from the expertise and guidance of a lobbying firm that would assist the Mayor and staff in accomplishing the goals and objectives of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, each year, they continue to advocate for the legislative priorities of the City which has included representing city interests in specific legislation along with advocating for funding of projects important to the city; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has been provided with the 2024 Legislative Agenda, now, therefore;

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

That the City of Poulsbo hereby adopts the 2024 Legislative Agenda, attached as Exhibit A and the AWC Legislative Priorities attached as Exhibit B.

**RESOLVED** this 6th day of December 2023.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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REBECCA ERICKSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:  
  
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RHIANNON FERNANDEZ CMC, CITY CLERK

FILED WITH CITY CLERK: 11/15/2023  
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EXHIBIT A

**City of Poulsbo  
2024 Legislative Priorities (DRAFT)**

**Protect shared state revenue sources available to the City and provide new revenue options and flexibility in the use of existing revenues.**

**Support the partnership between Cities and the State to ensure that critical mandates are funded, and vital services are provided to all community members.**

**Support Western Washington University on the Peninsula's efforts in collaboration with Olympic College.**

**The City of Poulsbo supports the Association of Washington Cities' legislative agenda (Exhibit B).**

**Support Operating and Capital Budget request benefiting Poulsbo and our neighbors** – The City of Poulsbo will submit an operating budget request for the North Kitsap Recovery Resource Center, which serves as an arrest and charging diversion alternative for police and prosecutors. Services include peer support, nursing, substance use disorder evaluations, mental health appointment assistance, and counseling.

**Support CROA Legislative Activities** – The Co-Responder Outreach Alliance improves the quality of fire and police co-response through training, professional development, and evaluation. The City of Poulsbo supports CROAs request for continued funding to support this important work (Exhibit C).

**Address a failing behavioral health system** - Cities are experiencing the ramifications of an overwhelmed mental health and drug abuse response system. The state needs to make investments sufficient to improve access to these systems and their success across the state.

**Military Affairs— State Leadership Role** - The Kitsap County region and Poulsbo have a special relationship with Navy Region Northwest. The City of Poulsbo supports and encourages the State of Washington to sustain an active leadership role in military affairs. Support capital budget funding for the Defense Community Compatibility Account.

# 2024 City Legislative Priorities

Strong cities make a great state. Cities are home to 65% of Washington's residents, drive the state's economy, and provide the most accessible form of government. Cities' success depends on adequate resources and local decision-making authority to best meet the needs of our residents.

## Washington's 281 cities ask the Legislature to partner with us and act on the following priorities:



### Help recruit and retain police officers for public safety

Provide additional funding tools and resources for officer recruitment and retention to improve public safety. This includes updating the existing local option Public Safety Sales Tax to allow implementation by councilmanic authority and greater flexibility for using the funds to cover increased officer wages and related programs like behavioral health co-response teams.

Expand access to state-mandated training. In particular, continue increasing the number of classes for the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) and expanding the new regional academies. Getting new officers on the street faster supports recruitment and retention, thus improving public safety outcomes in our communities.



### Revise the arbitrary property tax cap

Revise the arbitrary 1% property tax cap that has been in place for more than 20 years. Tie the tax to inflation and population growth factors with a new cap not to exceed 3%. This allows local elected officials to adjust the local property tax rate to better serve our communities and keep up with the costs of providing basic services like police, fire, streets, and valued community amenities like parks. The current 1% cap has created a structural deficit in cities' revenue and expenditure model, causing reliance on regressive revenues and artificially restricting the ability of property taxes to fund critical community needs.



### Continue investing in infrastructure

Continue strong state investments in infrastructure funding to support operations and maintenance of traditional and non-traditional infrastructure like drinking water, wastewater, and broadband. Expand funding options that support state and local transportation needs with emphasis on preservation and maintenance to prevent expensive replacement and repairs. Improve access to Climate Commitment Act funding, including direct distributions, for city priorities that support carbon reduction and climate resiliency.



### Provide behavioral health resources

Create greater access to behavioral health services to include substance use disorder treatment and dual diagnosis treatment facilities. Support continued state funding for cities to help communities establish alternative response programs like co-responder programs, diversion programs, and others that provide options beyond law enforcement to assist individuals experiencing behavioral health challenges.

### AWC's advocacy is guided by these core principles from our Statement of Policy:

- Local decision-making authority
- Fiscal flexibility and sustainability
- Equal standing for cities
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Strong Washington state partnerships
- Nonpartisan analysis and decision-making

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## CO-RESPONDER OUTREACH ALLIANCE

### 2023-2024 Proposed Legislation

**Contact: Brad Banks, Banks Consulting Group-[brad@banksconsultinggroup.com](mailto:brad@banksconsultinggroup.com)**

Co-response, or the practice of embedding behavioral health and clinical teams within the first response system, has become an invaluable tool across the state to address people experiencing behavioral health emergency. Co-response is an essential service for many fire departments, police departments, 911 call centers, cities, and counties-and it is a critical part of the state's crisis response system. Recent analysis by the University of Washington mapped these critical resources across Washington and identified a gap in coordination with other elements of the crisis response system. This legislative session, the Washington State Co-Responder Outreach Alliance (CROA) will be introducing a bill that defines co-response, contextualizes it within the emergency response and crisis response systems, and identifies legislative action needed to make it sustainable and successful.

Section one will define co-response and explain why it is essential in the 911 emergency response system (e.g., high acuity, behavioral health emergency, emergency health care, chronic health needs, hospital discharge follow-up, behavioral health follow-up calls). Co-response is an essential service for many fire departments, police departments, 911 call centers, cities, and counties-and it is a critical part of the state's crisis response system.

Section two will explain the importance of statewide co-response standards and training, building on the Senate Bill 5644 and the subsequent work of the University of Washington.

Section three will explain the importance of regional coordination and accountability for co-response programs through the state's BHASOs.

Section four will propose several legislative actions to promote quality co-response:

- Funding CORE training in crisis stabilization for co-response and emergency response personnel – training to be designed and organized by the UW in collaboration with regional training sites (building on work being done already).
- Funding for CROA to lead peer support for co-response, to offer program-specific training, certify new programs, and to partner on the annual conference with the UW.
- Certification for co-responders who have done UW co-response training.
- New funding streams for programs that employ co-responders.
- Liability protection for co-responders and entities who employ them.
- Creating a pathway for fire departments to become BHAs—and to bill for co-response services.
- The importance of alleviating geographic inequalities in co-response.