

Legislative Priorities



Mason County's Chambers of Commerce and Economic Development Council are focused on supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs in our community. We recognize the tremendous value local employers bring to our economy, and it is our mission to provide them with the support they need to grow their businesses. This support begins with advocating for a fair regulatory environment, modern infrastructure, workforce training and career pathways, and affordable housing. Our 2026 priorities reflect our partners' needs to successfully create jobs and housing in Mason County.

2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

Support investments in infrastructure. Mason County has access to developable land but faces infrastructure limitations. In recent years, more than a dozen firms were initially interested in Mason County sites but we were unable to meet their infrastructure needs resulting in missed potential of more than 850 jobs and \$750 million in capital investment. This session, we are supportive of projects focused on improving freight mobility and access to power and water based on recent site selection discussions. Our focus is on projects that will improve site readiness in Mason County where development is likely to occur. Finally, we support restoring funding for site readiness grants administered by Commerce.

The following are priority projects:

- WSDOT and Mason County – SR 3 Freight Corridor | Belfair UGA
- Mason County – Mason Lake Recreation Area acquisition | Rural Unincorporated
- City of Shelton – Mountainview Pressure Zone Reservoir | Shelton UGA
- Mason PUD 1 – Grid resilience projects | Rural Unincorporated

Support continued funding of workforce development programs that connect education and industry, including career and technical education pathways and local talent retention strategies.

Support continued funding for the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB), and Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) along with site readiness and planning grants that help prepare shovel-ready commercial and industrial sites for job creation. Prioritize transportation, broadband, water storage, and utility projects that improve site access, enhance freight mobility, and expand local capacity for housing and business growth. We also support fully funding the Recreation and Conservation Office funding for park acquisition and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board which aids local habitat restoration projects.

Oppose additional taxes and regulations on employers that hinder economic growth and undermine competitiveness. Employers need a fair, predictable regulatory system to be competitive. With meaningful regulatory and tax reform, Washington can regain its competitive edge as a development destination, support entrepreneurship, and expand opportunities for workers.