



REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL ACTION

MEETING DATE: March 26, 2024

TITLE: LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM FOR THE CITY OF IRVINE

Oliver Chi

City Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt the City of Irvine 2024 State and Federal Legislative Platform.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposed 2024 State and Federal Legislative Platform for the City of Irvine (Attachment 1) is presented for City Council consideration and approval. The State and Federal Legislative Platform (Platform) provides a streamlined process through which the City Council, City Manager, City staff, and the City's legislative advocates can respond promptly to legislative proposals.

The Legislative Platform is a tool to protect and promote the City's interests on priority issues and legislative and regulatory matters that may enhance or impact the City's exceptional quality of life. It allows City staff and legislative advocates to address issues promptly and directedly without precluding the consideration of additional legislative and budget issues that arise during the legislative session. This Platform supplements other City Council-established goals and policies reflected in other strategic plans and policy documents.

COMMISSION/BOARD/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Not applicable.

ANALYSIS

The proposed 2024 State and Federal Legislative Platform includes Guiding Principles and Policy statements for the 2024 Legislative Session. Maintaining a legislative platform allows for timely and strategic evaluation of legislative proposals that may impact the City. It is a useful tool for staff and legislative advocates to monitor bills and determine which bills warrant action.

On December 12, 2023, the Irvine City Council approved creating a Legislative Affairs Program (Attachment 2) consisting of an adopted legislative platform (Platform), dedicated City staff, and an ad hoc City Council subcommittee. Following approval of the

Legislative Affairs Program, staff were directed to produce an updated Platform. The Platform is a public document that identifies guiding principles and department priorities for the year.

The City Council Subcommittee, consisting of Mayor Khan and Vice Mayor Agran, Legislative Affairs staff, and legislative advocates, developed the Platform based on input from the City Council and the Executive Team. Through this process, guiding principles and legislative priorities were identified. The overarching values that touch all of our City departments include preserving local control, promoting fiscal stability, and supporting funding opportunities for City priorities. The 2024 legislative priorities include advancement of key project development, health and wellness, public safety, sustainability, transportation and mobility.

The Platform will be developed and updated annually for City Council consideration based on input from the City Council Legislative Affairs Subcommittee, the City Manager, and legislative affairs staff, research of current law and pending legislation, and discussions with local legislative offices in consultation with the City's legislative advocates.

If approved by the City Council, positions on proposed legislation consistent with the Legislative Platform will be reviewed and approved by the Legislative Affairs Subcommittee and signed by the Mayor. Once approved, a position letter will be sent to the bill's author, the City's legislative advocates, and other stakeholders as deemed appropriate by staff, and a copy of the letter will be distributed to the City Council.

Next Steps

Should the City Council approve the establishment of the Platform, staff, in conjunction with the City's legislative advocates, will distribute the document to local stakeholders and the public. A page on the City of Irvine website will be developed for the Legislative Affairs Program to host the Platform document and share information about the City's established priorities, post adopted position letters, and highlight successes.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Adoption of a Legislative Platform provides staff and the City's legislative advocates with a tool to monitor and evaluate proposed legislation and regulations in a timely manner to protect and promote the City's interests. The City Council may choose to continue legislative advocacy efforts on an as-needed basis. Staff will continue to apprise the City Council of opportunities and challenges impacting the City.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Approval of the City's 2024 Legislative Platform will not incur additional unbudgeted costs. Funds for City staff and current legislative advocates are included in the FY 2023-25 biennial budget.

REPORT PREPARED BY

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ATTACHMENTS

1. City of Irvine 2024 State and Federal Legislative Platform
2. Legislative Affairs Program Policy



CITY OF IRVINE
2024 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM
Approved: TBD

Introduction

The Legislative Platform provides a streamlined process through which the City Council, City Manager, City staff, and the City's legislative advocates can act in a timely manner in response to legislative proposals. This policy platform serves as an opportunity to identify specific priority areas of interest for the City and the region, which benefit the Irvine community.

The Legislative Platform will be developed annually for City Council consideration based on input from the City Council Legislative Affairs Subcommittee, the City Manager and legislative affairs staff, research of current law and pending legislation, and discussions with local legislative offices in consultation with the City's legislative advocates.

Once approved by the City Council, legislation that is consistent with the Legislative Platform will be reviewed and approved by the Legislative Affairs Subcommittee and signed by the Mayor. Once approved, a position letter will be sent to the bill's author, the City's legislative advocate, and other stakeholders as deemed appropriate by staff, and a copy of the letter will be distributed to the City Council. The actions approved by this Platform shall remain until a new document is approved.

Legislative Platform Guiding Principles

PRESERVE LOCAL CONTROL

- Preserve and protect the City's charter powers, duties and prerogatives to enact legislation and policy direction concerning local affairs and oppose legislation that preempts local authority.
- Local agencies should preserve and enhance authority and accountability for revenues raised and services provided.
- Support proposals that provide local governments with greater decision-making authority over the use of State and Federal funds.
- Oppose proposals that would impose new unfunded mandates on the City or preempt local authority.
- Maintain the City's exceptional quality of life through all phases of growth and development.

PROMOTE FISCAL STABILITY

- Maximize revenues from State and Federal sources, including competitive grant and funding programs.
- Secure greater flexibility over the use of State and Federal Funds.
- Give priority to increasing or preserving funding for programs and activities that ensure equitable treatment of the City.
- Oppose unfunded mandates that make cities more dependent on the County, State or Federal Governments for financial stability, with no guarantee of local reimbursement.
- Oppose measures that shift local funds to the County, State or Federal Governments, without offsetting benefits to Irvine residents.
- Support grant programs that provide funding to local governments on a per capita basis.

SUPPORT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Support opportunities that allow the City to compete for its fair share of regional, state and federal funding, and that maintain funding streams.
- Pursue dedicated funding streams at the regional, state and federal levels that allow the City to maximize local revenues, offset and leverage capital expenditures, and maintain City goals and standards.

2024 Legislative Platform Priorities

ADVANCE KEY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

- Support and pursue funding opportunities for Capital Improvement Projects throughout the City.
- Strengthen partnerships with County, State and Federal agencies that provide key services to residents.
- Support efforts to secure federal and state funds for programs and activities at the Great Park, and the development, operation and maintenance of facilities and open space areas, including infrastructure implementation (sewer, water, natural gas, electricity).
- Support initiatives that enable the provision of affordable and reliable access to broadband service.
- Oppose proposals that increase requirements and place undue burdens on the City with regard to the Surplus Land Act.
- Support efforts to streamline and improve the state and federal environmental review processes.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Support funding programs that promote the development and enhancement of safe, affordable, and accessible housing within the City for all economic segments of the population.

- Support reforms and improvements to housing element law to provide clear processes and flexibility to allow regional cooperation and establish realistic housing goals and performance standards.
- Support the establishment and preservation of stable, ongoing funding streams for mental health, substance abuse, homelessness prevention, and other related support activities.
- Support legislative efforts that have a focus on keeping people in housing, once placed, for many years.
- Support investments in mental health treatment across the continuum of care, including efforts to support or encourage creation of additional board and care beds as well as subacute treatment and psychiatric skilled nursing facilities.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Support legislative efforts to fund and improve local law enforcement, fire suppression and prevention, emergency services, and disaster preparedness.
- Support legislation and seek funding to assist local law enforcement to reduce crimes against persons, property crime, fraud, and improve threat management.
- Support efforts to strengthen and enforce legal protections and resource funding for all individuals who are victims of crime.
- Support legislative efforts to promote education and enforcement around pedestrian, cycling, and electric bicycle safety.
- Support legislation to prohibit the manufacture, import, sale and use of dangerous and often lethal substances.
- Support measures that provide frontline funding for police services associated with the “early release” of state prisoners as a result of State-mandated criminal justice realignment provisions.

SUSTAINABILITY

- Commit to environmental stewardship and a more sustainable future through advocacy and support of climate, recycling, and energy initiatives; community outreach, education, and events; and support of residents, businesses, and organizations.
- Support ambitious but achievable emissions reduction targets that lay out a pathway to achieving climate goals across all levels of government operation and in our community.
- Support thoughtfully planned greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and climate adaptation measures to create a truly climate-smart community for the future.

TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY

- Support efforts to assure Irvine receives its fair share of transportation revenue proportionate to transportation tax dollars generated in the City.
- Increase funding for local transportation and transit programs and projects.

- Support protection of dedicated transportation-related tax revenues and enhance the ability of local agencies to finance local transportation programs and facilities.
- Support cooperative development and funding of an integrated, comprehensive, and efficient transportation network to include inter-county and intra-county highways, mass transit, facilities, and infrastructure in Orange County, meeting the needs of its residents and businesses, and reducing vehicle miles traveled.

DRAFT



City Council Policy / Procedure

Legislative Affairs Program (Updated December 12, 2023)

Reference: Minute Order 12-12-23

Purpose

To establish a Legislative Affairs Program that addresses the dynamic trends of the federal and state legislative processes and advances the City's priorities on emerging issues.

Background

The City of Irvine is on a growth trajectory that necessitates a comprehensive approach to its state and federal advocacy efforts. The Legislative Affairs Program (Program) established by this Policy provides a means to advance and protect the City's interests on issues at the federal and state levels. The Program may consist of an adopted Legislative Platform, dedicated City staff, an ad hoc Legislative Affairs Subcommittee of the City Council, and collaboration with legislative advocacy firms, grant-writing firms, and local stakeholders.

Procedure

1. Division of Legislative Affairs

- a. The Division of Legislative Affairs will manage the Program and monitor federal and state legislation that may impact the City of Irvine.
- b. The Program will maintain a continuous, prompt, and transparent system for bringing new legislative information and grant opportunities to its attention.
- c. The Division of Legislative Affairs and members of the ad hoc Legislative Affairs Subcommittee will serve as the City's representatives to business and education stakeholders, other local governments, and state and federal agencies.

2. Ad Hoc City Council Legislative Affairs Subcommittee

- a. The ad hoc Legislative Affairs Subcommittee shall act in an advisory manner and should be comprised of the Mayor and Councilmember(s) totaling less than a quorum of the governing body. An ad hoc Legislative Affairs Subcommittee will be formed for calendar year 2024. Thereafter, on an annual basis the City Council will determine in January of each calendar year whether a subsequent ad hoc committee will be formed for that year.

- b. The subcommittee will guide the preparation of the City's Legislative Platform (Platform), for ultimate presentation to the full City Council for its review, revision, and approval.

3. Legislative Platform

- a. The Platform will be produced and updated annually for adoption by the City Council near the start of the legislative session in coordination with Councilmembers, Department Directors, and the City's legislative advocates.
- b. The Platform is a public document that may identify guiding principles and priorities for the year, approve methods of targeted issue advocacy, and foster robust stakeholder engagement and relationships.
- c. The Platform shall be designed to focus and enhance the ability of the City and its state and federal advocates to respond effectively to legislative proposals with a unified voice.
- d. The Platform shall be designed to streamline Irvine's grant-seeking efforts, bringing the potential for additional funding to City programs and projects.
- e. The Platform will serve as the basis for advocacy positions on regional, state, and federal legislative issues.
- f. The Platform will be published on the City's Legislative Affairs webpage, thereby increasing transparency, and allowing elected officials and residents to see what bill position the City may take and what priority projects the City aims to pursue.

The Program may also formalize efforts to build coalitions of support and engage with community partners and representatives. This includes intentional outreach to various stakeholder communities, advocacy days in Sacramento and Washington D.C., and support for initiatives.