

WSAMA Spring Conference

April 24, 2025

2025 Legislative Session



2025 Legislative Session

105-day Session: January - April

New legislators, new committees, new chairs, 43 legislators with city/county background

Democrats retain majorities: 30-19 Senate, 59-39 House

Economic environment: Significant budget shortfall, negative revenue forecasts, high interest rates, inflationary pressure

Biennial budgets: Operating, Capital, Transportation

Policy focus: Revenue, housing, education



Fiscal sustainability

Revise the arbitrary 1% property tax cap that has been in place for more than 20 years. Adopt a new cap tied to inflation and population growth factors, with a limit not to exceed 3%.



Public safety

Provide more resources and tools to cities and towns to address public safety and criminal justice challenges.



Infrastructure investment

Protect and expand direct and meaningful investments in traditional local infrastructure for needed expansion and ongoing operations and maintenance of aging systems, included expanded and reliable funding for the Public Works Assistance Account.



Housing supply

Dedicate current funding and explore new funding options, such as real estate transfer tax, to address needs across the housing continuum, including home ownership, senior, workforce, affordable, and permanent supportive housing.



Behavioral health treatment capacity

Expand funding for grants to establish and support ongoing funding for local behavioral health crisis co-responder programs.

Disclaimers:

- Legislature is still in session
- Governor has until May 20 to act on bills
- **Passed** means it passed the Legislature
- **Pending** means it passed both chambers but in different forms and needs concurrence OR must be funded in the budget or else is null and void
- **Did not pass** means it failed to advance past a deadline to stay alive for 2025 (but likely to return in 2026)

Housing bills

Passed

- **HB 1183** – Development regulations & GMA
- **HB 1353** – ADU self-certification program
- **HB 1494** – Multifamily Property Tax Exemption reform
- **HB 1757** – Commercial to residential conversions
- **HB 1791** – REET flexibility for housing

Housing bills

Pending

- **HB 1096** – Lot splitting
- **HB 1491** – Transit-oriented density
- **HB 5148** – State compliance audit of Housing Element (GMA)
- **SB 5184** – Parking preemption
- **SB 5559** – Subdivision reform
- **SB 5571** – Regulation of exterior cladding of buildings

Did not pass

- **HB 1195** – State compliance review of STEP housing ordinances
- **HB 1443 / SB 5332** – Mobile dwellings
- **SB 5613** – Clear & objective development regulations

Land Use & Building Codes bills

Passed

- **HB 1061** – Ingress/egress driveway parking
- **HB 1135** – GMA compliance after ordinance repeal (GMHB)
- **HB 1688** – Electric security fences
- **HB 1935** – “Project permit” definition re: “building permit”
- **SB 5509** – Childcare centers zoning mandate
- **SB 5558** – GMA comp plan & implementation timelines
- **SB 5611** – Permit streamlining
- **SB 5655** – Childcare occupancy in existing buildings

Land Use & Building Codes bills

Pending

- **HB 1039** – City & tribe contracting for urban services outside UGA
- **HB 1562** – Diaper changing stations in public restrooms
- **HB 1576** – Historic landmark designation

Did not pass

- **HB 1175** – Neighborhood cafes mandate
- **HB 1254** – Wildland Urban Interface Code reforms
- **SB 5719** – Hearing examiner use required

Homelessness bills

Passed

HB 1260 – Document recording fee allocation re: county admin fee

Did not pass

- **HB 1240** – Vehicle residence impounds
- **HB 1380** – State regulation of public camping
- **HB 1653/SB 5484** – Tow truck payments/indigent vehicle owners

Environment bills

Pending

- **HB 2301** – Amendments to Organics Management Law & solid waste cart color and labeling requirement
- **SB 5033** – PFAS testing of biosolids
- **SB 5284** – Recycling Reform Act for residential paper & packaging

Did not pass

- **HB 1183** – Tree banking
- **HB 1303** – Environmental justice in SEPA checklist

Transportation bills

Passed

SB 5595 – “Shared streets” designation

Pending

- **HB 1733** – Relocation expenses due to agency displacement
- **HB 1774** – Lease of unused highway land

Did not pass

- **HB 1921** – Road usage charge (similar concept in budget)
- **SB 5374** – Tribal representation in local transportation planning

Open Government bills

Pending

HB 1934 – Clarifies PRA exemption for discrimination/harassment investigations redactions

Did not pass

- **HB 1964** – Requiring PRA requester to declare request is for noncommercial purpose
- **HB 1765/SB 5707** – Local government email list PRA exemption

HR & Labor Relations bills

Passed

- **HB 1821** – Access to payroll records for prevailing wage complaints
- **SB 5040** – Interest arbitration for law enforcement at cities < 2,500

Pending

- **HB 1213** – Expands job protections under Paid Family & Medical Leave
- **SB 5041** – Striking workers eligible for unemployment benefits
- **SB 5503** – Prohibits grievance arbitration settlements from waiving right to future claims
- **HB 1308** – Providing “personnel records” to employees

Did not pass

HB 1622 – Bargaining the management decision to use artificial intelligence

General Government bills

Passed

- **HB 1201** – Pet sheltering during emergencies
- **HB 1515** – Expanded outdoor alcohol service areas “Libation Zones”
- **HB 1573** – Revising the period for the oath of office for elective offices
- **HB 1811** – Created a definition of “co-response”

Did not pass

- **HB 1710** – Voting Rights Act (VRA) “preclearance” requirement
- **HB 1750** – “Vote dilution” and “abridgement” claims under the VRA
- **HB 1448** – Ranked choice voting systems option
- **HB 1339/SB 5373** – Even-year elections option

Public Works & Infrastructure bills

Passed

- **HB 1549** – Responsible bidder criteria
- **HB 1633** – Subcontractor licensing requirements
- **HB 1967** – Design-build public works project bonding
- **SB 5627** – Underground utility excavation practices (“Dig Law”)

Pending

- **PWAA** – Both chambers sweep PWAA at different amounts
- **HB 1543** – Compliance pathways for Clean Bldgs. Performance
- **SB 5804** – Fish habitat restoration

Did not pass

- **HB 1966** – Self-performed public works requirements
- **SB 5061** – Prevailing wage at the time work is performed
- **SB 5176** – Prompt pay on PWs projects

Finance bills

Passed

SB 5315 – Local tax rate notification requirements to DOR

Pending

- **HB 2049/SB 5812** – Changes levy limit to inflation and population, up to 3%
- **SB 5798** – Changes levy limit to inflation and population

Did not pass

- **SB 5770, SB 5771, SJR 8203** – Residential property tax exemption
- **SB 5796** – Payroll tax of 5% on certain employers

Public Safety & Criminal Justice bills

Passed

HB 1174 – Changes to governance of court interpreters

Pending

- **HB 1440** – Civil asset forfeiture
- **HB 1596** – Use speeding technology devices for certain drivers
- **HB 2015** – Councilmanic 0.1% sales tax for criminal justice and new grant program to fund officer and co-responder recruitment and training

Public Safety & Criminal Justice bills

Did not pass

- **HB 1113** – Authorize court to release upon substantial compliance
- **HB 1218** – Change trial competency evaluations
- **HB 1399** – Law enforcement leadership eligibility & police volunteers
- **HB 1423** – Authority to use vehicle noise enforcement cameras
- **HB 1428** – Increase state criminal justice assistance by \$25 million
- **HB 1435/SB 5060** – \$100 million for law enforcement hiring grants
- **HB 1592** – Public defense funding
- **SB 5775** – Councilmanic public safety sales tax authority and allows cities to impose counties' unused rate up to 0.3%

WSAMA Legislative Committee

2025 Rapid Response Teams:

Land Use

Criminal Justice

Open Government

Public Works & Contracting

HR & Labor Issues

Contact:

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Being a Strong City Advocate during session



Regular
advocacy



Stay abreast of
the issues/bills



Tell your city
story



Communicate
your legislative
agenda



Quick check-
ins via text,
email, calls



Use AWC tools
& resources

<https://wacities.org/advocacy/advocacy-tools>

May 22: Legislative Session Recap webinar 12–1:15 pm

Government Relations Team

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Issue areas – Economic development; federal issues; finance; human resources, labor relations & pensions; liability; open government

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Questions?

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