



CITY OF GRESHAM

2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Gresham Funding Requests

Gresham Youth Services | \$6M

Funding would continue and expand the impactful East Multnomah Outreach Prevention Intervention (EMOPI) program, which delivers culturally specific community-based services through social support, youth programming, education, and intensive case management for over 50,000 youth as a method of improving public safety outcomes. Upstream investments in outreach and prevention benefit community safety and decrease the need for juvenile detention beds and relative criminal justice expenditures. Intervention work is conducted by case managers who serve up to 40 of the region’s highest-risk youth, helping them navigate school, employment, mental health challenges, and other critical areas. The program currently serves areas from Gresham to 82nd Ave in Portland. Funding of \$6 million would enable the program to expand as far west as the Lloyd District in Portland.

Gresham Fire Department | \$10M

Gresham’s fire stations are outdated and in need of replacement. State funding would go towards the replacement of Fire Station #74, which serves large industrial and residential swaths of north Gresham.

Transportation & Utility Infrastructure | \$10M

Pleasant Valley is expected to be home to more than 4,000 housing units over the next 20 years. To accommodate the development, upgrades need to be made to transportation and utility infrastructure.

Legislative Policy & Funding Priorities

Financial Sustainability

- Support comprehensive revenue reform efforts that address the revenue needs of cities and allow local governments the authority to finance the level of services needed by their residents.
- Support local flexibility over revenue systems and preserve or enhance the local apportionment of revenue from state gas, liquor, beer and wine, marijuana and other state-imposed taxes and fees, as well as other state shared revenues.
- Oppose new property tax exemptions or the creation of new special taxing district categories in statute that would threaten or diminish existing revenue to the City.
- Preserve current tax, local control, and fee authority regarding System Development Charges (SDCs) and Urban Renewal Districts.
- Oppose efforts to reduce or preempt Gresham's home-rule authority to regulate the use of the public right-of-way, and collect adequate fees and taxes from users.
- Guard against efforts to reduce the proportionate share of state-shared revenues and support efforts to increase revenue distribution to local governments.
- Oppose any unfunded mandates.

Community Well-Being

- Increase funding for behavioral health services and treatment, including prevention, intervention and recovery services for youth.
- Support funding for behavioral health outreach, services, and treatment designed to transition persistently homeless individuals with mental health challenges to housing and treatment.
- Support efforts to improve Oregon's civil commitment system so that people receive the care they need in a timely and appropriate manner.
- Support legislation and policy collaboration to better align housing and homelessness systems at the local, regional, state and federal levels across sectors to ensure better outcomes for the community.
- Adequately fund a K-12 education system and Career and Technical Education (CTE) program that prepares Oregon's students for the changing economy and connects learning opportunities with workforce development.

Housing & Community Development

- Support funding and policies that will assist with the development and deployment of housing.
- Provide flexibility to allocate funding from the 2024 legislative session to water, wastewater, or stormwater improvements needed to unlock housing development opportunities in Civic Center.
- Support funding for needed housing development, infrastructure development to serve housing, and pathways to homeownership. Housing supply should be equitably distributed, ensuring that people of all incomes, races, and geographic locations have access to homes.

- Improve the Senior Property Tax deferral program to enable more seniors to age in place.
- Address construction defect liability law to remove and reduce barriers to condominium development and paths to homeownership by shortening the warranty timeline from 10 to 6 years while also potentially adding additional non-jurisdictional waterproofing inspection requirements.

Public Safety

- Grant law enforcement agencies greater leeway to acquire and utilize pertinent information for first responders through the operation of unmanned aircraft system.
- Enhance resources for the hiring and training of public safety officers to expedite and improve police recruitment and retention needs.
- Provide state funding for alternative response models to address behavioral and mental health challenges, as well as supporting the right response to a 911 call.
- Support funding for local government public safety emergency operations, disaster preparedness, and capital facilities.

Transportation

- Advocate for a transportation funding package that increases critical funding for system maintenance, and/or improves the flow of traffic in Gresham, as well as funds key regional transportation projects important to the city's economic success.
- Support legislation that furthers safe and equitable transportation, including more effective and equitable enforcement of speed limits and other safety regulations, greater investment in infrastructure that improves safety (especially in disadvantaged communities), and greater authority for local governments to safely manage their transportation systems.

Thriving Economy (Including Land Use)

- Extend effective existing economic development tools, and support initiatives that would increase the State's role in economic development incentives, including the Strategic Investment Program/Zone, Gain Share, Enterprise Zone, and Urban Renewal.
- Increase funding and adopt policies that will assist with workforce training and talent attraction.
- Back initiatives to increase the supply of shovel-ready industrial land through the creation of tools and funding for infrastructure in industrial lands and industrial-site readiness.
- Oppose legislative or regulatory pre-emption of local land use laws and authorities.