

2021-22 LOC Legislative Priority Analysis

	Title	Summary	Hermiston Impact
A.	Beer and Cider Tax Increase	Support increasing state taxes on beer and cider.	These taxes are shared with cities and an increase would be a welcome help to our general fund.
B.	Broadband Infrastructure and Technical Assistance Funding	Seek additional state support and funding for increased broadband infrastructure deployment and technical assistance.	An increase would help us if we continue to pursue the idea of enhancing broadband in Hermiston.
C.	Building (Reach) Code – Energy Efficiency Local Option	Pursue statutory authority for discretion to adopt a more energy efficient building code option as a local choice.	Good as long as it isn't mandatory.
D.	COVID-19 Economic Recovery Investments	Seek for continued economic recovery strategies and investments for small business and workforce assistance in response to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.	This could help us offer additional local programs to assist businesses affected by the pandemic.
E.	Digital Equity and Inclusion	Support legislation and policies that are inclusive and equitable to all, so that they have the capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy and economy.	These types of programs can assist all portions of our community.
F.	Expedited Siting for Shelter and Affordable Housing	Pursue legislation to expedite the siting of emergency shelters and affordable housing that retains local decision making in the process.	Would be better than a pure mandate but still not full local control.
G.	Green Energy/Renewables – Expanded Local Option	Support policies that increase local control opportunities for cities that want to establish optional community-scale green energy programs.	Only affects investor-owned utilities.
H.	Housing and Services Investment	Support increased investments for affordable housing, homeless assistance, and related housing assistance services.	Positive effect in that we need housing at all points along the spectrum.
I.	Increased Budgetary Flexibility During Budgetary Emergency	Proposes relaxing budgetary constraints and increasing flexibility in state law so that cities may better be able to withstand revenue losses related to natural disasters and public health emergencies.	Could be positive to allow the expenditure of some restricted revenues in other ways during emergencies.

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J.	Infrastructure Financing and Resilience	Advocate for an increase in state investment in key infrastructure funding sources, including, but not limited to, the Special Public Works Fund (SPWF), Brownfield Redevelopment Fund, and Regionally Significant Industrial Site loan program. Specifically targeting the seismic resiliency of water and wastewater systems.	
K.	Local Climate Action Planning Resources	Seek grant funding and technical assistance resources for cities to pursue, adopt or expand local climate action plans, including seeking better data.	Could be beneficial should the City show interest in establishing one of these plans.
L.	Local Energy Generation Project Support	Support funding, technical assistance and other tools that make local energy generation more feasible for cities.	Could be beneficial should the City show interest in pursuing such a project.
M.	Local Speed Setting Authority	Support legislation that provides legislative authority for ODOT to delegate local speed setting authority to Oregon cities using an opt-in process.	This process would be very valuable to us in dealing with our very diverse streets.
N.	Long Term Transportation Infrastructure Funding	Support expansion and consideration of revenue-generating options to fund multimodal transportation infrastructure.	This seems okay as long as we are asking for changes in the revenue generation mix and not necessarily another large transportation package.
O.	Low-Income Energy Efficiency and Affordability Programs	Support programs that seek to expand low-income energy and heating assistance programs, including home weatherization programs.	Additional funding in these areas would benefit local programs.
P.	Marijuana Tax Local Rate Limitation Increase	Proposes increasing the current 3% cap on local marijuana taxes in order to allow communities choose a rate that reflects their needs or their community.	This proposal has no impact.
Q.	Mental Health Service Delivery	Support the delivery of mental health services in order to reduce negative police interactions and ensure that those in need receive the help they require.	This proposal would benefit our community.

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R.	Municipal Broadband and Municipal Pole Protection	Oppose legislative efforts to restrict existing municipal authority to provide broadband services, and own and operate poles in the rights-of-way.	Preserving these powers is beneficial to Hermiston.
S.	New Mobility Services	Support a variety of new mobility services that promote a safe, sustainable, and equitable multimodal transportation system, while preserving local government's authority to regulate services and ensure they best serve the local context.	This proposal allows for each community to find solutions that meet their individual needs.
T.	Photo Enforcement Safety Cameras	Support continuation and expansion of fixed speed and red-light cameras and mobile speed radar statewide to improve public safety in high-crash corridors. Explore the opportunities for enhanced citation processing and allow local governments to form IGA's with other local governments to facilitate the use of safety cameras and mobile radar in their communities.	This proposal preserves our opportunity to use cameras in the best way possible if Hermiston chooses to.
U.	Property Tax Reform	Proposes that the Legislature refer a constitutional measure and take statutory action to reform the property tax system as part of the 2021 session.	This proposal is something that is drastically needed.
V.	Reducing Wastewater Impacts from Wipes and Other "Non-Flushables"	Work with other stakeholders to address challenges resulting from wipes and other non-flushable items, including labeling requirements, as well as other viable opportunities to address the public health, environmental and economic challenges of these products.	This proposal would assist our Recycled Water department to better do their job.
W.	Right-of-way/Franchise Fees Authority Preservation	Oppose legislation that, in any way, preempts local authority to manage public rights-of-way and cities' ability to set the rate of compensation for the use of such rights-of-way.	This defensive proposal is continually important.
X.	State Highway Funds Formula	Consider opening the state highway fund distribution formula to allow for an additional percentage to cities.	This proposal would benefit the City.

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Y.	Tort Liability Reform	Ensure that cities are not held liable in areas where their authority is limited.	This proposal would benefit the City.
Z.	Water Utility Rate and Fund Assistance	Advocate for funding assistance for ratepayers having economic hardships. Advocate for additional funding for water/wastewater infrastructure with a special focus on smaller communities	This proposal would benefit the City.