

CITY OF ANACORTES 2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PUBLIC SAFETY POLICIES

MODIFY THE DRUG POSSESSION STATUTE

Delete the requirement in [RCW 10.31.115](#) for law enforcement to twice refer to treatment persons subject to arrest for drug possession.

Continue to characterize drug possession as a misdemeanor (or gross misdemeanor), rather than as a felony, and rather than decriminalizing drug possession.

MODIFY THE VEHICLE PURSUIT STATUTE

Revise or eliminate the restrictions in [RCW 10.116.060](#) on vehicular pursuits by police officers.

Revise or increase the penalty for, the crime of eluding a police vehicle under [RCW 46.61.024](#) (currently a class C felony), especially at high speed.

HOUSING POLICIES

Support housing for our lowest income residents, affordable homeowner opportunities, incentives to increase supply, and tools to preserve existing units.

Exempt residential development consistent with local plans from SEPA review.

Allow for adoption of an additional tier of REET to pay for affordable housing.

Support state building code changes to allow for use of the residential building code for larger multifamily construction.

Incentivize multifamily construction by allowing cities to exempt qualifying multifamily housing projects from state and local sales tax (a similar program for qualifying commercial office space projects already exists in [RCW 82.14.532](#)).

INFRASTRUCTURE POLICIES

Update the bid limit for goods and materials listed in [RCW 35.23.352\(7\)](#) to reflect current pricing.

Update the bid limit for use of vendor roster per [RCW 35.23.352\(9\)](#) to reflect inflation and current price index.

STATE INVESTMENTS

HUMAN SERVICES

Provide substantial improvements in behavioral health service capacity including voluntary and involuntary inpatient treatment for both drug addiction and mental health. Support Skagit County's funding request for its **Crisis Stabilization Center**.

Fund alternate response models and specialized court programs such as enforcement-assisted diversion and therapeutic courts.

Fund social worker, law enforcement, and behavioral health workforce development and recruiting.

AFFORDABLE AND SUBSIDIZED HOUSING

Provide additional funding for subsidized housing with **relaxed grant requirements**.

Provide additional funding for the **Connecting Housing to Infrastructure Program**.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Allow state **funding opportunities for broadband expansion** even if it creates market competition.

Fully fund the **Public Works Assistance Account**, allow current revenue diversions to sunset at the end of fiscal year, and avoid further transfers or diversions to other programs.

Reinstate Sidney, B.C. ferry route from Washington State Ferry Terminal at Anacortes.

