



CITY OF ANACORTES

2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Resolution 2029 adopted January 22, 2019

Top Priorities for the City of Anacortes

Community Youth Recreation Center Anacortes youth emphatically asked for a place to call their own. A partnership between the City, the Anacortes School District, and the Anacortes Boys & Girls Club aims to provide them a safe place. A Community Youth Recreation Center will foster emotional and mental health wellbeing, encourage educational achievement, and support the youth of our community. Anacortes's goal is to create diverse, innovative, affordable, and age-appropriate opportunities; to offer a safe place to study and socialize; and to expose members to recreational, educational, and family support opportunities.

Municipal Broadband Anacortes has an aggressive plan for infrastructure and staff investment to provide fiber broadband services to residents and businesses throughout Anacortes in the next 4 years.

Trail Systems Anacortes continues to expand trail systems to connect our community, enhance access to waterfront areas, and provide non-motorized transportation options. The City seeks further state funding to complete these vital recreation and trail projects.

General Principles Anacortes supports legislation to:

- Revitalize and build infrastructure to support job creation, community health and safety, and improve quality of life
- Protect shared state revenue sources and provide other mechanisms to invest in infrastructure
- Enhance efforts to increase affordable housing and decrease homelessness
- Ensure that parents, children and youth have access to affordable infant and child care and early childhood education
- Improve availability and access to behavioral and mental health services
- Support Orca recovery and protect the Salish Sea by investing in spill response, prevention, and mitigation
- Expand the use of renewable energy and reduce our carbon footprint

City of Anacortes & Association of WA Cities Legislative Priorities:

- Support economic development tools to encourage job creation and economic growth. Assist small and rural cities to maintain, expand, and modernize local infrastructure that spurs local private sector investment. Anacortes' municipal fiber initiative is a critical economic development tool for our island community.
- Keep the Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) in working order. The PWTF is a vital resource for low cost loans to fund critical infrastructure. In 2019 Anacortes needs to complete several projects including a combined sewer overflow facility which will help to improve water quality in the Salish Sea and support salmon and orca recovery.
- Invest in affordable housing including the ongoing capital budget investment in the Housing Trust Fund, a \$20 million per year local government revenue sharing proposal, and \$1.5 million per year for reinvestment of the sales tax from the construction of multifamily development. In 2018, Anacortes exempted low income housing facilities from paying impact fees. The \$160,000 reduction in fees shifted to the City and we seek assistance in offsetting these impacts to allow us to further support workforce housing options.
- Increase funding and capacity for the Criminal Justice Training Commission to ensure that newly-hired law enforcement officers have timely access to basic training. New police officers wait several months to attend the police academy delaying their ability to serve our community as commissioned officers.
- Improve a failing behavioral and mental health system. Reform and expand the delivery of both crisis intervention and preventive wellness services.