

City of Kenmore 2024 Policy Statements

This is an internal document designed to provide guidance to city staff and the city's lobbyist. The policy statements in this document allow the city to quickly take positions on legislation. It is not all-inclusive of all policy positions that the city may take throughout a session, and the following items are listed alphabetically, not in order of priority.

Affordable Housing Near Fixed Route Transit

Kenmore supports setting affordability goals for transit-oriented development, and providing local flexibility and planning resources to help communities achieve those goals.

Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship

The City supports statewide policies and programs that respond to climate change and protect and promote clean air, clean water, and clean energy. The City's Climate Action Plan establishes a goal of a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. A key component to meeting that goal is the enforcement of new state building and energy code requirements. The City also supports state sharing of Climate Commitment Act revenues and grant funding for energy retrofits of public buildings.

Co-Responder Support

Kenmore is a member of the Regional Crisis Response (RCR) agency, which provides person-centered and immediate crisis response, de-escalation, resource referral, and follow-up tailored to the specific needs of those experiencing behavioral health challenges. This approach has proven to be effective and is increasingly important to combat the behavioral health epidemic. Kenmore supports ongoing, stable funding for co-responder programs as well as standardized training and certification.

Criminal Justice

The City supports reforms that address the disparate impacts of systems and institutions on communities of color. As part of this, the City calls on the Legislature to advance criminal justice transformation policies to provide greater safety for communities that historically have not been well-served by existing systems. The City also supports state funding for increased costs resulting from police, court, and other criminal justice reforms. As part of this, the city supports state funding for body camera programs and resources to offset the rising cost of police services, including but not limited to liability insurance.

Environmental Remediation

The City supports the expansion of environmental remediation programs such as the Model Toxics Control Act and the Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund to allow more contaminated sites throughout the state to be eligible for remediation funding.

Firearms

The City supports proposals that regulate firearms to curb gun violence.

Local Infrastructure Funding

The City of Kenmore joins AWC in supporting the State's ongoing and increased investment in infrastructure funding programs such as the Public Works Assistance Account and the Transportation Improvement Board.

Housing Crisis

The City of Kenmore feels the urgency in addressing the housing crisis and is committed to doing what it can to increase the supply of housing, especially affordable units. The City welcomes the State's partnership via grant programs, like the Housing Trust Fund, and funding tools to increase the number of housing units. The City supports policies and incentives that increase housing construction, including but not limited to reducing legal liability for condominium developers.

Mobile Homes

The City supports legislation that recognizes that mobile homes represent an important affordable housing option throughout the state. Topics such as: ensuring individuals considering purchasing a mobile home are informed about laws and regulations limiting the transport of mobile homes; lease increase notice and other guidelines; tenant protections; and requiring that sellers notify purchasers if a home cannot be moved, are examples of potential legislation that could help protect mobile homeowners' investments and provide greater predictability.

Passenger Only Ferry

The City supports efforts to explore passenger only ferry service from Kenmore to Seattle and the east side of Lake Washington. The City closely monitored the legislatively directed Puget Sound Regional Council's Passenger Only Ferry Study and supports legislative action to advance findings from the study.

Product Stewardship

The City of Kenmore supports statewide product stewardship programs or extended producer responsibility (EPR) policies that place a share of responsibility for end of life product management on the producers.

Racial Equity

In accordance with the City's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) policy, it will continue to look for ways to break the racial caste system that still exists in our society, including but not limited to striking from the record any racial based restrictive covenants. As the city makes changes at the local level, we support and expect the state to make systemic changes to improve equity for all members of society.

Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)

The City supports flexible use of local REET revenue for maintenance and operation of city resources as well as a local option for a tiered REET.

Regional Police Authority

The City supports regional funding options for public safety services through the creation of a regional police authority or other mechanisms.

Reproductive Healthcare

The City supports amendments to the Washington State Constitution to codify an individual's right to comprehensive, safe, and accessible reproductive healthcare.

Salmon Habitat Restoration

Kenmore encourages the State to invest in state and local culvert, floodplain, and fish habitat projects to restore habitat for salmon on a watershed basis.

Tax Structure Reform

Kenmore encourages the state to identify reforms to the tax system that provide progressive, equitable, stable, and reliable revenue sources for both state and local government.

Tire Dust Pollution

Kenmore encourages the legislature to identify alternatives to 6PPD, the chemical used in tire manufacturing that prevents the rubber from cracking. When exposed to the ozone, 6PPD transfers into 6PPD-quinone which is highly toxic to some aquatic organisms, including coho salmon. In addition to finding alternatives, Kenmore encourages the state to develop filtration methods to mitigate the impacts of 6PPDQ already in the environment.

Workforce Development, Worker Retraining, and Employment Job Skills Training

Helping our economy thrive with well-paying jobs is key to the success of our state. The city supports state and federal funding for workforce development programs, worker retraining, and employment job skills training.

Zoning and Land Use

The City supports the state establishing housing goals and allowing local jurisdictions discretion in accomplishing those goals through zoning and land use decisions.