

City of Winston-Salem

2026 State Legislative Agenda



Strategic Plan Focus Area: Good Government

Local Authority and Revenue

Fiscal Autonomy: Oppose legislation that imposes unfunded mandates on local government.

Planning and Zoning Control: Protect local government authority over planning and zoning decisions.

Planning Tools: Support planning changes that increase flexibility and allow cities to respond to growth, housing needs, and economic opportunities.

Revenue Stability: Oppose legislation that limits local authority or reduces stable revenue sources.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Transit Innovation: Allow more flexibility in transit funds for microtransit and other innovations. Authorize new local revenue tools, including a sales tax under the Local Government Public Transportation Sales Tax Act, to sustain and expand Winston-Salem Transit Authority service.

Active Transportation: Repeal limits on standalone bike/pedestrian projects and increase the non-highway share under the Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) law.

Multimodal Infrastructure: Increase state funding for roads, bridges, sidewalks, and transit to meet regional growth, with expanded resurfacing and safe pedestrian/bike connections.

Water and Sewer

Support funding to replace aging water and sewer lines, address lead line issues and emerging contaminants, and improve stormwater systems to reduce flooding.



Strategic Plan Focus Area: Economic Prosperity

Affordable Housing and Homelessness

Housing Development: Promote strategies to ease housing development barriers such as gap financing, rehabilitation funding for older housing stock, adaptive reuse, and zoning updates.

Affordable Housing: Support additional state resources for affordable housing, rental assistance, and reasonable limits on rent increases.

Homelessness: Pursue legislation and funding to reduce homelessness and strengthen services and infrastructure to meet related needs.

Economic and Workforce Development

Workforce Development: Support programs that provide training for high-demand jobs, youth employment opportunities, small business support, and resources for citizens reentering the workforce.

Economic Development: Advocate for state economic development incentives that expand the local tax base, support long-term job creation, and reduce barriers to entrepreneurship in underserved areas.

Business Attraction and Retention: Support state incentives and infrastructure investments that will help attract and retain businesses in Winston-Salem.

Food Access: Support state healthy food access initiatives that expand grocery access, subsidize delivery, improve transportation, promote urban agriculture, and fund culturally relevant food education.



Strategic Plan Focus Area: Liveable Community

Community Safety

Local Authority: Preserve local government authority over building safety and fire protection.

Public Safety: Support legislation and funding that strengthen public safety, including recruitment and retention of law enforcement and firefighters, crime prevention tools, and community violence intervention programs.

Firework Regulation: Maintain existing NC "safe and sane" fireworks laws.

Mental Health and Substance Use

Mental Health: Support state investments in city-based mental health treatment and crisis response.

Substance Use: Continue support for opioid settlement funding to reach communities directly, including city programs.

Prepared Communities

Emergency Communication: Support clear communication and accessibility in emergency management.

Climate Preparedness: Support state programs that strengthen community preparedness for climate, flooding, and extreme heat.

Energy Reliability: Maintain affordable, dependable energy services while respecting locally adopted energy priorities.



Strategic Plan Focus Area: Advocacy & Engagement

State-Local Partnership and Grant Access

Support legislation that expands state grant opportunities for local governments and streamlines the process for accessing and managing those funds.