



# AWC 2009 Emerging Top Legislative Priorities

On September 26, the AWC Board of Directors adopted five emerging top legislative priorities for the 2009 session.

## Expand Infrastructure Funding

### State Infrastructure Funding

- Increase the Transportation Improvement Board and Public Works Trust Fund funding.
- Permanently fund the Community Economic Revitalization Board for urban and rural projects.
- Reauthorize the Local Infrastructure Financing Tool and give it flexibility.
- Support urban brownfield redevelopment.
- Enhance funding for parks, open space, trails and ball fields.

### Local Infrastructure Options & Flexibility

- Allow design build authority for projects under \$10M.
- Update bid limit authority.
- Expand uses of the Real Estate Excise Tax.
- Authorize a street utility.
- Modify the Transportation Benefit District legislation.

### Municipal Stormwater Funding

Fund stormwater permits at levels greater than the state's 2007-2009 biennial budget.

## Oppose Taping of Executive Session and Limiting Public Agencies Attorney-Client Privilege

- Oppose the anticipated reintroduction of legislation requiring the taping of executive sessions. In 2008, legislation was introduced, requiring all public agencies to

tape executive sessions and keep the recordings for two years. The recordings would be public records not subject to public inspection or copying under the public records act, except by court order and under judicial review.

- Legislation is also expected to be reintroduced this year that limits a public agency's attorney-client privilege to only communications related to an actual lawsuit, and only while the lawsuit is pending in court. This drastically narrows the privilege and restricts records that can be claimed as an attorney work product.

## Oppose Diversion from the Public Works Trust Fund Board

More funding is needed for infrastructure and economic development—not the redirecting of existing funds.

## Mitigate Medical Costs for Offenders

- Remove the two-year sunset provision that clarifies the charging entity is responsible for offender medical costs.
- Pass legislation expanding how the extraordinary criminal justice account can be used for extraordinary offender medical costs.
- Support additional funding for offender medical costs.

## Provide Fiscal Aid for Distressed Cities and Counties

- Increase the City-County Assistance Account for low tax base cities and counties, but not at the expense of the Public Works Trust Fund. Funded by the Real

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Estate Excise Tax, the account provides some assistance to jurisdictions that still feel the impacts of I-695 and declining state backfill.

- Establish a floor to prevent distributions to qualifying cities from dropping below a certain amount.

The Board will continue to look at the other components of our legislative agenda and will adopt the final package at their meeting on November 21. This package will include “other priority issues” and “issues to endorse.”

“Other priority issues” are important issues for cities; however, they do not raise to the level of importance of the top priority issues. “Issues to endorse” are issues that would be good for cities (or at least for some cities) if they passed; however, AWC staff should not divert energy away from higher priorities to work on these issues.

The Legislative Committee and its various subcommittees continue to meet and will have final recommendations to advance to the Board by November 21. If you have specific legislative proposals for the Legislative Committee to consider, please email them to Jim Justin at [jimj@awcnet.org](mailto:jimj@awcnet.org) with a copy to Sheri Sawyer at [sheris@awcnet.org](mailto:sheris@awcnet.org).

Thank you in advance for your contribution to AWC’s policy development process.



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