

## MEMORANDUM

**To: Council Members**  
**From: Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler**  
**Subject: Draft 2020 State and Federal Legislative Priorities**  
**Date: Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Council members,

At the Council agenda preview meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, draft City of Yakima 2020 State and Federal Legislative Priorities were presented and discussed. The Council will be asked to consider adopting 2020 State and Federal Legislative Priorities at its November 5<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

The draft 2020 State and Federal Legislative Priorities have been developed based on observation of issues the Council has focused on in 2019, progress made on the City's 2019 state and federal priorities, input from the City's contracted lobbyists in Olympia and Washington, D.C., City senior staff input, and review of legislative priorities established by other municipal advocacy organizations.

The draft 2020 State Legislative Priorities include items in three categories – Actively Pursue, Support, and Monitor. City resources, including the time and effort of the City's Olympia Lobbyists (Luke Esser and Nick Federici), will be expended on items in the Actively Pursue Category and will likely be spearheaded by the City. Items in the Support category will more likely be spearheaded by other entities (cities, counties, etc.), but will be closely watched by the City and its lobbyists. The City will offer input, including signing in “pro” or “con” at legislative committee hearings and/or testifying at legislative committee hearings for items in the Support category. Items in the Monitor category will be watched closely by the City because their outcome could affect the City in some way, but the City is unlikely to expend resources on those items.

Three new draft State Legislative Priorities have been added to the Actively Pursue category – one concerning development of a comprehensive transportation funding package, one concerning medication assisted treatment in municipal jails, and the other concerning increased state funding of the state crime lab. Three items in the Actively Pursue category have been carried over from the 2019 State Legislative Priorities list, including increased state funding re: homelessness and affordable housing, legislation and funding to address domestic violence, and increased state funding to combat gang activities.

One new draft state priority has been added to the Support category concerning increased state funding for “Floodplains by Design” projects. A 2019 priority concerning replacing the one percent annual property tax revenue increase limit has been moved from the Actively Pursue category to the Support category for 2020. Four items in the Support category have been carried over from the 2019 State Legislative Priorities list, including reforming and enhancing the state behavioral health system, funding additional Washington State Basic Law Enforcement Academy classes, equitable distribution of marijuana excise tax revenue to local government, and legislation allocating a portion of an existing airport fuel tax to be used for airport capital projects.

The two priorities in the Monitor category have been carried over from the 2019 State Legislative Priorities list.

Given the limited activity this year regarding the City's 2019 Federal Legislative Priorities, all 2019 priorities have been carried over into 2020.

Please let me know if you have questions or need more information about the City's draft 2020 State and Federal Legislative Priorities prior to the Council's October 22<sup>nd</sup> agenda preview meeting.