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City of Paramount

Legislative Platform

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Mission Statement

The City of Paramount's Legislative Platform establishes a framework for the City's collective principles on matters of legislation and regional issues similar in nature.

The Paramount City Council recognizes the need for an active legislative program to protect the City's interests in the region, Sacramento, and Washington, D.C. This document outlines the City's position on legislative matters.

Purpose

On September 1, 2020, the City Council approved implementation of a Legislative Platform that streamlines a process for staff to follow when the City receives a request to take a position on legislative matters. Adopted annually by the City Council, the Legislative Platform is the foundation of a focused advocacy strategy and serves as a reference guide for legislative positions and objectives. The purpose of the Legislative Platform is to give clear direction to staff when determining the City's position on legislation. The Legislative Platform is developed and maintained by using the goals and objectives of the City Council, and incorporates the City's Vision, Mission, Values, and Strategic Outcomes. It is based on input from the City Council and staff, as well as local legislative staff and the City's legislative advocates.



Implementation

The City Council will review and adopt the Legislative Platform at the start of each legislative session and revisit it mid-year. Federal and State legislation that is consistent with the Legislative Platform may be supported by the City. Federal and State legislation that is inconsistent with the Legislative Platform may be opposed by the City. When legislation is supported or opposed by the Legislative Platform, City staff will prepare position letters to be approved by the Mayor. Legislation that is not addressed in the Legislative Platform may require further direction from the City Council. Legislative priorities may only address issues directly related to or impacting the provision of municipal services.



Partner Organizations

Generally, the City supports the legislative positions of the City's partner organizations. However, there may be some instances where the City does not support a certain legislative position by a partner organization. When this occurs, City staff will use the principles and values in this Legislative Platform to guide legislative position. The following are partner organizations the City generally supports:

Federal:

American Planning Association American Public Works Association American Water Works Association
National Recreation and Parks Association
National League of Cities
U.S. Conference of Mayors

State:

Association of California Water Agencies California Association of Local Economic Development
California Building Officials California Contract Cities Association
California Joint Powers Insurance Authority California Municipal Revenue and Tax Association California Municipal Utilities Association
California Society of Municipal Finance Officers California Stormwater Quality Association
California Park & Recreation Society
California Municipal Clerks Association

Regional:

Gateway Cities Council of Governments Gateway Water Management Authority
The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Los Angeles County Sheriff's and Fire Departments
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Southern California Chapter of National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors
Southeast Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board Southeast Water Coalition
Southern California Association of Governments Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District

Guiding Principles

The City of Paramount will take positions and advocate based on the following principles:

Preserve Local Control

- Support measures that preserve and protect the City's powers and duties to enact legislation and policy direction concerning local affairs, and oppose legislation that preempts local authority.
- Support measures that preserve and enhance authority and accountability for revenues raised and services provided.

Promote Fiscal Stability

- Support measures that promote fiscal stability, predictability, and financial independence.
- Support measures that preserve the City's revenue base and local control over local government budgeting, recognizing that economic cost is a determinate in considering the merits and/or impacts of any proposed legislation or regulation.
- Support measures that make cities more independent from the County, State, and Federal Governments for financial stability, such as mandated costs with no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits. Oppose measures that shift local funds to the County, State or Federal Governments, without offsetting benefits.

Promote Economic Development

- Support legislation and regulation reforms that provide the City with the necessary tools to continue to grow its economy and enhance economic development efforts.
- Support measures that provide the City with the capability to attract and retain businesses, as well as encourage current businesses to expand and retain jobs locally.

Funding Opportunities

- Support opportunities that allow the City to compete for its fair share of regional, State, and Federal funding.
- Support funding for programs including, but not limited to, economic development, transportation projects, utility undergrounding, public works, water infrastructure, parks and recreation, and public safety.

Goals

- Advocate for the City's best interest at the Federal, State and local level.
- Be analytical and transparent with Legislators, City Council, staff, and the community on legislative issues that can have potential impact on the City.
- Serve as an active participant with other local governments, the partner organizations listed, and other local professional organizations on legislative/regulatory issues that serve and protect the health and welfare of the City and our region.
- Seek grant and funding assistance for City projects, services and programs to enhance services for the community.



Areas of Focus

***Please note that the text in GREEN indicates the updated points.**

Finance

- Oppose Federal or State efforts that raid local revenues and encourage the State to find other methods of balancing its budget.
- Support legislation that includes Federal, State, and regional funding formulas that ensure equitable distribution of funds at the local level.
- Oppose any initiatives that threaten local control of City budgets.
- Oppose unfunded mandates.
- Support initiatives that promote equitable and financially prudent efforts to protect utility rate payers in the City.

Human Resources

- Oppose measures that reduce local control over employee relations issues.
- Oppose legislation mandating new or enhanced local government employee benefits that are proven to be costly or unaffordable.
- Support efforts to further reform pension benefits administered by California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) that would help protect the long-term solvency of local entities and CalPERS.
- Support changes in State law or judicial precedent to allow employers to negotiate plan changes with classic CalPERS members.

Regional Governance

- Support proposals encouraging regional, sub-regional, or countywide cooperation in planning urban development strategies, especially those that provide funding for effective implementation of agreed-upon goals.
- Support measures to achieve fair and proportionate representation on countywide regional boards.



Economic Development

- Support efforts designed to provide local governments with tools to bolster economic development.
- Support legislation that enhances the City's ability to attract and retain businesses and encourage expansion and job retention.
- **Support State incentives for small-business modernization, adaptive reuse, and revitalization of aging commercial corridors.**
- **Support economic recovery tools tailored to built-out cities, including grants for storefront improvements, digital modernization, and commercial façade upgrades.**

Housing & Land Use

- Oppose regional growth, development, and land use legislation that overlooks the City's unique geographical and density challenges.
- Oppose legislation that penalizes local governments for noncompliance with RHNA.
- Support strengthening local agencies' ability to plan for orderly growth.
- Support Federal and State resources to meet housing needs.
- Support increased local input in RHNA development.
- **Support legislation requiring State housing mandates to account for local infrastructure capacity (water, sewer, emergency response, traffic).**
- **Support State funding and technical assistance for infrastructure upgrades in built-out communities to ensure safe and feasible housing growth.**



Broadband Infrastructure Development

- Support legislation that advances efforts to bridge the digital divide through broadband accessibility and funding opportunities.
- Support legislation to enhance broadband infrastructure development to provide more affordable and efficient access to basic amenities such as education, health care, public safety, and City services.
- Support policies, legislation, and proposals to add funding to expand fiber capacity throughout the City to provide communities with high-speed Internet access, connect City facilities to the internal City network, and expand the Citywide camera network.
- **Support State funding and technical assistance to help cities comply with cybersecurity mandates, protect sensitive data, and reduce liability exposure.**
- **Support legislation that strengthens local government resilience against cyberattacks and modernizes digital infrastructure.**

Cultural & Community Service

- Support legislation and funding for youth and intervention programs, including after-school educational and recreational programs.
- Support efforts to provide an expedited process for the fair distribution of State funds and other grant opportunities.
- Support legislation that provides opportunities, either by grants or other means, that repurpose or renovate existing city and non-city facilities to maximize the City's limited open space.
- Support legislation that provides opportunities, either by grants or other means, for art and cultural programs.

Public Works & Transportation

- **Added support for complete streets retrofits, pedestrian safety improvements, traffic calming infrastructure, and Safe Routes to School enhancements. Support only those local transportation projects that would not trigger negative impacts to the City nor override local laws, ordinances and other regulations.**
- Support legislation that affords local agencies greater discretionary authority to expend available transportation funds and affords local jurisdictions greater flexibility over transportation-related issues.
- Support legislation that would require public utilities to underground power lines and support funding for undergrounding of utilities.
- **Support State funding for complete-streets retrofits, pedestrian safety improvements, and traffic-calming infrastructure in dense, high-traffic corridors.**
- **Support grants for crosswalk upgrades, protected bike lanes, and safe-routes-to-school improvements.**

Solid Waste

- Support measures that maintain and enhance local authority and economic flexibility to regulate solid waste and recyclables.
- Support legislation that provides funding for local governments to create capacity around the State's organics recycling mandate (SB 1383).
- Support legislation that supports local control and flexibility to regulate solid waste and recyclables.
- Request extended timelines, regional processing support, and State funding to offset rising organics-processing costs.
- Support legislation that reduces compliance burdens for small and built-out cities.



Environmental Sustainability

- Support legislation for strong water efficiency, conservation, increased supply, and improved quality, including drought relief.
- Advocate for using cap and trade revenue to benefit local governments.
- Promote cost-effective, sustainable environmental policies in energy efficiency, greenhouse gases, air quality, renewable energy, and climate resilience.
- Prioritize funding for mitigating extreme weather impacts in communities.
- Support state funding for sustainability goals in energy, water, transportation, and carbon sequestration.
- Protect and restore the natural environment without conflicting with local land use.
- Foster an environmentally sustainable, walkable community with funding for local benefits while respecting the environment.
- Back affordable initiatives for stormwater management revenue and infrastructure, analyzing taxpayer impact.
- Advocate for pragmatic goals in NPDES permits and ensure funding for Caltrans to manage pollutant discharge.
- Encourage investment in electric vehicle charging and zero-emissions infrastructure with grants and incentives.
- **Support environmental justice funding and cumulative-impact analysis to protect communities with existing environmental burdens, especially those adjacent to industrial uses.**
- **Support State programs that prioritize air quality improvements, pollution reduction, and climate-resilient infrastructure in disadvantaged communities.**



Public Health & Safety

- Advocate for community safety through disaster preparedness and well-being initiatives.
- Endorse policies promoting pedestrian and bicycle safety.
- Back legislation for greater asset forfeiture funds and flexible local fund use.
- Increase grant funding for local law enforcement, including school resource officers and disaster preparedness.
- Support laws against reckless driving, street racing, and DUI, and ensure funding for sobriety checkpoints.
- Promote legislation that enhances neighborhood safety, community improvement, inclusivity, and effective partnerships with law enforcement.
- Oppose any laws that lower public health and sanitation standards for food-related establishments.
- Advocate for harsher penalties for repeat property crime offenders, particularly those dealing with precious metals and catalytic converters.
- Support funding for innovative crime prevention programs and tools, including Neighborhood Watch, Crime Stoppers, and surveillance enhancements.
- Promote policies and grants for family and community violence prevention programs.
- **Support legislation addressing organized retail theft, including enhanced penalties for coordinated theft rings and expanded authority for cities to deploy automated enforcement tools.**
- **Support legislation to aggressively address chronic street racing and intersection takeovers by strengthening enforcement authority and increasing penalties for organizers and repeat offenders.**
- **Support State funding for automated speed enforcement, intersection cameras, and expanded license plate reader networks to improve neighborhood safety.**
- **Support policies that protect the safety, dignity, and well-being of all residents, regardless of background or legal status.**

Homeless Outreach & Prevention

- Support Legislation and initiatives involving Federal, State and County governments to reduce and prevent homelessness.
- Support initiatives and measures that further strengthen City, County, and non-profit agencies coordination and partnerships to combat and prevent homelessness.
- Support State funding for interim housing solutions such as tiny homes, modular units, and motel conversions.
- **Support direct State funding to cities for homelessness services and local housing solutions.**
- **Support stronger accountability measures for County-led homeless systems to ensure proportional services, timely interventions, and community-specific support.**

Community Preservation

- Support measures that encourage the maintenance of City neighborhoods and shared utility corridors.
- Support legislation that prioritizes partnerships with neighboring cities and partners, like Caltrans, to proactively maintain and beautify shared utility corridors.
- Support legislation, policy, and grants that support the implementation of family and community violence prevention programs.
- Support policies, legislation and grants to increase public park land.
- Support policies, legislation and grants to increase investment in the arts.
- Support policies, legislation, and funding to implement economic relief for working families and small businesses impacted by emergencies, pandemics, and natural disasters.
- Support funding for collaborative response and partnerships that will address quality-of-life issues in the community.

Civic Engagement

- Support legislation that protects the transparency and intellectual property of City information.
- Support legislation that regulates indecency and obscenity in cyberspace.

The Legislative Platform aligns with the goals and objectives of the City Council, and incorporates the City's Vision, Mission, Values, and Strategic Outcomes.

