



Washington Fire Chiefs

2020 Legislative Priorities

- Stable funding & revenue for fire service agencies
 - In conjunction with other fire service partners, WFC supports legislation to allow for the permanent imposition of a fire benefit service charge, subject to voter approval.
 - Working with other fire service partners, WFC supports passage of HB 1169 (Peterson/Griffey) to clarify state law regarding cost reimbursement from insurance carriers for services and supplies used in the cleanup and removal of debris and hazardous substances that go beyond what taxpayers fund for fire department readiness.
- Wildland Policy
 - Early deployment of mobilization resources – WFC supports legislation to allow for the early deployment of resources in instances of known, forthcoming mobilizations, with the aim of engaging suppression efforts earlier.
 - Adequate reimbursement for mobilization costs – WFC, in conjunction with local agencies, is exploring possible efforts to enable fire service jurisdictions sending resources for state-approved mobilization events to recover more of their actual cost for those resources, with the aim of mitigating local disincentives to sending needed resources for mobilization efforts.
 - Wildland fire funding increase – WFC supports DNR's funding request for additional investment in several key areas regarding wildland fire suppression and mitigation, which would lead to quicker response, increased prevention efforts, and better forest health practices.
- Volunteer FF Pension
 - WFC is supporting an effort by the WSFFA/BVFF to increase the pension benefit for volunteer firefighters. HB 1912 (Blake) & SB 5892 (Mullet) have been introduced and would increase the base pension by \$50, up to \$350/month, for all current and future retirees; remove the cap of 25 pension payments; increase the annual pension fee from \$60 to \$90; and increase the annual disability fee from \$30 to \$50. There will be no increase in administrative costs to the agency.
- JATC Funding & Sustainability
 - WFC, in conjunction with the WSCFF, supports a study to identify opportunities for improving the JATC program, which currently resides with the State Fire Marshal's Office and is governed by LNI. The study would be led by the Washington State Board for Community & Technical Colleges, where many other apprenticeship programs are currently operated.
- Washington State Association of Fire Marshals' Issues
 - WFC supports WSAFM efforts on a number of legislative action items, including food truck safety, townhome fire safety, and adult family home (AFH) fire safety.