

Mount Vernon supports legislation to acknowledge that Cities and Towns are where most residents live, work and play in our State. We pledge to partner with the Legislature and Governor to find ways to adequately fund both state and local priorities.

### Public Records Act: **We support HB2576**

We seek solutions to strengthen the intent of the Public Records Act and ways to meet this commitment. The City of Mount Vernon is currently experiencing a significant increase in commercially driven requests, and voluminous and retaliatory requests, thereby burdening the public by monopolizing resources. We support:

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Reasonable charges for providing electronic data
- Reasonable charges for fulfilling requests made for commercial purposes.

### Forest Practices in Urban Growth Areas:

The City requests legislative change to amend Chapter 76.09 RCW to close the loophole exempting non-conversion forest practices in UGA's of over 20 acres from the City's critical areas ordinance which are based on best available science. We believe it is sound government practice to promote a uniform system of laws that adequately protect natural resources. Our City has adopted forest regulations that include application of the City's critical areas ordinance. In 2015, a commercial logging company was able to exploit a loophole in the State law and log a 154 acre site containing 42 wetlands and 4 separate stream channels with virtually no buffers or environmental protections.

### Fireworks law reform: **We support HB2348**

Mount Vernon needs the ability to adopt emergency bans of fireworks sales and distribution to more quickly respond to dangerous and emergency situations. In 2015, we experienced a 35% increase in fireworks complaints to our Police Department in addition to dozens of calls to the Mayor and City Council. In addition, reform of fireworks violation enforcement— fire marshals should be able to have temporary authority to enforce as well as change violations from criminal citations to civil infractions.

### Human Services & Housing:

Our State has experienced a 16.8% growth in unsheltered homeless between 2013- 2014 according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness (April 2015). Mount Vernon has experienced a noticeable increase in street homelessness and vagrancy issues. We believe investment in the state's human services network is necessary. Greater access to mental health, substance abuse services, and supportive shelter/housing is essential. We support:

- Local option tools preservation of property tax exemption authority and demolition fee
- Preserve Housing trust fund
- Preserve document recording fee to fund homelessness programs
- Preserve current funding for mental health services

