

# 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, adaptative 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.