




# 2019 State Legislative Agenda

## Quick Facts

- Population: 9,590 (2018)
- Median Household Income: \$40,747 (2012-2016 ACS)
- Poverty Rate: 17.7% (2012-2016 ACS)
- Median Housing Value: \$173,100 (2012-2016 ACS)
- Parks: 3 totaling 15 Acres
- Roads: 35 Miles of City Maintained Roads
- Home of Walla Walla University



The City of College Place is very grateful to our local legislators who supported a number of significant accomplishments in the 2018 legislative session. As we look toward the 2019 session, we are asking your support on several requests that will help us better plan for the future and meet the needs of our dynamic and ever changing city and the amazing people who live here.

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## Priorities

### Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement



The City must invest over **\$26 million** dollars over the next six years renovating the Wastewater Treatment Plant to satisfy new conditions of a state wastewater permit.

### Street Improvements – C Street Corridor



The City needs to reconstruct C Street and all underlying utilities between Larch and College Avenue. This project costs around **\$2 million**.

### South College Place



A wastewater trunk line and regional park facility is needed to serve the current and future residents of southern College Place. The cost of trunk line is **\$6 million**. The cost of the park is around **\$3 million**.

### Lions Park



Renovation of primary city park to include splash pad, trail, and fishing pond separation from creek. **\$2 million estimated cost**.

## Key Issues

### Economic Development/Infrastructure

- **SUPPORT** – Sustainable funding for the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA), Recreation Conservation Office, and Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) programs.
- **SUPPORT** – Reinvigoration of economic development programs such as the Local Revitalization Fund (LRF) and Local Infrastructure Financing Tool (LIFT).
- **SUPPORT** – Tools to deal with the affordable housing crisis.
- **SUPPORT** – Broaden RCW 84.14 – Multifamily Property Tax Exemption so all cities can participate in the program. Right now only mandated fully-planning cities can use this.
- **SUPPORT** - Funding US 12 Phase 8 which completes the Walla Walla/Tri-Cities segment and improves safety and efficiency on this critical travel corridor.
- **SUPPORT** – Update bidding laws to allow greater flexibility in selecting companies for public projects. The law restricts the consideration of factors such as past experience (RCW 39.26)
- **SUPPORT** – Alternate compliance paths for wastewater systems regarding PCB's.

### General Government

- **SUPPORT** – A structural modification in property tax statutes to the annual growth to an inflationary index rather than to the one percent limit.
- **SUPPORT** – Fully funding the Municipal Research Services Center (MRSC).
- **SUPPORT** – Defend Local Control. The City believes the best governmental decisions are those that are made closest to the people represented.
- **SUPPORT** – Solutions to challenges brought upon local recycling programs by the Chinese National Sword policy.
- **AGAINST** – Unfunded mandates. The City urges you to remember local government when you are passing Legislation and to avoid passing unfunded mandates on to us.

### Public Safety/Human Services

- **SUPPORT** – Increase in funding for the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA).
- **SUPPORT** – Appropriately funding mental health services to support individuals with varying levels of mental illness.
- **SUPPORT** – Provision of resources to deal with the Opioid epidemic.

*The City supports the Association of Washington Cities Legislative Agenda.*