

# Office of Intergovernmental Relations

## Marco Lowe, Director

### Contact Information

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### Department Description

The Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR) provides advice and information to, and on behalf of, City elected officials, City departments, and external customers. The primary goal of these efforts is to ensure the City's interests are advanced with international, tribal, federal, state, and regional entities to enable the City to better serve the community.

### Policy and Program Changes

In developing the 2011 Adopted Budget and 2012 Endorsed Budget, the City of Seattle's General Fund was facing a \$67 million shortfall. The 2011 Adopted Budget and 2012 Endorsed Budget includes reductions for all General Fund-dependent functions. In order to help close the General Fund gap, OIR focused on strategies that would realize reductions while preserving the Office's ability to continue its mission of promoting and protecting the City's policy and fiscal interests.

A quarter of OIR's budget is comprised of memberships in associations that represent the City on a wide range of interests, from early education to police funding. These memberships include the Puget Sound Regional Council, the National League of Cities, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. This portion of OIR's budget has limited flexibility, as memberships serve the broad City government and most membership dues are fixed. However, the 2011 Adopted Budget and 2012 Endorsed Budget makes a reduction to one of these memberships - The Trade Development Alliance. This was identified as a membership that could be modestly reduced while still retaining City presence and support.

The 2011 Adopted Budget and 2012 Endorsed Budget eliminates the position that works with Seattle's 21 Sister Cities and their official international delegations. The abrogation of this position will be partially mitigated by refining the Office's international work and shifting some of this work to the remaining staff person working on international issues.

OIR contracts with a strategic lobbying firm to ensure that the City's interests are represented at the federal level. The 2011 Adopted Budget and 2012 Endorsed Budget reduces the amount of the City's remaining federal lobbying contract, which is focused on federal transportation and infrastructure funding that impacts the City. The reduction will require a decrease in this work, but will maintain the core focus of the contract.

The 2011 Adopted Budget and 2012 Endorsed Budget creates a new budget-neutral tribal liaison position, which will build working relationships with tribes in the Puget Sound region and in other areas of the state where the City has interests. The position will provide enhanced communication and expert advice regarding the City's work with tribal governments. Because local tribes have treaty rights related to water and salmon, they are key players in the utilities' negotiations related to water flow levels and in potential transportation work on the downtown waterfront. For this reason, the position will be fully funded by Seattle City Light, Seattle Public Utilities, and the Seattle Department of Transportation, with no impact to the General Fund.

## **Intergovernmental Relations**

Direct and front-line services have been prioritized in the 2011 Adopted Budget and 2012 Endorsed Budget. To achieve this goal, every department was asked to critically evaluate funding needs for departmental travel and training to determine which items were essential to include and those that could be forgone. As a result of this evaluation, OIR reduced travel and training by approximately \$6,000. To realize further administrative savings, all non-represented staff members in OIR will take a seven-day furlough in 2011, and no market rate salary adjustment is provided for OIR staff that are non-represented employees in the City's discretionary pay plans.

Finally, for the 2011 Adopted Budget and 2012 Endorsed Budget, the Mayor requested a review of funding needs for key Executive Offices, including the Mayor's Office, City Budget Office, and OIR. Based on the staffing needs of the new administration, the Budget recognizes savings in OIR and reduces corresponding budget authority. There is no programmatic impact related to this reduction.

### **City Council Provisos**

There are no Council provisos.

# Intergovernmental Relations

	Summit	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Appropriations</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Endorsed</b>
Intergovernmental Relations	X1G00	2,153,756	2,116,946	2,015,996	2,070,512
Budget Control Level					
<b>Department Total</b>		<b>2,153,756</b>	<b>2,116,946</b>	<b>2,015,996</b>	<b>2,070,512</b>
<b>Department Full-time Equivalents Total*</b>		<b>11.50</b>	<b>11.50</b>	<b>11.50</b>	<b>11.50</b>

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

	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Resources</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Endorsed</b>
General Subfund	2,153,756	2,116,946	2,015,996	2,070,512
<b>Department Total</b>	<b>2,153,756</b>	<b>2,116,946</b>	<b>2,015,996</b>	<b>2,070,512</b>

# Intergovernmental Relations

## Intergovernmental Relations Budget Control Level

### Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Intergovernmental Relations Budget Control Level is to promote and protect the City's federal, state, regional, 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 international and tribal relations; and jurisdictional issues involving King County, suburban cities, and regional governmental organizations.

### Summary

Decrease budget by \$110,000 and abrogate 1.0 FTE Strategic Advisor 2 to reflect the elimination of dedicated staff for the Sister Cities program.

Decrease budget by \$67,000 to represent the Mayor's review of funding and staffing needs of the Executive Offices in the new administration. There is no negative programmatic impact related to this reduction.

Decrease budget by \$30,000 to reflect a reduction in contracted federal lobbying services.

Decrease budget by \$20,000 to reflect a reduction in the City's membership contribution to the Trade Development Alliance.

Reduce budget by \$19,000 in recognition of a seven-day furlough that most OIR staff members will take in 2011. This furlough is in addition to removal of a market adjustment for OIR staff that are non-represented employees in the City's discretionary pay plans.

Reduce budget authority by \$6,000 to reflect reductions in training and travel expenditures.

Increase budget authority by \$115,000 and add 1.0 FTE Strategic Advisor 2 for a new position that will serve as the City's tribal liaison. The creation of this position has no impact on the General Fund, as it is fully funded by transfers in from Seattle City Light, Seattle Public Utilities, and the Seattle Department of Transportation.

Citywide adjustments to labor and other operating costs increase the budget by \$36,000 for a net decrease from the 2010 Adopted Budget to the 2011 Adopted Budget of approximately \$101,000.

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Expenditures/FTE	Actual	Adopted	Adopted	Endorsed
Intergovernmental Relations	2,153,756	2,116,946	2,015,996	2,070,512
Full-time Equivalents Total*	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50

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