



City Council Workshop Agenda

December 9, 2025 at 5:30 PM


City Hall Council Chambers - 210 W 6th Ave and Virtual

The City of Kennewick broadcasts Council meetings on the City's website at

<https://www.go2kennewick.com/CouncilMeetingBroadcasts>.

Written public comment is accepted pursuant to KMC 2.04.047.

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1. Legislative Roundtable with State Legislators

Council Agenda Coversheet	Item Number: 1. Date: 12/9/2025	Category: Info Only
	Item Type: Presentation Subject: Legislative Roundtable with State Legislators Department: City Manager	
Summary Our state legislative representatives for District #8 will be in attendance at this workshop. The session will feature a roundtable discussion focused on the City of Kennewick's 2026 Legislative Agenda and upcoming topics for the current legislative session.		
Attachments: 1. Agenda & Priorities		



Top Legislative Priorities

City of Kennewick Government

Kennewick Activity Center Asbestos Abatement

The Kennewick Activity Center provides a space for community sports and activities. The city requests \$90,000 in state funding for asbestos abatement for the second floor of the Center. The second floor of the building remains closed due to asbestos. Once fully operational, the Center can open for community programming.

Toyota Center HVAC System

The Kennewick Toyota Center is a multifunctional facility that hosts conventions, special events, trade shows, and concerts. The city requests assistance in identifying \$300,000 to replace the failing HVAC and implement safety improvements.

Community Connectivity: At-Grade Rail Solutions Study

A United Pacific (UP) and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) rail line runs through the Kennewick community, with several at-grade rail crossings. In downtown Kennewick, there are three at-grade rail crossings: Washington, Benton and Fruitland). Additionally, there are two in west Kennewick: Kellogg and Edison. The crossings cause delays of up to 20 minutes for residents. The City requests \$300,000 to study potential solutions to improve safety and alleviate traffic delays, including grade-separation and other enhancements, as rail traffic increases in the region with the completion of improvements at Stampede Pass.

MAJOR PROJECTS ON THE HORIZON

Columbia Center Boulevard Widening

Columbia Center Boulevard is one of Kennewick's main arterial streets and is a freight corridor. The Boulevard serves the existing Columbia Center Mall, Costco, Toyota Center, and Three Rivers Convention Center and experiences continuously high traffic volumes. Kennewick requests \$14.7 million to add a south and northbound lane to Columbia Center Boulevard from Quinault to Deschutes Avenues. The project is recognized regionally as #3 on the Benton-Franklin Council of Government's Top Six Regional Transportation Projects.

Community Pool Replacement

The Kennewick Pool is nearing end-of-life and will need replacement within five years. The City is exploring a partnership with Kennewick School District to replace the pool and hopes that the state will be a partner as the project is refined (estimated at \$11-20M depending on scope).

City Hall Replacement

City Hall was built about 60 years ago and has millions of dollars' worth of needed repairs, from a leaky roof to failing and outdated heating, ventilation and air conditioning and information technology. City staff have run out of room in the building for workers and needed storage space for files and equipment. The city is currently drafting an RFP to select an architecture firm to conduct a renovation analysis and determine the cost and process of building a new city hall. (current estimate before scoping is \$35M)

Southridge Fire Station

Kennewick plans to construct a new fire station in the Southridge area to meet the needs of this fast-growing area of the city – over the next 20 years, it is expected that 3,500 homes, 1,800 apartment buildings, and more than 1 million square feet of commercial office space will be constructed in the area.



Policy Issues

City of Kennewick Government

Policy Statements

The City of Kennewick supports the efforts of the Association of Washington Cities. Below are issue areas of emphasis that the City follows with close attention and engagement:



Infrastructure Funding:

The City of Kennewick supports increased funding to state grant programs for local infrastructure, including the Public Works Assistance Account, grant programs through the Recreation and Conservation Office, the Transportation Improvement Board and other like grant programs.



Water Quality /PFAS:

The City of Kennewick is committed to providing quality water to its current and future residents. The City is interested in any guidance on biosolids as our new facility comes online.



Homelessness:

The City of Kennewick has taken a compassionate approach to managing individuals experiencing homelessness within the community. The City asks that the Legislature honor this approach, including maintaining the ability to regulate encampments in public rights-of-way.



Public Safety:

The City of Kennewick is transitioning from FLOCK to Axon cameras and upgrading law enforcement technology as force multipliers. Any relevant policies to these ongoing updates would be of interest.



Public Defense:

The City of Kennewick is responsible for providing public defense services to indigent defendants of misdemeanor charges. The City asks for the state's partnership in recruiting public defenders and allocating the necessary funding needed to meet public defense caseload standards under consideration by the Washington State Supreme Court.



Local Community Decision-Making:

The City of Kennewick conducts significant public processes and community engagement when developing local policies. The City calls on the Legislature to honor this community-driven process and allow decisions to be made locally, particularly in relation to land use and right-of-way management.



Fiscal Sustainability:

The City of Kennewick urges the Legislature to approve policies and tools that allow local governments to maintain fiscally sustainable budgets that keep pace with inflation, such as removing the 1% cap on property tax levies.



Juvenile Interrogations:

The City of Kennewick joins stakeholders in requesting that the Legislature clarify a 2021 law ensuring that juveniles who are suspects of a crime are provided with an attorney prior to being questioned by law enforcement, but that juveniles who are witnesses to or victims of a crime can otherwise be interrogated by law enforcement.



Rising Labor Costs

The City of Kennewick urges the Legislature to consider local costs when addressing labor-related issues, including PERS cost-of-living increases, expanded eligibility for the state Paid Family Medical Leave program, and impacts to collective bargaining.