



OneRedmond

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**OneRedmond Advocacy Update 2023: Volume 3**

**At the federal level.** As always, OneRedmond helps our congressional members in a variety of ways, including identifying businesses to participate in roundtables, and supplying economic data surrounding the needs and opportunities for our region. As the only public/private economic development entity in East King County, we have been an ongoing resource for our leaders.

**Presidential Cabinet Member Visit with OneRedmond**

OneRedmond CEO and Board President, along with the Mayor of Redmond, recently met with one of President Biden’s cabinet members, the Small Business Administration’s Administrator Isabella Guzman at Redmond’s very own French Bakery at Redmond Town Center. During this discussion, topics included the continuing need for regional coordinated support for our small businesses as well as the new financial tools coming online through the SBA.

**At the state level,** OneRedmond was pleased to support the Land Acquisition Program (LAP) In this program, Microsoft committed \$50 million dollars of private investment for the LAP partnership with the Housing Finance Commission. This specific funding will be targeted to organizations anchored in or run by communities historically underserved and socially disadvantaged in King County, and provide much needed affordable housing options during this unprecedented housing crisis.

This is an innovative public/private partnership, with a 3 to 1 match: where a private investor such as Microsoft can provide \$3 per state dollar invested in the LAP program. Therefore, with Microsoft’s \$50 million total commitment, and the Housing Finance Commission match that was included in the capital budgets, we will see a total of \$67 million invested for this effort.

**OneRedmond in Olympia,** members Robert Pantley and Angela Rozmyn from Natural and Built Environments worked tirelessly in Olympia to support affordable workforce housing. Working with Representative Amy Walen to turn [ESHB 1042 into a law](#) that supports the creation of more affordable housing by cutting through the red tape it takes to create more housing within existing buildings.

Something tells us that this won’t be the last time we see these two in Olympia. During Robert’s time as the OneRedmond Board President, Robert led the organization in creating recommendations for creating affordable workforce housing units which include:

- Making available at no cost, at deep discount, or for long-term lease, under-utilized publicly-owned properties;
- Updating zoning and land use regulations to increase density near current and planned public transit;
- Reducing or waiving parking requirements in transit corridors to help reduce overall development costs;
- Reducing or waiving impact and other development-related fees;

- Streamlining and accelerating the permitting process for low- and middle-income housing projects to improve developer certainty;
- Providing tax exemptions and credits to incent low-and middle-income housing development; a
- Updating building codes to promote more housing growth and innovative, low-cost development.

**City of Redmond in Olympia.** Redmond’s Planning and Community Development Director Carol Helland, along with Mayor Angela Birney and Chief Policy Advisor Amy Tsai, were instrumental during this legislative session to ensure that the many housing bills proposed would get the outcomes we all wanted (more housing) and be manageable for cities. It is through efforts like this that create the best legislation for our state. The City of Redmond team put in countless hours working with many partners such as Master Builders, local developers, AWC, and legislators such as Senator Kuderer and Representative Bateman.

### **Legislature Adjourns!**

The Legislature adjourned on April 23<sup>rd</sup> passing a \$69.8 billion two-year state operating budget. Lawmakers slowed down spending growth after record growth in recent years. The budget also includes no new tax increases.

This session, lawmakers had their eyes on the state’s affordable housing crisis. The Legislature passed nine bills to increase housing supply and dedicated a record \$1 billion for new housing investments.

The bills include:

- The Legislature adopted legislation to [increase “missing middle” housing](#) in traditionally single-family neighborhoods. The policy is intended to spur more duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, townhomes and cottage housing.
- A [permit timelines bill](#) establishes project review periods and supports local governments in speeding up permitting.
- [Condominium reform](#) legislation supports condos and townhomes as an option for affordable homeownership.

Washington will join the [Nurse Licensure Compact](#) under legislation passed nearly unanimously by the Legislature. The legislation has long been an AWB priority and is a critical step to addressing health care workforce shortages.

The Legislature approved [new policies](#) to scale up production of sustainable aviation fuel, low-carbon fuels that are considered crucial for the aviation sector to cut emissions. The legislation promises to attract new business investment and jobs.

**At the local level, Mayor Angela Birney’s “out of this world” State of the City** showcasing the partnerships around affordable housing, the new Senior and Community Center, and small business support. At the conclusion of the event, the Mayor launched the brand “Redmond Space District”. With more satellites made in Redmond, Washington than in any other city in the world, this brand is meant to showcase the industry specific companies and the workforce in Redmond. This brand will help to recruit new companies to the area, to engage our youth and grow our talent in this sector, and coordinate with our regional partners to draw federal contracts to the smaller companies in this sector. The [Redmond Space District](#) is the cluster economic development sector brand for the website with the tagline of “powered by OneRedmond”.