



# Council Agenda Report

From: Ty Lewis, City Manager  
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Subject: Approval of 2022-24 Federal and State Legislative Platform

Date: September 20, 2022

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## Facts

1. The [City Council Goals](#) for Fiscal Years 2022-23 and 2023-24 include an action item to develop a preliminary legislative platform that outlines the City's legislative priorities and interests at the state and federal levels.
2. An adopted legislative platform provides general authority and direction to staff regarding advocacy efforts on behalf of the City.
3. To meet the objective of this action item the City Council approved an agreement with [Townsend Public Affairs, Inc. \(TPA\)](#) for grant writing and legislative advocacy services on [June 21, 2022](#).
4. Through this agreement, TPA provides a robust set of services related to advancing the City's legislative priorities at the state and federal levels.
5. As part of the scope of services, TPA has assisted staff in developing a draft legislative platform (Attachment 1).
6. The legislative platform provides a blueprint for TPA to advance discussions in Sacramento and Washington D.C. and allows the City to quickly take positions on pending legislation that may impact the residents, business, and/or visitors of Paso Robles, as well as City operations.

## Options

1. Take no action;
2. Approve the City's 2022-24 state and federal legislative platform as drafted;
3. Approve the City's 2022-24 state and federal legislative platform with any amendments; or
4. Provide alternative direction to staff.

## Analysis and Conclusions

By implementing and maintaining an active legislative advocacy program, the City will remain fully apprised of evolving state and federal initiatives that may affect the City Council Goals, priorities, programs, projects and/or operations. In addition, having a legislative advocate with a physical presence in Sacramento and Washington DC is important for tracking legislation that might impact the City, and will assist in developing and maintaining relationships with key elected officials and agencies. These efforts include developing priorities that evolve into funding opportunities through the state budget and federal earmark process.

The Legislative Platform is a tool for the City to promote and preserve the City's interests at the local, state, and federal levels. The document outlines the City's position on priority issues and other topics affecting the City's short-, mid- and long-term objectives. This Legislative Platform streamlines the City's advocacy process and allows staff to respond, and take immediate action, on pressing legislation issues more effectively. This platform supplements the existing City Council adopted goals and policies in various documents including the City's General Plan, approved resolutions, and various policy directives. The document is intended to be updated as necessary, but no less frequently than every two years.

The Legislative Platform includes two sections: Legislative Principles and Legislative Policy Statements. Legislative Principles are broad legislative objectives or philosophies that form the basis for establishing Legislative Priorities, Policy Statements, and Positions. Legislative Policy Statements outline positions the City supports or opposes pertaining to general topic areas, projects, or specific legislation.

The legislative principles listed in the proposed legislative platform are:

1. Preserve and Enhance Local Control
2. Promote Fiscal Stability
3. Support Diverse Funding Opportunities
4. Promote Economic Development

The legislative policy statements are organized in five subject areas:

1. Protect Local Control & Funding
2. Public Safety & Emergency Services
3. Infrastructure & Transportation
4. Housing & Homelessness
5. Economic Development

Within each legislative policy subject area are statements that indicate support, opposition or advocacy positions on key issues, projects, or existing/pending legislation.

The proposed platform also includes a section that outlines the City's legislative advocacy process. Letters and other communications expressing the City's position on legislation or policy-related issues are proposed to bear the signature of the Mayor (or Mayor Pro Tem if necessary). However, if the legislation's principal impact is on the City's operating procedures, the communication may be signed by the City Manager. To keep the City Council and others informed of all City communication on legislation, copies of the letters will be distributed to the City Council. The City's advocacy firms will be authorized to express the City's position in person to legislative representatives.

Items not addressed in the City's Legislative Priorities may require they be brought to the City Council for consideration. These legislative priorities are intended to address issues directly relevant to or impacting the provision of municipal services. Generally, the City shall not address matters that are not directly relevant to the City's basic provision of services such as partisan, socially divisive, or international issues.

Over the past few months, TPA staff has met with the City Manager's Office and individual councilmembers to provide background and context in developing the proposed legislative platform. Department heads have also reviewed the document for consistency with operational objectives.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact by approving the legislative platform.

#### **Recommendation** (Option 2)

Staff recommends the City Council approve the City's 2022-24 state and federal legislative platform as drafted.

#### **Attachments**

1. Legislative Platform

# Attachment 1

## About The Legislative Platform

The Legislative Platform is a tool for the City to promote and preserve the City's interests at the local, state, and federal levels. The document outlines the City's position on priority issues and other topics affecting the City's short-, mid- and long-term objectives. This Legislative Platform streamlines the City's advocacy process and allows staff to respond, and take immediate action, on pressing legislation issues more effectively. This platform supplements the existing City Council adopted goals and policies in various documents including the City's General Plan, approved resolutions, and various policy directives. The document is intended to be updated as necessary, but no less frequently than every two years.

As a full-service City and an international tourist destination, The City of El Paso de Robles recognizes the need for active legislative engagement at the local, state, and federal levels to protect and enhance the interests of its residents, businesses and visitors. Accordingly, City officials maintain close relationships with state and federal representatives to advocate, influence, and monitor pertinent legislation. In consultation with the City's advocacy firm, the priorities contained within this document are intended to assist the City Council and staff to address legislation to promote City interests, as well as to preserve local control and local legislative authority.

## Platform Sections

The Legislative Platform includes two sections: Legislative Principles and Legislative Policy Statements. Legislative Principles are broad legislative objectives or philosophies that form the basis for establishing Legislative Priorities, Policy Statements, and Positions. Legislative Policy Statements outline positions the City supports or opposes pertaining to general topic areas, projects, or specific legislation.

### **Legislative Principles**

- 1. Preserve and Enhance Local Control*  
Preserve and protect the City's powers to enact local legislation, set policy direction concerning local affairs, and oppose legislation that preempts local authority.
- 2. Promote Fiscal Stability*  
Support measures that promote fiscal stability, predictability, financial independence, and preserve the City's revenue base and maximize local control over local government budgeting. The City opposes measures that shift local funds to the county, state or federal governments and make cities more dependent on the county, state, or federal governments for financial stability, such as unfunded mandates or mandated costs with no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits.
- 3. Support Diverse Funding Opportunities*  
Support opportunities for the City to compete for its share of regional, state, and federal funding. Support funding for programs with benefits to the City, including in the areas of public safety, disaster prevention, street maintenance, new transportation systems, homelessness services, affordable housing and quality of life amenities.
- 4. Promote Economic Development*  
Support legislative efforts that are designed to provide local governments with the tools necessary to bolster economic development. Support legislation and regulatory streamlining initiatives that would enhance the City's ability to attract and retain businesses as well as encourage business expansion and job retention. Support legislative efforts to enhance resources and reduce regulatory burdens on tourism-based industries, including the wine industry. Support efforts to enhance resources for destination marketing efforts at the local, regional, and statewide levels.

# Attachment 1

## Legislative Policy Statements

### I. Protect Local Control & Funding

- a. Support efforts that allow the City to maintain or enhance local control over all municipal matters, including local exercise of police powers, land use, and all other matters where locally determined outcomes are more beneficial than a “one size fits all” approach that may be proposed by the state or federal government.
- b. Support legislation that further protects local government revenue from being diverted, used to fund state government operations and responsibilities, or otherwise have conditions imposed in order to receive local revenues.
- c. Support efforts to restore local authority and control over revenues, governance, and services.
- d. Support full reimbursement to cities for all State mandates.
- e. Support efforts to reduce the fiscal impacts of Proposition 218, Proposition 26, Senate Bill 1383 and Senate Bill 998 on cities.
- f. Support legislation to protect and preserve local control over locally imposed taxes (such as transient occupancy tax and franchise fees).
- g. Support legislative remedies that provide additional fiscal sustainability for agencies to fund CalPERS costs.
- h. Support efforts to assist CalPERS with innovative investment strategies aimed at generating higher annual rates of return and maintains or increases the discount rate.
- i. Support efforts to recover of Vehicle License Fee revenues taken by the state and revenue loss due to Senate Bill 89.
- j. Oppose legislation that negatively impacts the City’s authority to manage and control the public right-of-way, city-owned property, city parks and other city-owned public spaces.
- k. Oppose any amendment to the redistribution of sales and use taxes which will affect the city and its ability to provide city services, or otherwise have a negative fiscal impact on the City.
- l. Oppose any amendment to property tax apportionment system that reduces revenue to the City.
- m. Oppose any legislation that attempts to allocate additional general liability exposure to cities or that seeks to prohibit the ability of cities to seek maximum indemnification from other parties in the contractual process.
- n. Oppose any legislation that would reduce local authority to resolve public employee disputes, and support legislation that would preserve court jurisdiction, and/or impose regulations of an outside agency (such as Public Employment Relations Board).

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## II. Public Safety & Emergency Services

- a. Support legislative remedies to Proposition 47, AB 109, and the 2011 Corrections Realignment, in order to minimize its impacts on public safety.
- b. Support legislation that provides resources for localized community policing efforts.
- c. Support legislation that provides more mental health and substance abuse resources to local public safety agencies.
- d. Support funding for local law enforcement equipment, services, or personnel.
- e. Support legislation that would provide cities with a greater share of fines and forfeitures.
- f. Support legislation that allows use of state public safety grants for maintenance efforts in addition to service increases.
- g. Support legislation that strengthens penalties for repeat drug and property crime offenders.
- h. Support funding for local emergency operations including equipment, services, and personnel.
- i. Support legislation that would strengthen community and disaster preparedness, public health, safety, communications, and resiliency.
- j. Support legislation that provides state and federal emergency funding and regulatory relief that allows cities to devote the necessary resources and meet the operational challenges of protecting the public health, safety and welfare in response to a declared State of Emergency.
- k. Oppose legislation that mandates local building and fire code standards that negatively impact the health and safety of the community and add undue burden and investment in the City.
- l. Oppose legislation that would restrict a local government from revising the delivery of emergency medical service to its citizens and support measures that broaden these powers.

## III. Infrastructure & Transportation

- a. Advocate for state and federal funding for street, road, multi-use path, bicycle, pedestrian, and alleyway repair within the City of Paso Robles.
- b. Advocate for state funding and transportation legislation re-authorizations that support City infrastructure projects and City programs including projects adopted in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
- c. Advocate for state and/or federal funding for enhancements to State Route 46 and US Route 101, including funding to construct an interchange on State Route 46 east and Airport Road.
- d. Advocate for the timely, fiscally responsible, and environmentally focused closure of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

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- e. Support legislation that streamlines federal and state environmental review processes and limits court reviews of environmental documentation.
- f. Support all efforts to recognize that vehicle miles traveled is not the only criteria in which development projects and transportation projects should be evaluated.
- g. Support legislation that maintains or enhances funding for bicycle, pedestrian, and multimodal infrastructure.
- h. Support legislation and programs that expands funding opportunities for the Paso Robles Municipal Airport.
- i. Support legislation and programs that expands funding opportunities for stormwater, domestic water and wastewater infrastructure.
- j. Support legislation and program that expands funding opportunities for local water reliability projects, including those that expand recycled water infrastructure.
- k. Support legislation and programs that aim to support the development and maintenance of City parks, trails, libraries, and green spaces.
- l. Advocate for changes in criteria that determines need for new transportation projects based on the semi-rural density of Paso Robles.
- m. Advocate that fundamental responsibility for transportation decision making should be at the local level.
- n. Oppose any state reductions to existing transportation grants and programs.
- o. Oppose legislation that eliminates or restricts the taxing authority of cities; weakens existing Government Code section 66000 fee authority; or redefines any development tax, condition, or other monetary change as development fees.

#### IV. Housing & Homelessness

- a. Support efforts to establish unrestricted, ongoing State funding to support administrative, outreach, and ongoing operations for locally-provided homeless services and rehousing programs.
- b. Support legislation that provides incentives, funding or other benefits for communities that meet Regional Housing Needs Allocation targets.
- c. Support legislation, programs and efforts that provides funding for affordable housing for very low, low, moderate-income families.
- d. Support legislation that addresses the need for housing and supportive services, e.g. health, mental health and substance use disorder services and social services for the City's homeless population.
- e. Support legislation to increase funding of and access to community health, mental health and substance use disorder treatment services.

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- f. Support investments to create rapid housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness and long-term affordable housing.
  - g. Support legislation and programs that enables the City to streamline environmental and other state-required processes resulting in the issuance of residential building permits.
  - h. Advocate for a balanced approach that expands enforcement options for
  - i. Advocate for changes to state and federal tax credit programs to expand eligibility to rural communities.
  - j. Advocate for the City's fair share of HUD funding, including HOME, CDBG and ESG funds.
  - k. Oppose legislation that would reduce the City's control over local zoning and land use decisions.
- V. Economic Development
- a. Support funding, projects or programs that align with the implementation of the Paso Robles Economic Development Strategic Plan.
  - b. Support legislation that protects and advances the tourism and wine industries.
  - c. Support legislation that seeks to reestablish a statewide organization that promotes commercial space exploration and the development of commercial spaceports within the state.
  - d. Support legislation and programs that to increase access to funding for broadband, wireless and other mediums to increase connectivity for all users across the City.
  - e. Support state and federal legislation that would increase economic opportunities within opportunity zones, create additional tax-credit opportunities or other incentive programs that support tech-related developments and job creation.
  - f. Oppose legislation that unreasonably increases costs or regulatory requirements for small businesses.
  - g. Oppose legislation that would increase costs or regulatory requirements for the tourism and wine industries.

## Legislative Advocacy Process

Letters and other communications expressing the City's position on legislation or policy-related issues will customarily bear the signature of the Mayor (or Mayor Pro Tem if necessary). However, if the legislation's principal impact is on the City's operating procedures, the communication may be signed by the City Manager. To keep the City Council and others informed of all City communication on legislation, copies of the letters will be distributed to the City Council. The City's advocacy firms will be authorized to express the City's position in person to legislative representatives.

Items not addressed in the City's Legislative Priorities may require they be brought to the City Council for consideration. These legislative priorities are intended to address issues directly relevant to or impacting the provision of municipal services. Generally, the City shall not address matters that are not directly relevant to the City's basic provision of services such as partisan, socially divisive, or international issues.

The City's legislative positions may be supported with supplemental advocacy efforts.

- Position letters, including updating said letters as legislation is amended and/or advances through the process, fact sheets, and other legislative advocacy support materials;
- Participation in advocacy events organized by the League of California Cities, National League of Cities, regional consortiums and other organizations in which the City is a member or affiliated;
- Preparing staff and councilmember testimony to legislative committees and other legislative and regulatory bodies; and
- Meetings and phone calls with legislative representatives and regulatory agencies.

Possible position that can be adopted on legislation include:

1. **Support** – A support position indicates to the legislature, regulatory agencies, and other stakeholders, that the City is in favor of the legislation in question.
2. **Support if Amended** – A support if amended position indicates to the corresponding legislature, regulatory agencies, and other stakeholders, that the City is in favor of the legislation in question, if the requested changes are adopted.
3. **Oppose** – An oppose position indicates to the legislature, regulatory agency, and other stakeholders that the City is against the legislation in question.
4. **Oppose Unless Amended** – An oppose unless amended position indicates to the legislature, regulatory agencies, and other stakeholders, that the City is against the legislation in question, unless the requested changes are adopted.
5. **Neutral** – A neutral position indicates to the legislature, regulatory agencies, and other stakeholders, that the City is impartial on the legislation in question and does not wish to take a position or has formally removed their prior adopted position due to changes being made to the legislation or proposal.
6. **Watch** – A watch is traditionally an internal position which indicates the City is monitoring the legislation. Should the bill be amended the City reserves its right to adopt a position as indicated above.