

SHARED BUSINESS COMMUNITY

2026 Legislative Priorities

Here are statewide legislative priorities to ensure a safe, vibrant and growing community in southwest Washington.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Attract and expand private sector employers providing meaningful job opportunities for every worker.

- Oppose further tax layering and reconsider the negative impacts of recent increases on employer tax burden, compliance complexity, and statewide competitiveness. Prevent volatile taxes on assets and talent.
- Support and strengthen business attraction and retention tools that support job creation (e.g. TIF, CERB, PWTF, TIB, MTCA, strategic reserve funds, federal alignment).
- Strengthen and align housing availability with workforce needs and growth.
- Control inflationary pressures on public and private employers by strengthening cost-management in state-run programs like workers' compensation and unemployment insurance to ensure efficiency and affordability.
- Ensure consistent funding for Associate Development Organizations so they can drive local economic growth, support businesses, and leverage private investment.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Prioritize safe communities through investments in law enforcement and the criminal justice system.

- Secure a permanent public safety regional training center.
- Create a state program to modernize correctional facilities.
- Synchronize laws for police in border communities.
- Provide supplemental services and recovery resources for traditional and emerging homeless solutions to help our neighbors in need.
- Enhance the health, safety, and vibrancy of our community with a comprehensive approach to ease the expanding opioid crisis.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Safeguard the efficient movement of people and goods through system preservation and improvements.

- Support timely I-5 Bridge replacement and related corridor improvements.
- Support transportation projects and preservation in the **Clark County Transportation Alliance (CCTA) 2026 policy statement**.
- Assign revenue generated by transportation projects to support transportation system project completion and maintenance.
- Ensure a diversified and economically sustainable energy system for residents and employers.
- Protect commerce, climate, and flood management benefits of the Columbia and Snake River systems.
- Provide matching funds to Oregon's \$15 million initial investment in the Lower Columbia River Channel Maintenance Plan.
- Waive penalties on local governments for delayed growth management plan updates resulting from added climate and housing requirements.

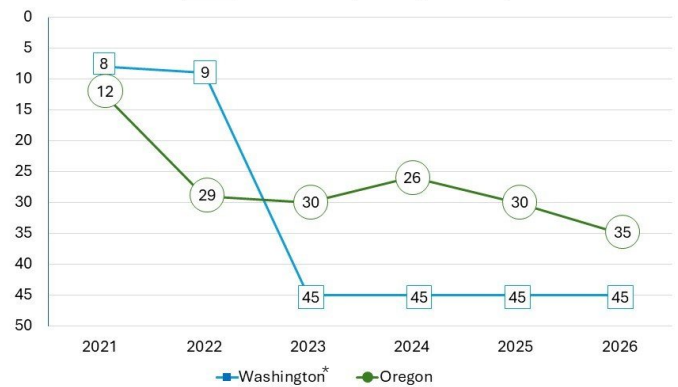
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION

Invest in existing and emerging workforce talent to ensure a thriving economy and community.

- Champion an increase in state-registered apprenticeships and work-based learning programs.
- Support workforce development efforts to align existing programs and resources across the state, addressing workforce gaps for employers while helping job seekers address barriers to self-sufficiency.
- Advance competitive health care, childcare access and workforce training support without adding new burdens to families or employers.
- Ensure that early learning, K-12, and higher education reimbursement rate formulas reflect metropolitan regionality in bi-state border communities.

State Tax Competitiveness Index (2021-2026)

Source: Tax Foundation (1 is best, 50 is worst)



* Note: Does not reflect all tax changes in 2025

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

To learn more about each organization, please visit the websites below.

CCTA 2026

