

2026

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Prepared for the 2026 Washington State Legislative Session



The following State Legislative Agenda is prepared by the Columbia River Economic Development Council's Policy and Legislation Committee and its partners to inform Southwest Washington legislators on the alignment between proposed policies and projects with the Clark County Comprehensive Economic Development Plan.

The Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC) brings together more than 150 private and public sector partners committed to growing Clark County and Washington's economy. CREDC supports existing businesses, attracts new investment, and enhances the region's overall quality of life. As Clark County's designated Associate Development Organization (ADO), CREDC serves as a critical convener and catalyst in advancing Southwest Washington's economic development goals. Funded by the Department of Commerce, local governments, and business partners, CREDC positions Southwest Washington as an exceptional place to live, work, and invest.

Funding:

- Secure reliable and flexible state and federal funding for local governments and ADOs to sustain business development services, support public-private partnerships and leverage private investment.

Economic Development

- Strengthen Clark County's role as a regional economic hub by investing in business retention, recruitment, and supporting innovation that creates living-wage jobs and supports long-term competitiveness in Southwest Washington.

Infrastructure

- Advance infrastructure improvements by prioritizing the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program and investing in modern freight corridors, reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy systems, and the infrastructure needed to support economic growth.

Workforce & Education

- Support business retention and regional economic activity by promoting policies that align training and education with industry needs, expand access to career-connected learning, sustain healthcare system capacity and resilience, and foster partnerships between businesses, local governments, educators, and community organizations.