

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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<http://www.seattle.gov/oir>

Department Overview

The Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR) provides advice and information to, and on behalf of, City elected officials, City departments, and external partners. The primary goal of these efforts is to ensure the City's interests are advanced with regional, state, federal, tribal, and international entities to enable the City to better serve the Seattle community. OIR is also responsible for engaging with other jurisdictions and governmental entities to collaborate and advocate for outcomes that are in the interest of the City and region. OIR implements and manages lobbying contracts and ensures the City's lobbying resources align with the City's strategic advocacy priorities.

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

Budget Snapshot

	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Proposed
Department Support				
General Fund Support	3,328,578	3,471,746	3,626,347	3,529,826
Total Operations	3,328,578	3,471,746	3,626,347	3,529,826
Total Appropriations	3,328,578	3,471,746	3,626,347	3,529,826
Full-Time Equivalents Total*	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

** FTE totals are provided for informational purposes only. Changes in FTEs resulting from City Council or Human Resources Director actions outside of the budget process may not be detailed here*

Budget Overview

The City's 2026 Proposed Budget maintains core services for the Office of Intergovernmental Relations. The department will continue to invest in all areas of services supporting regional, state, federal, tribal, and international affairs. The proposed budget makes adjustments to align budget with expected costs for membership dues, contracts, Sister City support, internal service cost changes, and annual wage and market adjustments.

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

Incremental Budget Changes

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

	2026 Budget	FTE
Total 2026 Endorsed Budget	3,626,347	10.00
 Ongoing Changes from Current Year Legislation	 -	 -
Baseline		
Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes	1,390	-
Proposed Operating		
Align Communications Contract Budget with Anticipated Costs	(55,000)	-
Align Dues and Membership Budget with Anticipated Costs	(12,342)	-
Align Sister City Budget with Anticipated Costs	(2,000)	-
Proposed Technical		
Bargained Annual Wage Adjustment to Base Budget	(26,697)	-
SCERS Retirement Contribution Rate Reduction	(1,871)	-
Total Incremental Changes	\$(96,520)	-
Total 2026 Proposed Budget	\$3,529,826	10.00

Description of Incremental Budget Changes

Ongoing Changes from Current Year Legislation

Baseline

Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes

Expenditures \$1,390

Citywide technical adjustments made in the baseline phase reflect changes to internal services costs, including rates from the Department of Finance & Administrative Services, Seattle Information Technology Department, Seattle Department of Human Resources, and for healthcare and other central cost factors. These adjustments reflect initial assumptions about these costs and inflators early in the budget process.

Proposed Operating

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Align Communications Contract Budget with Anticipated Costs

Expenditures \$(55,000)

This one-time change reduces the budget by \$55,000 for contracted communication support to align with the expected costs in 2026. OIR will not host the Tribal Nations Summit in 2026, so the associated consultant funding is not needed until 2027.

Align Dues and Membership Budget with Anticipated Costs

Expenditures \$(12,342)

This one-time change reduces funding for dues and memberships by \$12,342 to align the budget with anticipated costs. Each year OIR updates its budget to account for changes in the cost to pay dues and membership on behalf of the City of Seattle. Although costs for the Puget Sound Regional Council and Association of Washington Cities are expected to increase in 2026, those costs are offset by excess budget in the 2026 Endorsed Budget.

Align Sister City Budget with Anticipated Costs

Expenditures \$(2,000)

This one-time change reduces funding by \$2,000 for Sister City partnerships to align the budget with anticipated costs for 2026. The Seattle-Cebu Sister City Association is currently inactive and will not be funded in 2026.

Proposed Technical

Bargained Annual Wage Adjustment to Base Budget

Expenditures \$(26,697)

This centrally administered change adjusts base budget appropriations to reflect the proper Annual Wage Increase (AWI) increment for 2026, as outlined in the agreements between the City and the Coalition of City Unions for personnel costs. AWI increments are determined based on the average change in the local Consumer Price Index (CPI). This change represents a true-up between the forecasted CPI assumption included in the Endorsed Budget and the actual CPI data.

SCERS Retirement Contribution Rate Reduction

Expenditures \$(1,871)

The City's employee retirement system, the Seattle City Employees Retirement System (SCERS) is a defined benefit pension program funded by a combination of salary-based employer (i.e., the City) and employee contributions, and investment earnings. Based on the updated actuarial valuation for 2025, this item reduces the employer contribution rate from the endorsed rate of 15.17% to the SCERS minimum actuarial required rate of 15.06%.

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Expenditure Overview

	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Proposed
Appropriations				
OIR - BO-IR-X1G00 - Office of Intergovernmental Relations				
00100 - General Fund	3,328,578	3,471,746	3,626,347	3,529,826
Total for BSL: BO-IR-X1G00	3,328,578	3,471,746	3,626,347	3,529,826
 Department Total	 3,328,578	 3,471,746	 3,626,347	 3,529,826
 Department Full-Time Equivalents Total*	 10.00	 10.00	 10.00	 10.00

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Budget Summary by Fund Office of Intergovernmental Relations

	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Proposed
00100 - General Fund	3,328,578	3,471,746	3,626,347	3,529,826
Budget Totals for OIR	3,328,578	3,471,746	3,626,347	3,529,826

Revenue Overview

2026 Estimated Revenues

Account Code	Account Name	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Proposed
341900	General Government-Other Rev	1,757,493	1,583,451	1,644,356	1,644,356
Total Revenues for: 00100 - General Fund		1,757,493	1,583,451	1,644,356	1,644,356
 Total OIR Resources		 1,757,493	 1,583,451	 1,644,356	 1,644,356

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Appropriations by Budget Summary Level and Program

OIR - BO-IR-X1G00 - Office of Intergovernmental Relations

The purpose of the Intergovernmental Relations Budget Summary Level is to promote and protect the City's federal, state, regional, tribal, and international interests by providing strategic advice, representation, and advocacy to, and on behalf of, City elected officials on a variety of issues. These include: federal and state executive and legislative actions; issues and events relating to the City's tribal and international relations; and jurisdictional issues involving King County, suburban cities, and regional governmental organizations.

Program Expenditures	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Proposed
Office of Intergovernmental Relations	3,328,578	3,471,746	3,626,347	3,529,826
Total	3,328,578	3,471,746	3,626,347	3,529,826
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