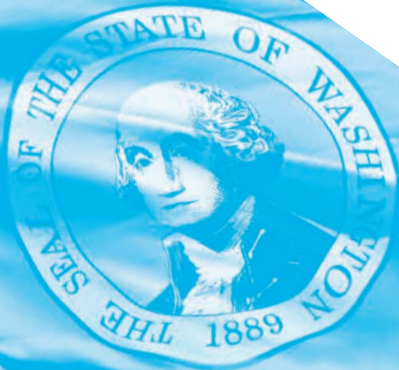


2021

STATE LEGISLATIVE
AGENDA



GREATER
SPOKANE
inc.



WORKING TOGETHER

Gathered from leaders and employers in business, education, health care, local and county governments and Fairchild Air Force Base, GSI's 2021 State Legislative Agenda vocalizes prioritized issues for our region.

Based on feedback from GSI's members, Board of Trustees, GSI's Public Policy Council, and legislators, there is a need to focus on a targeted list of priority employer issues that both support GSI's mission as a business development organization and impact our region's ability to sustain a healthy business climate. As a result, GSI categorized its agenda into three parts: **DRIVE**, **PARTNER**, and **SUPPORT**.



IMPACTS OF COVID-19

The focus of the 2021 Legislative Session will be public health and economic recovery. GSI's 2021 state agenda will reflect these issues as our **DRIVE** priorities. GSI understands the need to continue momentum on non-COVID-related policy issues and will **PARTNER** and **SUPPORT** issues that are important to sustain the needs of our community.



DRIVE RECOVERY PRIORITIES

DRIVE issues are GSI's top priorities, which means GSI – along with its members and Board of Trustees – will drive lobbying, dialogue, advocacy, tracking, testimony, messaging and a variety of other support, including letter generation, mobilization, calls and in-person meetings with legislators.

HEALTH

Our economy can only be healthy once COVID testing can rapidly diagnose and a COVID vaccine is widely accessible. GSI wants to partner with the state in planning for a statewide prioritized testing and vaccination coverage plan for all Washington citizens.

TAX AND REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

We know the 2021 legislative session will be a challenging one for lawmakers as they attempt to deal with the budget consequences of the pandemic. At the same time, many businesses are struggling to survive during the pandemic, and will be affected for years to come as we begin to recover and rebuild in 2021.

Amid this backdrop, GSI and its members and partners continue to act as a convener, bringing together people from all sides to find commonsense solutions, including:

- Tax and regulatory policies to jump start the economy.
- Work with legislators to Do No Harm to small business as they balance the budget.
- Commit to continuing our regional efforts toward this goal in collaboration with AWB, WEDA, Commerce and others who worked to help businesses reopen safely this spring and summer.

TRANSPORTATION

The Spokane region's coordinated list of transportation projects of all types (safety, preservation, mobility, congestion, transit). We are committed to finding sustainable funding to invest, protect and maintain our system.

- Protect funding and timeline of the North-South Corridor, and all other projects funded through Connecting Washington.
- Protect committed funding and established timelines for transportation infrastructure projects of all types: safety, preservation, mobility, congestion, transit.
- Authorize local transportation funding mechanisms to create sustainable solutions for bridging funding gaps.

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESS

The COVID pandemic has changed society, making it necessary for student's to distance learn, employees to work from home and for health care to be delivered via telehealth. GSI supports addressing inadequacies in broadband coverage/digital equity in rural areas, and grants to support the purchase of devices and internet subscriptions for low-income Washingtonians.

CHILD CARE

GSI supports early learning, with a particular focus on stabilizing the state's child care system through provider grants, increasing reimbursement rates and reducing family co-payments.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

- GSI supports funding for economic development, including full support for business recruitment, retention, and expansion programs.
- In collaboration with the Washington Economic Development Association (WEDA), GSI supports statewide investments for economic development by protecting the Point 09 Sales and Use Tax for Public Facilities and economic development activities in rural counties.

PARTNER

PARTNER issues are the issues being driven by other organizations that align directly with GSI's mission and understanding of economic development. We will work with these organizations, providing tracking and messaging for community leaders engaging directly on these topics.

EDUCATION

GSI supports advancing education at all levels to benefit the short- and long-term economic health of our region, provide career opportunities for our citizens and address social justice and systemic inequities by:

- Maintain funding of education investments, which supports a well-educated workforce to attract more stable and high-wage jobs.
- Avoid state-imposed mandates on school districts to address the coronavirus pandemic and its economic impacts.
- Maintain funding to keep our bus system viable enough to return to normal as soon as we are safely able to transport students to in person learning.
- Advocate for funding of the College Success Foundation (CSF) to increase postsecondary attainment for all students, with an emphasis on students experiencing poverty, foster care, and/or homelessness, first-generation college-going students, and students of color.

NURSE LICENSURE

Pass legislation to add Washington State to the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC), providing the opportunity for nurses in participating states to practice in all compact states under multi-state privileges authorized by the nurse's state of residence.



SUPPORT

SUPPORT issues are broadly defined as community issues or request. We care deeply about these issues and provide messaging and advocacy support when asked, taking direction from community members on needed support.

SPOKANE COUNTY

- Delay implementation of the Unified Guardianship Act (UGA).
- Request funding for Indigent Defense.
- Support transportation funding for the BNSF Bridge and the final phase of Bigelow Gulch freight corridor project.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

GSI supports continued operational funding for the UW School of Medicine in the SIERR and 840 buildings in Spokane to provide medical education in the new, state-of-the-art space in partnership with Gonzaga University.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Complete funding (3rd and 4th year instruction) for 2019's 20-seat expansion of Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine.

SPOKANE TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Support state transportation funding for Spokane Transit's regional mobility grant request to construct high performance transit infrastructure, including a new transit center and increased park and ride capacity, along the Interstate 90 corridor in the Spokane Valley.

SPOKANE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Support the establishment of an Air Service Development Fund to support commercial service airports.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND EFFORTS

- Fund the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Grant program to increase park land development and acquisition within the region.
- Preserve and expand Adult Medicaid Dental benefits to continue to address our region's oral health crisis.



CITY OF CHENEY

Fund the Cheney shovel-ready, water re-use project to address regional water conservation issues.

CITY OF SPOKANE VALLEY

The Pines/BNSF Grade Separation Project will replace the existing at-grade BNSF crossing on Pines Road with an underpass and redesign the adjacent signalized Pines/Trent intersection with a roundabout.

CITY OF SPOKANE VALLEY AND SPOKANE COUNTY

The new 30,000 square foot Exhibition Center would increase the capacity of the Fairgrounds to host regional events.

NEWESD 101 REGION

Expansion in funding for the Small School District Modernization Grant program.

SPOKANE PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT

The Podium, formerly known as the Sportsplex, is slated to open in August of 2021. To host events other than sports, The Podium will become a multi-functional venue which requires additional infrastructure including fire suppression sprinklers, acoustic treatments, electrical, mechanical, HVAC, design, permits, etc.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY (WSU) – SPOKANE PHASE ONE BUILDING RENOVATION

WSU requests state funding for design and construction of a 22-year-old facility being vacated by EWU to provide near term space relief as WSU's health sciences campus.

EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY (EWU)

EWU requests construction funds to renovate the current Science Building to provide modernized classroom infrastructure, new opportunities for advanced STEM education, and distance learning.

SPOKANE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (SIA)

Construction of a new airport administration building, as a part of the larger terminal expansion (TREX) project.

FELTS FIELD GATEWAY PROJECT AND TRANSLOAD FACILITY

Completion of connecting railroad infrastructure as part of our transload facility project.

JOYA CHILD & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Joya Child & Family Development is constructing a new home in Spokane's University District to maximize annual enrollment, improve the quality of care, support new treatment methods, increase support for parents and caregivers, and expand professional education and research in the field of early intervention.

MT. SPOKANE SKI & SNOWBOARD PARK

Kitchen and Outdoor Space Expansion - Mt. Spokane Ski & Snowboard Park's growth has led to the need to overhaul and redesign the current kitchen. Aging facilities need additional improvements in order to accommodate the increasing number of people we serve each year.

Bear Creek Lodge Acquisition (in partnership with Washington State Parks) - Together, Washington State Parks and Mt. Spokane Ski & Snowboard Park have an opportunity to acquire Bear Creek Lodge. This one-time, shared acquisition would allow for year-round opportunities and provide a welcome center and entrance to Mt. Spokane State Park. The Washington State Parks Rural Conservation Grant covers the purchase of the property, outbuildings and offices and Mt. Spokane would fund the restaurant, lodging and tubing hill operations.

SPOKANE PUBLIC RADIO (SPR)

Spokane Public Radio requests capital funding to replace vulnerable broadcast equipment and infrastructure across the state.

SPOKANE COUNTY

Medical Examiner - The County is requesting additional funds to modernize equipment, specifically equipment such as a Computerized Tomography (CT) body scanner to support regional Medical Examiner and Coroner forensic death investigations.

Doris Morrison Learning Center - Spokane County is requesting up to \$1 million for The Doris Morrison Learning Center.

Fairchild Air Force Base and Spokane County Sheriff's Office Training Center

\$5 million in funds to construct a dual-use facility to train officers in the proper use of firearms. The facility will be used by Fairchild Air Force Base trainees in addition to Spokane County Sheriff deputies.



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)



Rob Chase
4th District
Representative (R)



Mike Volz
6th District
Representative (R)



Jacquelin Maycumber
7th District
Representative (R)



Joe Schmick
9th District
Representative (R)

