

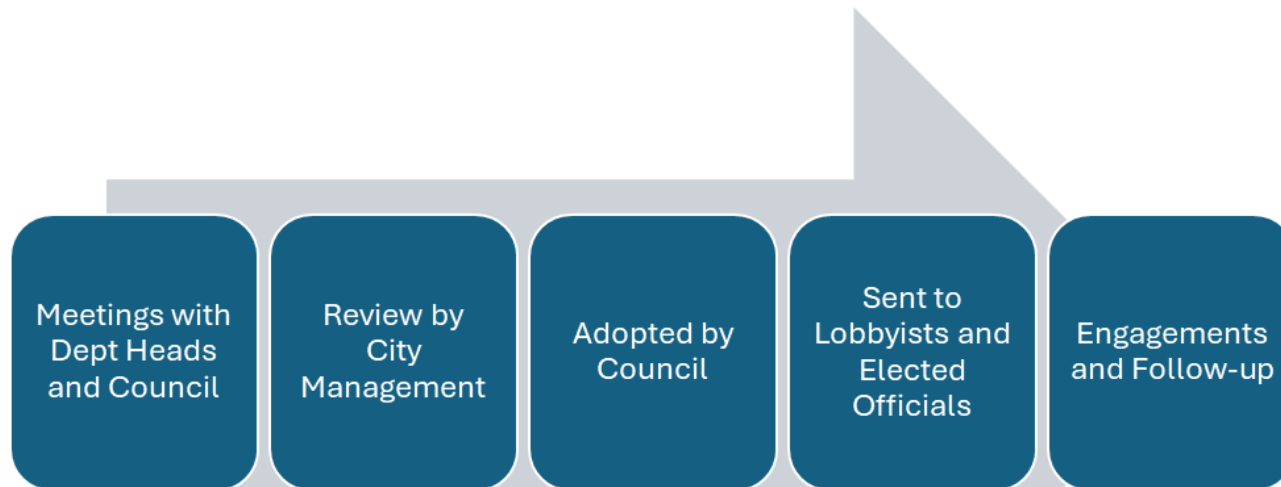


2026 Legislative Agendas

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>TRANSPORTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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



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 Innovations: 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.

Stay connected.



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