

METRO COUNCIL 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES¹

LOCAL AUTHORITY

1. **Pre-emption:** With respect to issues related to solid waste management, land use, transportation and other matters of regional concern, Metro's authority should not be pre-empted or eroded.
2. **Funding:** To ensure a prosperous economy, a clean and healthy environment, and a high quality of life for all of their citizens, Metro and the region's counties, cities, and other service providers must have the financial resources to provide sustainable, quality public services. Accordingly, the Legislature should remove existing restrictions on local and regional revenue-raising authority and avoid enacting new limitations or pre-emptions, and all state mandates should be accompanied by funding.

EQUITY

3. **Racial Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:** Metro envisions a region and state where a person's race, ethnicity or zip code does not predict their future prospects and where all residents can enjoy economic opportunity and quality of life. Metro therefore supports legislation that acknowledges past discrimination, addresses current disparities and promotes inclusion in public programs, services, facilities and policies.

HOUSING:

4. **Affordable Housing:** Metro supports efforts to ensure that housing choices are available to people of all incomes in every community in our region, and to reduce the number of households that are burdened by the combined costs of housing and transportation.² To achieve these outcomes, Metro supports legislative actions consistent with Oregon's land use laws that increase the supply of both regulated affordable housing and market-rate housing; provide funding for both housing development and services that support lower-income renters; and provide reasonable protections for renters against arbitrary and unfair actions.

LAND USE AND URBAN GROWTH MANAGEMENT:

5. **Local Authority:** The Legislature should take no actions that reduce or compromise Metro's land use and urban growth management authority.
6. **Oregon's Land Use System:** Oregon's land use planning system provides an important foundation for the prosperity, sustainability and livability of our region; this system reflects the values of Oregonians and enjoys strong public support.³ The Legislature should exercise restraint and care when considering changes to Oregon's land use system.
7. **Successful Communities:** Metro supports legislation that facilitates the achievement of the six desired outcomes for successful communities that have been agreed upon by the region: vibrant, walkable communities; economic competitiveness and prosperity; safe and reliable transportation choices; leadership in minimizing contributions to global warming; clean air, clean water and healthy ecosystems; and equitable distribution of the burdens and benefits of growth and change.⁴
8. **Local Land Use Decisions:** Management of the urban growth boundary is a complex undertaking that involves extensive analysis, public input, and a balancing of many factors. Urban growth management decisions have profound impacts not just on land at the

boundary, but on communities within the boundary and on farms and other rural lands outside the boundary. For these reasons, the Legislature should establish the process and policy framework for local land use decisions and should affirm the authority of local governments, including Metro, to make specific decisions on local land use matters.

9. **Efficiency:** Land within the urban growth boundary should be used efficiently before the boundary is expanded.⁵
10. **Need:** The UGB should not be expanded in the absence of demonstrated need.⁶
11. **Integration of Land Use and Transportation:** Land use and transportation planning should be coordinated so land uses do not undermine the efficiency and reliability of the transportation system and transportation investments do not lead to unintended or inefficient land uses.⁷
12. **Annexation:** Cities are the preferred governing structure for providing public services to urban areas, and Metro supports reforms that will facilitate, or reduce barriers to, orderly annexation and incorporation.
13. **Rules/Statutes:** Administrative rules should not be adopted into statute.
14. **Non-Regulatory Tools:** State efforts at regulatory streamlining should include funding to support development of non-regulatory tools for achieving desired land use outcomes.⁸
15. **Fiscal Responsibility:** Funding to support urban development should be generated at least in part by fees on those who directly benefit from that development.

SOLID WASTE:

16. **Life cycle approach:** Metro supports efforts to minimize the health, safety, environmental, economic and social impacts associated with consumer products and packaging throughout all stages of a product's life cycle, beginning with resource extraction and continuing through design, manufacturing, consumption and disposal.⁹
17. **Product Stewardship/Producer Responsibility:** Metro supports legislation providing that whoever designs, produces, sells or uses a product bears responsibility for minimizing the product's environmental impact throughout all stages of the product's life cycle. Under this market-based approach, the life-cycle costs of a product are internalized into its price rather than being forced onto the general public. This approach also provides an incentive for manufacturers to design and produce their goods in a way that minimizes waste, environmental impact and management costs.

TRANSPORTATION:

17. **Transportation Governance:** The Legislature should take no actions that reduce or compromise Metro's or JPACT's authority in the areas of transportation policy and funding.
18. **Transportation Funding:** Providing adequate funding for all transportation modes that move people and freight supports economic prosperity, community livability, public health and environmental quality. For these reasons, Metro supports an increase in overall transportation funding, investments in a safe and balanced multimodal transportation system that addresses the needs of all users, and flexibility in the system to provide for local solutions to transportation problems.

PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS:

19. **Parks and Natural Areas:** Our region has invested heavily in protecting water quality and wildlife habitat and providing residents with access to nature and outdoor activity. Parks and

natural areas are regional assets that support public health, environmental quality, strong property values and economic prosperity. For these reasons, Metro supports measures to increase local and regional authority to raise revenues to support parks and natural areas and to increase the level of state funding distributed to local governments for acquisition, capital improvements, and park operations.

SUSTAINABILITY:

- 20. Climate Change:** Metro supports efforts to combat and adapt to climate change and to meet the state's goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Metro and its regional partners are committed to the Climate Smart Strategy, which includes actions needed to achieve state targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. The state should provide financial support for implementation of the Climate Smart Strategy.
- 21. Species Conservation:** Metro supports efforts to protect and restore wildlife habitat, to recover threatened and endangered species, and to create a better future for wildlife, both in Oregon and globally.
- 22. Conservation Education:** Metro supports efforts to provide stable and reliable funding to conservation education.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY:

- 23. Infrastructure Finance:** Metro supports measures, including funding or revenue measures, which facilitate state, regional or local investments in the public structures needed to accommodate population and economic growth in a way that helps the region achieve its six desired outcomes for successful communities.
- 24. Metro Venues:** Because the Oregon Convention Center, Expo Center, Portland's Centers for the Arts and Oregon Zoo are assets that contribute millions of dollars to the state and regional economies, Metro supports legislative measures that facilitate the success of these venues in attracting visitors and enhancing the quality of their experiences.

AGENCY OPERATIONS:

- 25. Firearms and Public Facilities:** Metro supports legislation that increases Metro's authority to regulate the carrying of firearms on Metro properties and public venues, and opposes legislation that limits or reduces that authority.
- 26. Disaster Preparedness:** Metro supports legislative efforts to improve community disaster preparedness and resilience, with the goal of enabling the Portland region to provide for the immediate needs of its residents and businesses after a catastrophic event and facilitating the region's short- and long-term recovery.

¹ Unless otherwise noted, endnotes refer to applicable policy statements in Metro's Regional Framework Plan (RFP).

² RFP Policy 1.3 (Housing Choices and Opportunities).

³ See <http://oregonvaluesproject.org/findings/top-findings/> (specifically item 5, Natural Resource Protections for Future Generations)

⁴ RFP Chapter 1 (Land Use).

⁵ RFP Policy 1.1 (Compact Urban Form).

⁶ RFP Policy 1.9 (Urban Growth Boundary).

⁷ RFP Policy 1.3.13 (Housing Choices and Opportunities); Transportation Goal 1 (Foster Vibrant Communities and Efficient Urban Form).

⁸ RFP Policy 1.1 (Compact Urban Form); Policy 1.2 (Centers, Corridors, Station Communities and Main Streets).

⁹ Draft 2030 Regional Waste Plan, page 11.