



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
YAKIMA, WASHINGTON  
AGENDA STATEMENT**

Item No. 6.B.  
For Meeting of: December 9, 2025

**ITEM TITLE:** Discussion by the Council regarding its suggestions for 2026 state and federal legislative priorities

**SUBMITTED BY:** Randy Beehler, Communication & Public Affairs Manager

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION:**

The Council will discuss its suggestions for 2026 state and federal legislative priorities.

For the last several months, City staff has been working to prepare 2026 state and federal legislative priorities. Suggested priorities have come from observation of issues the Council has focused on in 2025, progress made on the City's 2025 state and federal legislative priorities, input from the City's contracted lobbyists, City senior staff input, and review of legislative priorities established by other municipal advocacy organizations.

Legislative priorities the City intends to pursue at the state level in 2026 include securing adequate funding for indigent defense needs, funding for an air cargo study at the Yakima airport, funding for design and repair of Franklin Pool, increased state support to address issues related to homelessness, increased state support to address issues related to domestic violence, regulatory and advocacy to preserve community access to health care services, funding for rerouting of Shaw Creek in partnership with Yakima County, and support of funding requests from Yakima County for design and construction of a medical detox/treatment facility.

Legislative priorities the City intends to pursue at the federal level in 2026 include funding for the ongoing modernization of the Yakima Air Terminal building and other airport infrastructure, funding for design of a children's advocacy center in Yakima, funding for the City's ongoing project to extend water and sewer services to unserved areas of the community, funding for a feasibility study of the former Boise Cascade mill site to determine future uses following clean up, funding to upgrade and replace fire department infrastructure, and support of the Fix Our Forests Act (which is aimed at improving forest health and wildfire resilience through more efficient forest management).

**ITEM BUDGETED:** Yes

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY 24-25:** A Resilient Yakima

**RECOMMENDATION:** Council to provide staff with direction regarding 2026 state and federal legislative priorities.

**ATTACHMENTS:**