

GREATER
SPOKANE
inc.

2019
STATE LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITY
AGENDA

THE SPOKANE REGION

Our business community



A thriving economy takes people with the commitment to bring big ideas to life. By taking a holistic approach to economic health and opportunity, we can create a vibrant region that is connected, inspired and driven to succeed. Greater Spokane Inc. (GSI) creates the place where organizations come together to advocate for the region, drive strategic economic growth and champion a talented workforce.

GSI's 2019 State Legislative Priority Agenda seeks support for policies and funding to:

- **CREATE** a healthier climate for businesses to start, grow and compete
- **IMPROVE** education attainment from cradle to career
- **ENHANCE** our economy through healthy and thriving communities
- **ADVANCE** transportation policies and funding to connect our economy
- **SUPPORT** partner priorities helping to make a more vibrant Spokane region

GREATER COMMUNITY

GREATER GROWTH

Together, we support the creation of business and job growth for a thriving economy.

GREATER VOICE

Together, we have a greater voice for the future of our region.

GREATER TALENT

Together, we build, champion and retain a talented workforce.

together we're greater!

BUSINESS CLIMATE

Create a healthier climate for businesses to start, grow and compete

The Spokane business community has a long history of supporting legislation to promote small business growth, job creation and business innovation. Our region is driven by a diverse economy with businesses in agriculture, manufacturing, professional services, health care and other industries. A favorable business climate is crucial to sustain a robust economy so our regions' businesses can compete domestically and internationally. GSI advocates for smart policies that enable business health and expansion to ensure the future economic vitality of our region.

TAX FAIRNESS & PREDICTABILITY

Oppose legislation that unduly increases taxes on business, undermines incentives for businesses in border communities or creates unpredictability in business planning.

REGULATORY REFORM

- Support legislative actions that increase regulatory transparency, improve objectivity, determine the impact upon business and reduce compliance costs.
- Require that state agencies have explicit legislative authority to implement new administrative rules.

CONDOMINIUM REFORM

Support condominium reform that limits liability for developers and the expansion of condominium warranties.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES

- Restore the Business & Occupations tax credit for research and development, which expired in 2014, and oppose the elimination of previously enacted incentives vital to our region.
- Support Military Benefit Zone legislation that would expand financing tools for military communities to support and encourage private economic development.
- Expand the sales and use tax exemption for construction of aviation facilities to Spokane and other counties (currently available only in King County).

WORKFORCE

Retain high-quality early childhood educators and expand licensed child care centers through funding of the child career and wage ladder.

INDIGENT DEFENSE

Increase state funding for indigent trial defense, allowing for more County resources to be directed to core services.



EDUCATION

Improve education attainment from cradle to career

GSI is committed to increasing the postsecondary attainment rate to 60 percent by 2025. The availability of a qualified and skilled workforce is the top factor companies consider as they look to expand or relocate to our region. Having the right talent depends on our ability to support investments across the education continuum with a focus on career-connected learning, STEM and access to higher education.



EARLY LEARNING

Expand access to quality early learning opportunities by:

- Increasing Working Connections Child Care subsidy rates.
- Growing the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program.
- Fully funding the Early Achievers program and invest additional resources in the Early Learning Facilities Fund.

K-12

- Evaluate regionalization methodology to ensure equity in teacher compensation across districts and regions.
- Expand funding for regional safety centers and provide funding for student safety improvements.
- Increase funding for special education to meet the true cost of students; update the special education excess multiplier formula.
- Update K-12 funding formulas to reflect school construction costs, funding for K-3 class size reduction and education space needs.
- Provide resources or increase funding that supports high-risk students through additional mental health providers and resource counselors.
- Continue funding for Career and Technical Education (CTE) and clarify that CTE dollars can only be spent on CTE programs and partnerships.

COLLEGE READINESS AND POST-SECONDARY ACCESS

- Support expansion of MESA to 11th and 12th grade, connecting 9th and 10th graders to college-level programming.
- Additional funding for College Success Foundation to expand high school programming and its college advising and support program.
- Increase STEM access through Washington State Opportunity Scholarship and funding for Career Connected Learning initiatives at the regional level.

HIGHER EDUCATION

- Continued and increased funding for the Washington State Need Grant.
- Provide competitive compensation for faculty and staff at four-year institutions and community colleges.
- Invest \$14.4 million to complete funding for third- and fourth-year instruction at the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, and expand each new entering class in this biennium from 60 to 80 students.
- Support partnership and maintenance of the current funding for the University of Washington School of Medicine & Gonzaga University Regional Health Partnership.
- Investment in new programs and curriculum in high-demand fields, including civil engineering and computer engineering, as well as guided pathways in our college systems.

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

- Retain funding for Capital STEM Grants to continue providing infrastructure in STEM learning.
- Fund \$500,000 for pre-design of the Washington State University's Spokane-Biomedical and Health Sciences Building Phase II project.
- Fund \$7.9 million for renovation design of the current Eastern Washington University Science Building.
- Support \$36.4 million to complete construction of the new Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at Washington State University.
- Support \$35.6 million for the replacement of the Fine Arts Building at Spokane Falls Community College and \$3.1 million for design of Spokane Community College's Apprenticeship Center.

HEALTH CARE

Enhance our region's largest economic driver

A growing economy first needs healthy and thriving communities. GSI recognizes the importance of improving access to health care for all and the resources needed to identify and address public health issues.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- Increase state support for the region's Behavioral Health Organization, administered by Spokane County, resulting in a balanced state-wide system, including continuation of funds for the Acute Care Diversion provision.
- Ensure eligibility for all age groups and a reasonable rate for partial hospitalization programs by Medicaid.
- Increase the reimbursement rates for inpatient hospital behavioral health services through Medicaid.
- Address the opioid and substance abuse crisis through thoughtful engagement in policy and budget priorities which help address the crisis without unnecessarily restricting providers' ability to provide care for patients.
- Carry forward additional funding allocated under ESSB 6032, including \$4 million in the Spokane region, for the enhancement of community-based behavioral health services through workforce recruitment and retention.

HEALTH SCIENCE RESEARCH

Support reauthorization legislation for the Health Sciences & Services Authority (HSSA), which invests funds to create and support a nationally competitive health sciences research cluster in Spokane.

NURSE LICENSURE

Add Washington State to the Nurse Licensure Compact, providing the opportunity for nurses in participating states to practice in all other compact states under multi-state privileges authorized by the nurse's state of residence.

HOSPITAL SAFETY NET ASSESSMENT REAUTHORIZATION

Support reauthorization of the Hospital Safety Net Assessment under the same or similar parameters of past legislation, and oppose any cuts to existing rates.



TRANSPORTATION

Develop the infrastructure to fuel our economy

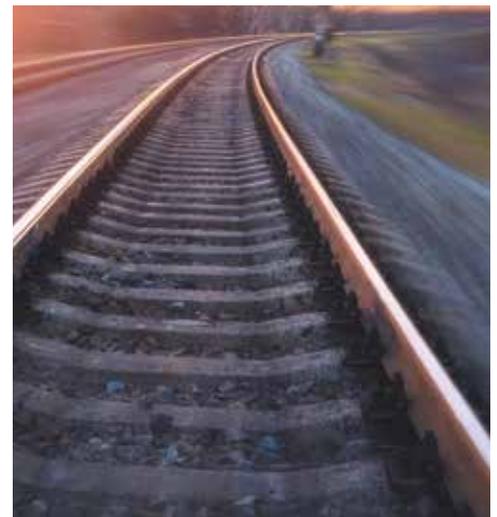
Our region's single most important transportation priority is to protect funding secured in the Connecting Washington package for the North-South Corridor – keeping any project savings in our community. Additionally, securing adequate, long-term funding for road maintenance and preservation, including continued evaluation of alternatives to a motor fuels tax for local revenue options.

TRANSIT

- Provide \$6.3 million in Public Transportation Regional Mobility Funds over two biennium for Spokane Transit Authority to construct high-performance transit improvements along the I-90/Cheney corridor and purchase double-decker buses.
- Maintain state share of Central City Line capital costs in alignment with project implementation schedule, with project delivery in 2021.

CONGESTION

- Provide \$3 million for a US 2 Alternate Route to relieve traffic congestion on US 2 and establish an important east/west connection through the City of Airway Heights.
- Explore solutions to relieve congestion, improve safety and ensure continued freight mobility on the I-90/195 interchange and the 195 corridor.
- Provide \$2.9 million for the Pines Road/BNSF grade separation project in Spokane Valley.
- Fund the completion of the Harvard Road Bridge widening and I-90/Harvard Road ramp improvements in Liberty Lake to address safety, operational improvements and peak hour capacity needs.
- Fund the Liberty Lake Henry Road overpass design in 2021 and construction in 2022, to connect the two sides of the community, provide safe crossing, reduce congestion and enhance local network access.



COMMUNITY PROJECT PRIORITIES

Support civic and community partners who help improve our quality of life

CITY OF SPOKANE

- Fully fund the Recreation and Conservation grants account to fund applications for the Don Kardong Bridge Rehabilitation Project and the Riverfront Park North Suspension Bridge renovation.
- Secure funding for a pilot program aimed at reducing recidivism and incarceration costs by allowing for supervision of property crime offenders.

MEDICAL LAKE

Pursue financial reimbursement for services provided to Eastern State Hospital, Lakeland Village and Washington Department of Social & Health Services campus.

SPOKANE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

- Reduce or eliminate the Leasehold Excise Tax on airport property and concessions agreements to increase competitiveness. Standardize the application of all state sales and use taxes on airports.
- Seek the transfer of \$100,000 originally allocated for improvements to the Honor Point Military and Aerospace Museum for a children's play area and for renovations to the historical Nick Mamer Memorial Clock.

NORTHWEST MUSEUM OF ARTS AND CULTURE

Operating budget infusion of \$2.3 million over the next biennium to move mission-critical employees from local funds to state funds, as well as hire curatorial and other staff to fulfill its mission as stated in RCW.

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

- Provide \$2 million to complete funding for the Spokane Sportsplex, which will generate direct economic impact from major national sporting events.
- Secure \$32 million in funding for the Airport Administration Building and Conference Center at Spokane International Airport.
- Fund \$5.5 million for the Fairchild Airforce Base Highland Village Housing project to reduce the density in the APZ 2 and to develop safe and affordable alternative housing for the residents now living in APZ 2.
- Support the joint request from the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) and the City of Airway Heights for \$1.9 million in funding to convert non-potable water uses to reclaimed water in the City. The DOC facility uses approximately 25 million gallons for irrigation each year. Eliminating this demand on the water system will provide water for approximately 360 new households.
- Provide \$1 million for roof replacement of the East Central Community Center in Spokane.
- Invest \$520,000 for the next phase of the Spokane Valley Browns Park master plan, which will include the installation of a new playground, new restroom and a neighborhood picnic shelter.
- Provide \$4.2 million for the construction of the Spokane Guilds School & Neuromuscular Center's new children's center.
- Support \$4.7 million for capital projects at the Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture, including transition to an energy efficient HVAC system for museum facilities and continued restoration of the historic Campbell House.
- Provide \$2 million for the purchase and installation of a new chairlift to expand Mt. Spokane Ski & Snowboard Park.
- Provide funding assistance for implementation of Felts Field Historic District Gateway improvements.



ABOUT GREATER SPOKANE INC.'S WORK IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Greater Spokane Inc. is the Spokane region's business development organization. GSI works year-round with business, civic, and community partners to provide a **GREATER VOICE** on behalf of employers and the community at the local, state, and federal level.

STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS REPRESENTING SPOKANE



Jay Inslee
Washington State
Governor (D)



Andy Billig
3rd District
Senator (D)



Mike Padden
4th District
Senator (R)



Jeff Holy
6th District
Senator (R)



Shelly Short
7th District
Senator (R)



Mark Schoesler
9th District
Senator (R)



Timm Ormsby
3rd District
Representative (D)



Bob McCaslin
4th District
Representative (R)



Jenny Graham
6th District
Representative (R)



Joel Kretz
7th District
Representative (R)



Mary Dye
9th District
Representative (R)



Marcus Riccelli
3rd District
Representative (D)



Matt Shea
4th District
Representative (R)



Mike Volz
6th District
Representative (R)



Jacquelin Maycumber
7th District
Representative (R)



Joe Schmick
9th District
Representative (R)

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