

2026 Legislative Agendas

Intergovernmental Relations

Intergovernmental Relations

- Coordination and collaboration among federal, state, and local governments
- Focuses on policy alignment, funding opportunities, and advocacy
- Ensures local priorities are understood and supported at higher levels
- Builds partnerships to address shared challenges and deliver services efficiently



Legislative Agenda Process



Federal Legislative Agenda (Action Plan)

- Most Key items remain the same from last year
- Support all efforts by the City of Winston-Salem to secure additional federal resources for local priorities.
- Preserve local decision-making authority by limiting additional federal restrictions, such as requirements to amend local ordinances, as conditions for federal funding eligibility.
- Support continuation of previous supporting funding (CDBG and HOME) and increase flexibility of funding (ex. Transit/bus funding), and expand



CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM, NC 2026 FEDERAL ACTION PLAN

ISSUE	ACTION ITEMS
COMPETITIVE GRANTS, CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING and SHOVEL READY PROJECTS	Support all efforts by the City of Winston-Salem to secure additional federal resources for local priorities. A list of grants and projects requesting federal support will be provided as notices for those opportunities, and the criteria for them, are announced. Support the continuation of the local-federal partnership, including competitive grants and congressionally directed spending/community funded projects. Preserve local decision-making authority by limiting additional federal restrictions, such as requirements to amend local ordinances, as conditions for federal funding eligibility.
AFFORDABLE HOUSING and HOMELESSNESS	Federal funding for permanent affordable housing, fair housing, housing for veterans, rental assistance programs, rehabilitation of housing stock, and resources to prevent and end homelessness, particularly youth homelessness. Support the continuation of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program that provide essential funding for local housing initiatives. Extend HUD audits beyond annually, which is duplicative and costly to local governments.
COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC and WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	Fund programs to restore and revitalize underserved and/or older neighborhoods, fight poverty, retrofit low-income housing and older buildings to meet code, and enhance Historic Districts! Funding for job creation, workforce development training, trade training, job placement and apprenticeship programs, as well as programs supporting youth enrichment and access. Support reentry programs that focus on areas vital to reintegration back into the community, including employment, education, mentoring, substance use, and mental health treatment. Expand designations in and leverage potential investments surrounding the Opportunity Zones Program. Increase investment in small businesses. Support the continuation of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program that serves as a vital recruitment and retention tool for local governments.
PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE	IR-ANSPORTATION Increase federal support for the Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA) through Section 5307 funding and streamlined FTA rules. Provide resources for timely bus replacement, improved service, and innovation. Support reactivating a commuter passenger rail line into the City of Winston-Salem, which is the largest city in the state's western portion without access to Amtrak. Provide funding for the Corridor Identification and Development Program and other federal passenger rail programs. Continue and expand Metropolitan Planning program funding to support MPO planning for regional growth and multimodal needs. Provide greater flexibility with federal transportation funding.



State Legislative Agenda

- New format for ease of viewing
- New general agenda provides broad priorities and goals to allow city to adapt quickly as legislation emerges and respond to opportunities or changes during the session
 - Examples
 - Oppose legislation that imposes unfunded mandates
 - Protect local government authority over planning and zoning decisions
- Continued advocacy for last year's specific bills, including:
 - Amendment to Prohibit Double Compensation for Nonconforming Signs
 - Repeal of Downzoning Restriction in Nonresidential Areas
 - Exemption from System Development Fees for Affordable Housing Projects

City of Wirston-Salem 2026 State Legislative Agenda





Strategic Plan Focus Area: Good Government

Local Authority and Revenue

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

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

Planning Too in: 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 evenue sources.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Transit immoration: Allow more Healthly in hundring for nicrotransit and other horostices. Authorize new local revenue took, including a sales has under the Local Government Public Transportation Sales Tax Act, to sustain and expand Whaten Gallers Transit Authority service.

Active Transportation: Repet limits on standalone bile-(potentian projects and increase the non-highway share under the Stategic Transportation Investments STO law.

Multimodal infrastructure: increase state funding for code, bridges, sidewalle, and transit to reserve regional growth, with expanded resurfacing and safe pedestrian/bile connections.

Water and Sewer

Support funding to replace aging water and sever lines, address lead line is sues and emerging contaminants and improve atomission waters to reduce flooding.



Strategic Plan Focus Area: Economic Prosperity

Affordable Housing and Homelessness

Housing Development Promote strategies to ease housing development burriers 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 sesistance, and resonable limits on rent increases.

Homeleameus: Pursue legislation and funding to reduce homeleameas and strengthen services and infrastructure to meet related needs.



Stay connected.



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