

RESOLUTION R-4226

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND  
APPROVING A CITY OF KIRKLAND LEGISLATIVE AGENDA TO BE  
ADDRESSED TO THE 2000 SESSION OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, Actions of the State Legislature in respect to local government issues, services, and funding have a profound impact upon the ability of local governments to provide adequate local services; and

WHEREAS, the Kirkland City Council believes it appropriate to set forth its position as to issues affecting local government operations coming before the State Legislature during its 2000 session, including issues which the City council requests the State legislature to consider.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as follows:

Section 1. The positions and recommendations, including supporting statements set forth in the "City of Kirkland 2000 Legislative Agenda" attached hereto as Exhibit A and by this reference incorporated herein adopted as its recommendation to the 2000 Session of the State Legislature.

Section 2. The City administration shall transmit the 2000 Legislative Agenda, including any subsequent changes or updates to members of the State Legislature representing the legislative districts in which Kirkland is located, together with other members of the State Legislature and to the Association of Washington Cities and the Suburban Cities Association.

Section 3. The City Council authorizes City staff to write letters to the state legislature in support of or opposing issues as identified in Exhibit A.

PASSED by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in regular, open meeting this 18th day of January, 2000.

SIGNED IN AUTHENTICATION THEREOF this 18th day of January, 2000.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**CITY OF KIRKLAND  
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA  
FOR THE YEAR 2000**

**GENERAL POLICY**

The City of Kirkland supports state legislative efforts to preserve and expand the role of the local elected officials in decision making at the local level. Local officials are accountable to their voters on local taxes and should be able to create revenue structures that meet local needs. The City supports state legislative efforts to establish broad, cost-effective policies for local government structure, financing, and service delivery systems combined with adequate flexibility for local governments to adapt their structures, finances and service delivery systems to unique local conditions. The City opposes legislation which mandates increased local costs or which results in an inappropriate diminution of local authority over local affairs. The City also urges state and federal officials to oppose measures to reduce local revenue capacity.

## **CITY OF KIRKLAND PROPOSED 2000 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

### **INITIATIVE 695**

State and local infrastructure systems are interdependent, and the maintenance and improvement of these systems is essential to economic growth and the well being of the city as well as the entire state. However, the loss of MVET as a funding source for infrastructure needs is a huge impact to most cities. The identified infrastructure needs far outweigh available or potential revenues from state, federal and local sources. The city strongly encourages the Legislature to examine the infrastructure deficit and provide cities with funding solutions to the infrastructure deficit problem.

### **MUNICIPAL RESEARCH SERVICES CENTER**

The City supports legislation to continue funding MRSC's services to Washington cities and towns in a manner equitable to all cities.

### **MUNICIPAL FINANCE**

**Unfunded Mandates:** Cities do not have the resources to fund state and federal mandates. The City opposes the Legislature's efforts to implement unfunded and/or under-funded programs by imposing mandates on municipalities.

**Municipal Financial Adequacy and Flexibility:** The City supports legislation that provides and protects adequate, flexible revenue sources for cities and towns so they can meet the needs of their citizens. Kirkland is dependent upon sufficient operating revenues to finance ongoing services. The City opposes preemption of local tax authority in the absence of a compelling state interest.

**Economic Development:** The City urges legislation supporting urban redevelopment by allowing cities to use certain taxes to offset development costs; and impose state-shared local sales taxes to fund capital facilities.

## **TRANSPORTATION FUNDING**

**Balanced Transportation Package:** The City joins the Association of Washington Cities in emphasizing the need for local control and sufficient revenue to adequately fund both system maintenance and improvement to city streets.

**Local Transportation Options:** The City supports legislation promoting the development of alternative transportation systems including pedestrian and bicycle facilities, providing incentives for using public transit, and the completion and preservation of the HOV network. The City also supports on-going funding assistance for Commuter Trip Reduction (CTR) activities in assisting local governments' ability to provide such programs as mandated by state law.

**Local Transportation Financing Options:** The City encourages the development of new local transportation financing options that provides cities with choices to suit their needs. Additionally, the City supports revising existing local option transportation taxes to increase their productivity and usability.

## **LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Growth Management Act:** The City supports legislation that preserves the integrity of the GMA. The City further encourages legislation that supports aspects of the GMA that require counties and cities to plan for and zone land to meet 20 year growth targets and that require growth to be monitored, but oppose legislation that holds jurisdictions accountable for whether targets are actually met.

**Impact Fee Assessment:** The City supports legislation that enhances local flexibility to equitably assess impact fees upon new growth.

**Endangered Species Act:** The City urges the Legislature to provide significant and on-going funding assistance to local governments as they respond to current and pending Endangered Species Act listings. Encourage broad-based city involvement in decisions regarding financing, policies, and projects developed in response to the ESA.

**Water Rights and Water Basin Planning:** The City is concerned about its long-term water supply as well as the quality of its water. The City urges the Legislature to preserve local government's role in water supply, protection of water resources, and funding for

water improvements and conservation. The City supports increased collaboration between state and local government policy makers involved in water availability and land use planning to better ensure that projected and planned growth is provided with sufficient and cost-effective water resources.

The City supports continuing effort to repeal SSB-6119 which harms the City's ability to assume water/sewer districts through annexation. The bill, as it now stands, requires an affirmative vote in the entire district for a takeover. This bill thwarts the city's authority to provide integrated services throughout their boundaries. The existence of multiple urban service providers inside urbanized areas is inconsistent with the values of the Growth Management Act, which states that cities are the appropriate providers of urban services in these areas.

The City also supports legislation that provides cities with the statutory authority to tax water and sewer services provided by special and public utility districts. The City receives a substantial amount of tax revenue through utility tax charged to residents who receive services from the City. Other residents who receive their services from an outside utility do not pay a utility tax. For the City of Kirkland, this represents a serious inequity. Last year, the City lost an estimated \$100,000 in tax revenue from services provided by a special utility district, which Kirkland is not currently authorized to tax.

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**Funding for Legislative Changes:** The City of Kirkland urges the Legislature to establish reliable funding sources for legislatively mandated increases in criminal penalties which result in increased jail time (and associated expenses), additional police officers, and increased court and jail service costs. The City also encourages the Legislature to provide funding assistance in support of local governments' community-based policing programs.

**Juvenile Justice Services:** The City supports the allocation of state funds to cities and counties for local juvenile crime prevention programs, including passage of the Juvenile Crime Deterrence Act, a program dedicated to prevention and early intervention with at-risk youth, helping to keep them out of the juvenile justice system.

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES**

**Electric Utility Restructuring:** The City supports legislation that ensures that Kirkland and fellow local governments are represented in all policy discussions relating to electric restructuring. The City also encourages legislation that would retain local revenue sources and taxation authority that might otherwise be lost in the event of deregulation of the electrical energy industry.

**Telecommunications and Public Rights of Way:** The City encourages legislation that protects our local authority to manage city rights-of-way and publicly owned infrastructure, including the authority to:

- Regulate how, when and where facilities are located.
- Require utilities to bear the cost of relocating their facilities within the rights-of-way for needed public improvements.
- Regulate the placement of wireless facilities.
- Require wireless and telecommunication utilities to provide public access for local government as part of standard services.

We also encourage the Legislature to work to retain local government's ability to negotiate franchise agreements, and preserve municipalities' existing authority to tax telecommunications activities, as these activities represent a significant portion of the City's revenue base. Projected at \$1,800,000 for 2000, this is an even more important source of revenue to the City in light of the passage of I-695.

## **HUMAN SERVICES**

**Affordable Housing:** The City supports a dedicated, stable funding source for low-income housing.

## **GENERAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**Public Records:** The City supports legislation that would exempt records from public access that would reveal, directly or indirectly, the strategy or position of a local government regarding collective bargaining, professional negotiations, grievance or mediation proceedings.

**Liability Reform:** The City supports legislation in a number of potential liability areas:

To exempt cities and towns from joint and several liability. Cities should only be accountable for the percentage of liability that the City's actions contributed to the situation in question.

To provide employers immunity to civil liability when they disclose information in good faith reference checks.

Removing the prohibition of evidence that a plaintiff's failure to wear a seatbelt contributed to the plaintiff's injuries.

Incentives for early settlements of litigation.