



The City of Richland is a hub for technology and innovation as well as a high quality of life. Richland is working with state partners on the following items for the 2024 legislative session.

Richland proposes a minor RCW amendment to support economic development:

When the legislature authorized targeted urban areas in 2022 legislation timelines for property tax deferrals for improvements were established. The timelines in the TUA statute do not account for the lengthy process required to comply with Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements. A timeline adjustment for nuclear industry projects would resolve this challenge, thereby helping to maintain the region's lead in clean energy technology.

Richland proposes Capital Budget funding:

Public safety communication system infrastructure upgrades for Benton and Franklin Counties and upgrading microwave technologies and transitioning fire and EMS bi-county radio systems to a single platform. (\$1 million; 8th, 15th, and 16th Legislative Districts)

Richland supports funding for infrastructure upgrades and repairs related to a potential tourism, event, including work at the Columbia Point Marina Docks and enhancements to pathways along Howard Amon and Leslie Grove Park. (\$300,000; 8th Legislative District)

Richland proposes capital assistance for Transportation and Infrastructure projects benefitting the region:

SR-240/Aaron Drive Complete Streets Improvements project will improve safety and mobility by making needed changes to a 40-year-old traffic design. The Benton-Franklin Council of Governments has named this project a top priority of their congestion management plan, and Washington State Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration have each approved it.

Island View to Vista Field Trail System (see drill-down) State funding can help put in place a major component of the Island View to Vista Field Trail System which connects streets in Richland, Kennewick, and Benton County. This plan was adopted in 2021 by the cities of Richland and Kennewick and the Benton-Franklin Council of Governments.

Yakima Delta Habitat Restoration Project Richland seeks adequate funding to address the multi-agency project of removing the causeway which threatens the health of migratory fish runs.

Richland proposes assistance to help the region address a lack of low barrier homeless housing and housing inventory:

Richland supports legislation that encourages and facilitates access to housing through policies leading to increases in inventory and preservation of the current housing supply to serve a wide range of incomes and needs.

Richland supports statewide efforts of WSPSC to improve community safety:

Richland supports Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs efforts to refine the pursuit law fix enacted in 2023 by allowing pursuit in the event of probable cause for any felony, mandatory arrest, and reasonable suspicion of DUI.

Richland supports the retention and recruitment of police and dispatch personnel by allowing jurisdictions to utilize a portion of existing sales tax revenues for funding additional criminal justice system staff including law enforcement, public defenders, prosecutors.

Modifications to RCW 13.40 to allow for quicker investigations and responses in dealing with juveniles.

Richland supports hydroelectric generation:

Richland supports clean, affordable, and reliable electricity supply. Most of the power for Richland comes from the Bonneville Power Administration which markets federal power including the Lower Snake River Dams. Richland strongly supports retaining these critical baseline energy resources as the state moves to implement emission reduction objectives.

The City will support the efforts of other state and local organizations on issues consistent with City positions. These include efforts of the Tri-City Development Council (TRIDEC), Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau (TCVCB), The Port of Benton, The Port of Kennewick, The Washington Economic Development Association (WEDA), and the Association of Washington Cities (AWC).