

2021 State and Federal Legislative Policy

Adopted by the Intergovernmental Relations Committee on January 27, 2021

In Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic

1. Eugene supports state-wide legislation that provides financial stability and equity for commercial and residential renters throughout the state of emergency and recovery, while considering the financial needs of landlords.
2. Eugene supports state-wide legislation that aids local governments during the state of emergency and recovery, including, but not limited to, financial assistance, regulatory discretion, and public process flexibility.

Support Housing Opportunities and Financial Stability for Eugene Residents, and Addressing the Homelessness Crisis.

1. Eugene supports the preservation and expansion of programs and tools to fund the development and preservation of housing affordable to low-income persons.
2. Eugene supports the preservation and expansion of funding for human services, emergency housing assistance, and other programs to meet the needs of homeless persons and those at risk of homelessness.
3. Eugene supports the preservation and expansion of land use and community planning tools that enable the development of affordable housing.
4. Eugene supports the preservation and expansion of tools to support financial stability, savings, and asset development for low-income persons.
5. Eugene supports the establishment of stronger linkages between the housing, land use, education, and health systems at the state level to expand housing opportunities. Eugene also supports additional opportunities for state/local coordination and collaboration.
6. Eugene supports increased state funding for addiction treatment and recovery, including sobering and detox, in order to increase Eugene community members access to wrap around services and continuity of care as they transition from homeless to stably housed.
7. Eugene supports State funding for mental health outreach, services, and treatment designed to transition persistently homeless individuals with mental health conditions to housing and treatment.
8. Eugene supports State funding for publicly operated emergency shelters and permanent supportive housing investments designed to transition homeless individuals and families into stable housing situations.
9. Eugene supports efforts to ensure Oregon residents do not experience discrimination in housing and may access appropriate information and complaint systems.
10. Eugene supports efforts to create a balanced set of landlord-tenant laws to increase the stability of renter households and maintain appropriate protections for landlords.
11. Eugene supports State funding that improves energy efficiency in housing, reducing the energy burden and overall cost of housing.

Securing Local Finance Options

1. Proposals to restructure or change the State's tax and revenue system must allow local government's continued authority to finance the level of services needed by their residents.
2. City governments are the most practical and effective providers of urban municipal services, and State or County tax policies should avoid raising revenues for duplication of city services by other jurisdictions.
3. Eugene opposes the levying of property taxes by the State to fund services that are deemed the responsibility of the State.
4. Eugene supports the ability to maintain local flexibility over revenue systems, retain local apportionment of revenue from State gas, liquor, beer and wine taxes, marijuana taxes and other State imposed taxes and fees, and the preservation and enhancement of state shared revenues.
5. Eugene opposes the granting of new exemptions, deferrals or forgiveness of property taxes by the Legislature without reimbursement of the revenue forgone by cities.
6. Eugene supports the repeal of local government preemptions created by state or federal agencies or legislation and opposes federal or state pre-emption of local taxation authority.
7. Eugene opposes subsidizing through taxes, services, or changes to revenue sharing formulas those businesses or households in unincorporated areas.
8. Eugene supports maintaining current tax and fee authority regarding System Development Charges (SDCs) and Urban Renewal Districts.

General Government

1. Eugene supports the exemption from disclosure of attorney-client privileged records under the Public Records Law.
2. Eugene opposes changes in state public records laws that place undue financial burden on municipalities to comply or restrict a municipality's ability to represent its interest throughout an appeal process.

Economic Development

1. Eugene will look for opportunities to strengthen and fund the local entrepreneurial ecosystem.
2. Support local authority to develop infrastructure that provides new economic development opportunities, especially in the area of emerging technology industries. Eugene supports the inclusion of high-speed broadband telecommunications network funding in state-funded infrastructure projects.
3. Eugene supports bioscience as a primary economic driver and supports funding for physical spaces and programs to connect the University of Oregon's Knight Campus to existing and future bioscience firms.
4. Eugene supports the Cultural Arts sector as a primary economic driver.
5. Eugene supports the existing ability of cities and municipal utilities to own, operate, construct and provide telecommunications services, including high-speed broadband.

Land Use

1. Eugene opposes legislation that eliminates or weakens existing methods of annexation.
2. Eugene opposes state or federal legislative or regulatory pre-emption of local land use laws and authorities.
3. To the extent the legislature establishes mandates that require Eugene to take certain actions, Eugene supports legislation that provides clarity, and incorporates flexibility to the extent possible. Eugene also supports timely and efficient state technical support and funding to provide assistance in implementation of such mandates.
4. Eugene supports legislation that streamlines the Urban Growth Boundary expansion and the Urban Reserves establishment processes, providing clarity, and incorporating flexibility to the extent possible. In addition, Eugene supports allowing the adoption of Rural Reserves outside of the Metro area.
5. Eugene supports the removal of regulatory barriers to housing affordability, availability, and diversity and to mixed-use development without sacrificing local control.
6. Eugene supports actions that incentivize multi-family and mixed-use development along transit corridors.

Information Technology, Telecommunications, and Municipal Right of Way (ROW) Authority.

1. Eugene broadly defines telecommunications activities, services, and facilities to include wireless and wireline voice (including VOIP-voice over internet protocol), data, and video, including cable system communications, and high-speed broadband services such as IPTV (Internet Protocol TV), OTT (Over the Top Programming), and Internet Access.
2. Eugene supports City Ordinance 20083 authority and responsibility to manage the public rights of way (ROW), especially for issuing Permits for installations and City pole use contracts for wireless facilities.
3. Eugene supports the City Ordinance 20083 authority to determine and collect fair and reasonable compensation, including in-kind services, for use of public infrastructure and public rights of way.
4. Eugene supports the existing ability of cities and municipal utilities to own, operate, construct and provide telecommunications services, including high-speed broadband.
5. Eugene supports the 2015 net neutrality provisions and opposes actions that would decrease open access to the Internet through tiered pricing structures or other strategies.
6. Eugene supports improvements and funding for ensuring effective cyber-security systems at state and local government levels.
7. Eugene supports the preservation and expansion of funding for affordable and accessible broadband services.

Public Safety

Includes Fire/EMS, Courts, Law Enforcement, and Prosecution.

1. Eugene opposes efforts to increase supervisor representation.
2. Eugene supports the narrow use of polygraph testing for pre-employment screening for sworn police officials.
3. Eugene supports Alcohol Impact Area legislation or administrative rules.
4. Eugene supports increased funding and training for Special Teams/Hazardous Materials Response Team for oil trains and confined space rescue.

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5. Eugene opposes efforts to remove fire department authority to provide input concerning fire department access and water supply on proposed development projects, and to administer all provisions of the Fire Code for maintenance of the built environment.
6. Eugene supports enhancing the effectiveness of the state's emergency communications system through an increase in the 9-1-1 tax and prohibition of legislative "sweeps" from accounts managed by the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.
7. Eugene supports afterschool funding for youth that contributes to the prevention and reduction of juvenile crime, including early childhood literacy programs, such as the Imagination Library program.
8. Eugene supports funding for state-wide Teen Courts or Peer Courts that provide early intervention into first time juvenile offenders, reducing recidivism.
9. Eugene supports state and federal funding for local government public safety emergency operations, disaster preparedness, and capital facilities.
10. Eugene supports state and federal funding and policy support for local government community justice style programs.
11. Eugene supports state-wide efforts that increase police accountability through application of consistent professional standards, implementation of 21st Century Policing-including the reduction of use of force and increased use of de-escalation techniques, and transparency of disciplinary actions.
12. Eugene supports the creation of a crime of intimidation by display of a noose.
13. Eugene supports increased funding and training for Hazardous Materials Response and Special Teams to include Urban Search and Rescue (USAR).
14. Eugene supports funding to neighborhoods or areas susceptible to wildland fire, commonly known as the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), through prevention, education, mitigation efforts such as but not limited to fuels reduction and building codes.

Transportation

1. Eugene opposes federal or state pre-emption of local permitting and trip fee collection authority of Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) and/or Mobile Service Providers (MSPs).
2. Eugene supports legislation that ensures the greatest possible flexibility for the use of funds to meet local needs.
3. Eugene supports local option transportation system funding alternatives, including local option fuel taxes and local transportation system maintenance fees.
4. Eugene supports policies that grant priority funding for projects when a local match is available.
5. Eugene will continue to seek right of way and construction funding for the Beltline Hwy Project from River Road to Coburg Road
6. Eugene supports funding opportunities to address safety on local and state roadways.
7. Eugene supports legislation that allows local governments to establish (designate) speed limits on all locally controlled streets.
8. Eugene supports legislation that allows broader use of fixed automated speed enforcement cameras.
9. Eugene supports state funding for intercity rail service, and more frequent and more reliable, higher-speed, customer-friendly passenger rail between Eugene and Portland.
10. Eugene supports additional planning and construction funds for local communities to establish railroad quiet zones, improve safety at grade crossings, upgrade rail beds and acquire rights-of-way to facilitate "passing" areas for passenger trains and freight trains.

Environment and Natural Resources

1. Eugene supports measures that protect or improve surface water and groundwater quality, including potential drinking water sources.
2. Eugene supports funding, programs, and land use planning tools that protect native ecosystems, preserve intact habitats for migratory species, and protect against invasive species.
3. Eugene supports continuation of funding for the implementation of place-based water resources planning projects by the Oregon Water Resources Board and its implementing partners.
4. Eugene supports appropriate limitations on fill and/or removal of wetlands.
5. Eugene supports funding for constructing, maintaining, evaluating and renovating “green” stormwater infrastructure such as bioswales, green roofs and porous pavement.
6. Eugene supports a science-based approach to waterway and wetland protections under the federal Clean Water Act and related state statutes.
7. Eugene supports practical exclusions from regulation under the federal Clean Water Act and any related state statutes for constructed green infrastructure stormwater management facilities.
8. Eugene supports fair and equitable water quality permit fees and accountability for demonstrating progress toward meeting commitments made by regulatory agencies collecting the fees.
9. Eugene supports initiatives that assist designated management agencies in meeting their TMDL obligations related to temperature, bacteria, turbidity, and mercury.
10. Eugene supports measures that facilitate economical and environmentally sound practices for managing wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, including maintaining minimum flows to protect infrastructure and reduce the risk of corrosive gas formation.
11. Eugene supports funding and programs to implement measures identified in the regional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan such as street tree planting programs, enhanced fuels reduction programs, restoration of riparian systems and other efforts to reduce the impact of flood, fires, landslides, and extreme storm events.
12. Eugene supports a statewide prescription drug ‘take-back’ program.

Climate Recovery

1. Eugene supports state and federal measures to place a price on carbon emissions through mechanisms such as a carbon tax/fee or a cap and trade program.
2. Eugene supports all implementation aspects of Department of Environmental Quality's 2050 Vision for Materials Management.
3. Eugene supports state funding for electric vehicles and small electric vehicles, electric vehicle infrastructure, fleet incentives, and electric vehicle education programs.
4. Eugene supports State funding for walking, biking and transit infrastructure projects.
5. Eugene support funding that improves public transportation efficiency.
6. Eugene supports legislation that improves energy efficiency in the State building code in alignment with Executive Order 17-20.
7. Eugene supports legislation that calls for Extended Producer Responsibility in an effort to reduce lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions.
8. Eugene supports legislation that allows for changes to the State building codes to allow for greater use of reused materials in building construction and incentives for adaptive reuse of existing buildings.

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9. Eugene supports “Right to Repair” legislation, which requires manufacturers to share information necessary for repairs.

Public Health & Wellness

1. Eugene supports Oregon initiatives that connect youth and families to nature, such as Outdoor School and Oregon’s Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights.
2. Eugene supports legislation that allows local parks agencies to receive OWEB grant dollars.
3. Eugene supports initiatives that promote active, healthy lifestyles through Park and Recreation services.