

**City of Eugene
2015 Legislative Priorities**

Transportation

Eugene supports the passage of a transportation package for 2015 that:

- Ensures the greatest possible flexibility for the use of funds to meet local needs
- Preserves all local option transportation system funding alternatives, including local option fuel taxes and local transportation system maintenance fees
- Supports livable communities and innovative strategies
- Allows use of Highway Trust Funds for the operation and maintenance of local transportation systems, bike path right-of-way acquisition, construction and maintenance, public transit, active transportation modes, including, but not limited to, light rail, streetcars and shuttle bus systems
- Grants priority funding for projects when a local match is available
- Prevents attempts to shift costs related to highway capacity to local government
- Includes ConnectOregon and continues to include pedestrian and bicycle facilities as eligible for ConnectOregon funding

Rail

- Eugene supports state funding for intercity rail service, and more frequent and more reliable, higher-speed, customer-friendly passenger rail between Eugene and Portland.
- Eugene continues to advocate for additional funds and technologies to reduce interference and delays between freight trains and passenger trains sharing the same tracks.
- Eugene supports additional planning and construction funds for local communities to establish quiet zones, improve safety at grade crossings, upgrade rail beds and acquire rights-of-way to facilitate “passing” areas for passenger trains and freight trains.
- Eugene supports the provision of matching State funding for passenger rail and station projects in the corridor.

Land Use

- Eugene opposes legislation that eliminates or weakens existing methods of annexation.

Right of Way Management

- Eugene supports existing City responsibility to manage the public ROW, including opposing the preemption of any portion of Eugene’s telecommunications ordinances, upheld by the Oregon Courts.

- Eugene supports the existing City right to collect fair compensation from telecommunications and cable providers for use of public infrastructure and public rights of way.
- Eugene supports the existing ability of cities and municipal utilities (i.e., Eugene Water & Electric Board) to own, operate, construct and provide telecommunications services on a level playing field with private providers.
- Eugene supports existing local authority to make decisions regarding acceptable in-kind services in lieu of Ordinance 20083 License fees and taxes.
- Eugene supports continued localized telecommunications and cable rights-of-way use agreements and related Permits for construction in the public rights of way. We oppose transition to state franchising unless there is an opt-in provision whereby local governments can determine if there are if local revenue protections, management authorities, and customer service standards would be maintained or increased.
- Eugene opposes actions that would decrease open access to the Internet through tiered pricing structures or other strategies.

Telecommunications includes voice, data, and cable system communications, and high speed broadband services such as voice-over Internet protocol (VOIP), IPTV, and facility based Internet Access.

Support Housing Opportunities and Financial Stability for Eugene Residents

- Eugene supports the preservation and expansion of programs and tools to fund the development of housing affordable to low-income persons.
- Eugene supports the preservation and expansion of funding for human services, emergency housing assistance, and other programs to meet the needs of homeless persons and those at risk of homelessness.
- Eugene supports the preservation and expansion of land use and community planning tools that enable the development of affordable housing.
- Eugene supports the preservation and expansion of tools to support financial stability, savings, and asset development for low-income persons.
- Eugene supports the establishment of stronger linkages between the housing, land use, education, and health systems at the state level to expand housing opportunities. Eugene also supports additional opportunities for state/local coordination and collaboration.
- Eugene supports State funding for sobering and detox services that are designed to transition chronically inebriated homeless to housing and treatment
- Eugene supports State funding unding for mental health outreach and treatment designed to transition persistently homeless individuals with mental health conditions to housing and treatment.

Local Finance Options

- Proposals to restructure or change the State's tax system must allow local governments to finance the level of services demanded by their citizens.
- Cities are the most logical and most effective providers of urban level municipal services, and tax policies should avoid duplication of city services by other local governments
- Eugene opposes the levying of property taxes by the State to fund State-level services.
- Cities must maintain local flexibility to initiate revenue sources and to retain local apportionment of revenue from State gas, liquor, beer and wine taxes, and other revenues.
- Eugene opposes the granting of new exemptions, deferrals or forgiveness of property taxes by the Legislature without reimbursement of revenue loss to cities.
- Eugene opposes the granting of any exemption from taxation for the intangible personal property of centrally assessed companies. If such an exemption is granted, the State should reimburse cities for lost revenue.
- Eugene opposes subsidizing, through taxes or services, those living in unincorporated areas.
- Eugene supports the repeal of local preemptions
- Eugene supports maintaining current funding options, including SDCs and Urban Renewal funds.
- Preservation and enhancement of state-shared revenues that flow to the City's General Fund, specifically beer & wine, liquor, and soon, marijuana revenue.
- Protection of the 9-1-1 tax received by local governments from the state from diversion to other purposes.

Economic Development

- Eugene supports the statutory creation of the Pacific Northwest Manufacturing Partnership
- Eugene will look for opportunities to strengthen the Regional Accelerator Innovation Network (RAIN), and supports additional funding

Public Safety

- Eugene opposes efforts to increase supervisor representation
- Enable the narrow use of polygraph testing for pre-employment screening for sworn police officials.
- Support Alcohol Impact Area legislation or administrative rules.
- Encourage State and Federal to put more emphasis in assisting low income people with chronic health problems
- Increased funding and training for Hazardous Materials Response Teams for Oil Trains