



City of Kenmore 2024 State Legislative Agenda

Funding Tools for Affordable Housing

The City of Kenmore supports new and flexible funding options for local jurisdictions to address the need for affordable housing, such as a local option Real Estate Excise Tax (REET). Such options should be progressively structured to best meet the needs of low and moderate income households.

Climate Commitment Act Funding for Greenhouse Gas Reduction

- **84th Avenue Sidewalk Funding:** 84th Avenue is the primary road used to access Moorlands Elementary School and Moorlands Park but it lacks continuous sidewalks on both sides of the street. The City requests \$3.1 million to supplement city resources and install sidewalk and bike lanes on both sides of the street from 150th Street to 155th Street.
- **Geothermal Heating for Public Works Operations Center:** Electricity and natural gas used to power municipal operations and heat city owned buildings contribute to 73% of total municipal emissions. Kenmore is committed to leading by example to reduce GHG emissions and requests \$450,000 to install an energy efficient geothermal heating system in the new Public Works Operations Center.

Local Culvert and Stormwater Funding

The City requests state investments in local culvert and stormwater projects on a watershed basis to maximize the amount of fish habitat gained and improve water quality. The city owns approximately 32 fish blocking culverts and is committed to removing these barriers to improve fish passage but has limited resources to accomplish this task.

Air Pollution Emergencies During Wildfire Smoke Events

The air quality during recent wildfire smoke events has often far exceeded the state and federal health-based air quality standards. The City of Kenmore supports legislation that would establish clear authority at the state and local level for air pollution agencies to declare an air pollution emergency during extended periods of unhealthy air created by wildfire smoke.

Traffic Safety Cameras for Transit Lane Violations

The City requests legislation authorizing the use of traffic safety cameras to enforce transit lane violators. Camera enforcement presents an unbiased and consistent method of enforcing transit lane violators which maintains public safety and improves transit service.

Lift 1% Property Tax Cap

As a residential community, 40% of Kenmore's general fund revenue is generated from its largest source of revenue—property tax. The city has a limited retail tax base and is constrained from generating additional revenue to maintain city services, the costs of which are increasing at a rate greater than the State-imposed property growth limit of 1% per year. The City of Kenmore supports lifting the 1% cap on property tax increases and other actions to create a sustainable fiscal structure for cities.

Holt Affordable Housing Development

The City is taking an aggressive approach to adding affordable housing units in Kenmore; the housing crisis demands such action. In addition to the Plymouth Project, the City is actively underway on the development of the Holt Project, located on city owned property and envisioned to be a mixed-use building with a minimum of 150 housing units. Similar to the Plymouth Project, the City will pursue all available funding sources and may require state support in the 2025 budget to fill any funding gaps.