

2016 Legislative Priorities

Support Housing Opportunities and Financial Stability for Eugene Residents

- Eugene supports the preservation and expansion of programs and tools to fund the development and preservation 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 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 and revenue system must allow local governments to finance the level of services demanded by their citizens.
- City governments are the most practical and effective providers of urban municipal services, and State or County tax policies should avoid raising revenues for duplication of city services by other jurisdictions.
- Eugene opposes the levying of property taxes by the State to fund services that are deemed the responsibility of the State.
- Cities must maintain local flexibility over their revenue systems and retain local apportionment of revenue from State gas, liquor, beer and wine taxes, marijuana taxes and other State imposed taxes and fees.
- Eugene opposes the granting of new exemptions, deferrals or forgiveness of property taxes by the Legislature without reimbursement of the revenue forgone by cities.
- Eugene opposes the granting of any new property tax exemptions of centrally assessed properties, including exemptions of intangible personal property of centrally assessed companies or properties. If centrally assessed property is granted any new exemption,, the State should reimburse cities for lost revenue.
- Eugene opposes subsidizing through taxes, services, or changes to revenue sharing formulas those businesses or households in unincorporated areas.
- Eugene supports the repeal of local preemptions.

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- Eugene supports maintaining current tax and fee authority regarding System Development Charges (SDCs) and Urban Renewal Districts.
- Preservation and enhancement of state-shared revenues that flow to the City's General Fund, specifically from beer and wine, liquor, tobacco and marijuana taxes.
- Protection of the 9-1-1 tax received by local governments from the State from diversion for other purposes.
- Eugene opposes federal or state pre-emption of local taxation authority, including proposals to eliminate existing taxation of telecommunications companies operating in the city limits

Economic Development

- Eugene will look for opportunities to strengthen the Regional Accelerator Innovation Network (RAIN), and supports additional funding.
- Support local authority to develop infrastructure that provides new economic development opportunities.
- Eugene supports the inclusion of telecommunications in state-funded infrastructure projects.

Land Use

- Eugene opposes legislation that eliminates or weakens existing methods of annexation.
- Eugene opposes legislation or federal regulatory pre-emption of local laws relating to cell facility zoning and site review.

Right of Way Management and Long Term Use Compensation

- Eugene supports existing City authorization and 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 and reasonable 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 and Registration fees/taxes.
- Eugene supports continued local government managed 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 local revenue protections, management authorities, community TV channel provision, and customer service standards that would be maintained or increased.
- Eugene supports net neutrality provisions and opposes actions that would decrease open access to the Internet through tiered pricing structures or other strategies.

Telecommunications includes wireless and wireline voice, data, and cable system communications, and high speed broadband services such as voice-over Internet protocol (VOIP), IPTV, OTT (Overt the Top Programming) , and facility based Internet Access.

Public Safety

Includes Fire/EMS, Courts, Law Enforcement, and Prosecution.

- 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.
- Support funding for the acquisition of body-worn video cameras and compatible digital file storage and management system.
- Increased funding and training for Hazardous Materials Response Teams for Oil Trains.
- Support Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) Legislation.
- Oppose efforts to remove authority from the fire department to provide input and comment concerning fire department access and water supply on proposed development projects.
- Oppose efforts to remove authority from the fire department to administer all provisions of the Fire Code for maintenance of the built environment.

Transportation

If there is a Transportation package in 2016, Eugene supports the policy that:

- Increases funding for all modes of transportation
- 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
- Grants priority funding for projects when a local match is available
- Prevents attempts to shift costs related to highway capacity to local government
- Includes right of way and construction funding for Beltline from River Road to Coburg Road
- Prioritizes funding opportunities to address safety issues on both local and state roadways

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 railroad 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 State matching funds for passenger rail and station projects in the corridor.

Environment and Natural Resources

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- Eugene supports state and federal measures to place a price on carbon emissions through mechanisms such as a carbon tax/fee or a cap and trade program.
- Support measures that protect or improve surface water and groundwater quality, including potential drinking water sources.
- Support implementation of recently adopted federal legislation banning the use of microbeads in personal care products for the protection of waterways.
- Support land use planning tools that protect native ecosystems and preserve intact habitats for migratory species.
- Support continuation of funding for the implementation of place-based water resources planning projects by the Oregon Water Resources Board and its implementing partners.
- Support appropriate limitations on fill and/or removal of wetlands.
- Support funding and programs to preserve and restore native vegetation and protect against invasive species.
- Support funding for constructing, maintaining, evaluating and renovating “green” stormwater infrastructure such as bioswales, green roofs and porous pavement.
- Support initiatives that assist designated management agencies in meeting their TMDL obligations related to temperature, bacteria, turbidity, and mercury.
- Support measures that facilitate economical and environmentally sound practices for managing wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, including maintaining minimum flows to protect infrastructure and reduce the risk of corrosive gas formation.
- Support funding and programs to implement measures identified in the regional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan such as street tree planting programs, enhanced fuels reduction programs, restoration of riparian systems and other efforts to reduce the impact of flood, fires, landslides, and extreme storm events.
- Supports all implementation aspects of Department of Environmental Quality's 2050 Vision for Materials Management.