



2023 Legislative Platform

Purpose Statement

The Lakewood City Council recognizes the need for an active state and federal legislative program to protect the city's interests in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. The 2023 Legislative Platform provides a framework for the City of Lakewood's legislative program. Adopted annually, the Legislative Platform is the foundation of a focused advocacy strategy and serves as a reference guide for legislative positions and objectives that provide direction for the City Council and staff throughout the year.

Legislative Program

The primary objective of the Legislative Platform is for the City Council to adopt official city positions on clearly stated legislative issues. By doing this, the legislative approval process is streamlined by eliminating the need for repetitive concurrence and direction from the City Council on previously approved issues. The Legislative Platform is developed and maintained using the goals and objectives of the City Council, a review of legislative priorities from the League of California Cities, League's Los Angeles Division, California Contract Cities Association and other partner agencies (see below), input from City Council and staff, research of current law and pending legislation, as well as discussions with local legislative staff and the City's legislative advocates.

Federal and state legislative proposals and policies consistent with the Legislative Platform may be supported by the City. Policies and proposals inconsistent with this Legislative Platform may be opposed by the City. For proposed legislation, either consistent with the City's Legislative Platform or consistent with legislative positions the City has taken in the past, City staff shall be authorized to prepare position letters with the Mayor's authorization. Items not addressed in the city's Legislative Platform may require further direction from the Intergovernmental Relations Committee and/or the City Council.

Legislative priorities may only address issues directly relevant to or impacting the provision of municipal services. Generally, the City will not address matters that are not pertinent to the City's local government services.

Organizations whose legislative programs the City follows:

Federal

- American Planning Association
- American Public Works Association
- American Water Works Association
- International Council of Shopping Centers
- National Recreation and Parks Association

- National League of Cities
- National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA)
- U.S. Conference of Mayors

State

- Association of California Water Agencies
- California Association of Local Economic Development
- California Building Officials
- California Contract Cities Association (CCCA)
- California Municipal Revenue and Tax Association
- California Municipal Utilities Association
- California Park & Recreation Society
- CalCities

Regional

- Central Basin Water Association
- Coalition for Practical Regulation
- Gateway Cities Council of Governments (Gateway COG)
- Gateway Water Management Authority
- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- Southern California Chapter of NATOA
- Southeast Los Angeles Workforce Development Board
- Southeast Water Coalition
- Southern California Association of Governments
- California Joint Powers Insurance Authority
- Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District

Program Goals and Strategies

Program Goals:

- I. Advocate the City's legislative interests at the Federal, State and County levels.
- II. Inform and share information with our Legislators, City Council and staff on the legislative process and key issues and legislation that could have a potential impact on the City.
- III. Serve as an active participant with other local governments, the League of California Cities, regional agencies such as CCCA, Gateway COG and other local professional organizations on legislative/regulatory issues that are important to the City and region.
- IV. Seek grant and funding assistance for City projects, services and programs to enhance infrastructure and services for the community.

Strategies:

- I. Communicate legislative positions on proposed Federal, State and County legislation, measures, initiatives and governmental regulations.
 - a. Work with City departments and legislative advocates to develop positions on proposed legislative measures.
 - b. City staff will review the positions and analysis done by the League of California Cities, legislative advocates' feedback, and other local government/professional associations in formulating the City's positions.
 - c. The City will take positions only on proposals that clearly impact the City or pose a threat to local control.
 - d. Actively track key bills through the legislative process, utilizing the City's advocacy services, various legislative websites and other government and professional associations.
 - e. Work cooperatively with other cities, associations and the League of California Cities on advocating the city's legislative positions.
 - f. As necessary, participate in the drafting and amending of proposed federal and state measures that have the potential to significantly impact the City.
 - g. Meet with legislators and their representatives, as well as other federal, state and county government officials on a regular basis, to discuss local government issues, proposed legislation, requests for funding assistance and City projects, programs and services.
- II. Seek federal, state and county funding through earmarks, grants and other discretionary funding for City projects, services and programs.
 - a. Identify City projects for potential submittal for federal earmark consideration. Develop a submittal packet for legislators that provides funding need and project information.
 - b. Provide information to City departments on potential grant funding opportunities and recognition programs.
 - c. Advocate and request letters of support for grant applications that are being considered for federal, state and county funding.
- III. Share information with the City Council, staff and the community on legislative issues.
 - a. Work closely with department heads and staff to determine their legislative priorities and funding needs for the upcoming legislative session.

- b. Provide updates on legislative issues to the Council and departments throughout the year.
- c. Educate the community in the City's advocacy efforts on legislative issues and funding requests.

2023 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

I. Local Control

1. Support the provision of municipal services through contracting.
2. Support legislation that preserves and enhances local control.
3. Oppose preemption of local authority whether by county, state or federal legislation or ballot measures.

II. Municipal Finance

4. Support legislation that further protects local government revenue from being taken, confiscated, shifted, diverted or otherwise used to fund state government operations and responsibilities.
5. Support legislation that allows cities to collect their “fair share” of sales tax allocation on internet or other remote transactions.
6. Support legislation that reforms the local government financing structure to create long term stability for public services, facilities and future city growth.
7. Support continued funding for the items below:
 - a. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program
 - b. Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program
 - c. Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program
 - d. Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) community access television
8. Oppose legislation that would impose state mandated costs for which there is no guarantee or realistic expectation of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits.
9. Oppose legislation that would preempt or reduce local discretion over locally-imposed taxes.
10. Oppose legislation that changes the sales or property tax collection method or formula that would result in less overall tax revenue to local governments.
11. Oppose legislation that threatens a local government’s right to receive compensation for use of its public right of way.
12. Oppose any effort to eliminate, or cap, the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, one of the few tools left for local governments to finance large capital projects.

III. Public Safety

13. Support legislation and funding that promote enhanced law enforcement services in the community.

14. Support legislation that provides for greater protection to victims of crime and accountability in criminal prosecution and sentencing.
15. Support legislative efforts to address the negative impacts of AB 109, Proposition 47 and Proposition 57 on local governments and provide local law enforcement with the appropriate tools to reduce criminal activity.
16. Support legislation that maintains public safety and provides additional tools and resources to address challenges such as homelessness, mental health, and drug rehabilitation.
17. Support legislation that encourages legislators to coordinate and consult closely with law enforcement agencies prior to introducing legislation that affects public safety.
18. Support legislation that enhances community control of public education.
19. Support reasonable criminal justice reform measures that are inclusive of concerns from prosecutors, victims' rights groups, and law enforcement agencies and do not hinder law enforcement's ability to protect the community.
20. Support programs that help ensure public safety through the assistance and rehabilitation of individuals challenged with mental and/or substance abuse illnesses and increase awareness and training opportunities.
21. Support legislation that provides funding to local agencies for emergency planning, disaster training, preparedness, prevention, protection, mitigation, response, recovery and resiliency to disasters, biological and environmental threats.

IV. Economic Development and Local Land Use

22. Support legislation that encourages sustainable economic development for cities to create jobs and improve the economy.
23. Support legislation that strengthens local control for land use and zoning regulations.
24. Support legislation that returns local governments' ability to enact property tax increment financing or other redevelopment tools.
25. Support training and development initiatives and funding that support the collaboration between community partners, including, but not limited to non-profits, school and community college districts and the workforce development board.
26. Support measures that support the City's continued efforts to retain and promote local businesses and for removal of regulations that impose excessive requirements or restrictions that hinder the success of these enterprises.

27. Support legislation that will restore funding mechanisms to promote continued economic development, including initiatives to provide financing for business assistance loans and infrastructure improvements.
28. Support legislation preserving the city's interest in telecommunication, broadband and infrastructure operations.
29. Oppose efforts to require additional CEQA review and process requirements that delay projects and increase costs.
30. Oppose legislation that seeks to limit or eliminate municipal authority to regulate street or sidewalk vendors.

V. Housing and Homelessness

31. Support legislation that seeks to address the inequitable allocation of property taxes to "No and Low" property tax cities. This is critically important as the State attempts to address the housing crisis.
32. Support legislation that provides flexibility, support and resources to cities to assist with the development of affordable housing options and programs for all income levels in the community.
33. Support incentives for cities to create regional and collaborative solutions to address homelessness.
34. Support the expansion of conservatorship laws allowing for increased guardianship control and health supervision of those suffering from mental illness; and recognizes mental illness and addiction as a contributor to chronic homelessness.
35. Support legislation and funding from the county, state and federal government for expanded outreach teams in collaboration with law enforcement, first responders, and the county's health and mental health departments for those affected by homelessness and mental health issues.
36. Support direct Measure H funding on an annual basis for cities like Lakewood that are required to contribute additional sales tax.
37. Oppose legislation that seeks to convert the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process from a planning process to a production standard.
38. Oppose legislation that penalizes a city or local government if the units identified in RHNA are not constructed.
38. Oppose efforts and legislation that propose to limit public engagement, design and environmental review related to housing projects.
39. Oppose legislation that would remove local control, allow for irresponsible housing development and interfere with protection of established residential neighborhoods.

40. Support and pursue the repeal of state laws that affect local control on housing and land use.

V. Infrastructure

41. Support legislation that provides adequate and consistent funding to support acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of recreation services and facilities.
42. Support legislation that provides ongoing and sustainable transportation infrastructure funding, including funds for the preservation and maintenance of streets and roads
43. Support legislation that appropriates state funds to local and regional projects for transportation projects, such as the West Santa Ana Branch transit corridor project.
44. Support legislation that provides funding for water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure; flood prevention, water resources planning and development; and water quality improvement.
45. Support development of reasonable policies, strategies and programs to protect the environment, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency and increase the use of alternative/renewable energy sources.
46. Support legislation that allocates cap and trade auction revenue to local governments.
47. Support legislation that bridges the digital divide as equitable access to information and communication technologies are becoming increasingly essential for everyday life.
48. Support legislation and park bond measures that provide per capita grants to local governments to fund parks and capital improvements, as well as recreation programs that enhance the quality of life for Lakewood residents.
49. Support legislation that provides funding for the rehabilitation, development, and capital improvements of local parks and community facilities.
50. Oppose unnecessary modifications to the Los Angeles County Flood Control conveyance system, including the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers that could require properties to purchase federal flood insurance.
51. Oppose Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood insurance reforms to require properties in residual risk areas, those protected by dams or levees, to purchase flood insurance even when the man-made structures are certified to provide at least 100-year protection.
52. Oppose legislation to establish a public goods charge or other permanent statewide tax on water to fund statewide water solutions.
53. Oppose legislation that directs local transportation funds away from cities.

VI. General Government

54. Support legislation that preserves public, educational and government (PEG) television channel funding and programming support by video service providers, such as: payments to local government of franchise fees and PEG fees.
55. Support reasonable reform of local government pension systems that is respectful of local control and local collective bargaining processes.
56. Support legislation that reforms the workers compensation system to lower employer costs while continuing to protect employees.
57. Support legislation that provides resources to cities to improve disaster preparedness, recovery and resiliency.
58. Oppose legislation that usurps local government's authority to restrict or regulate the sale, manufacture and use of alcohol, medical marijuana dispensaries, collectives and cooperatives, and recreational marijuana dispensaries or other distribution points.
59. Support legislation for cities to maintain local services and provide relief to local residents and businesses, including shoring up funding for the decline in sales tax revenue and providing flexibility on funding for cities to continue to provide services.
60. Support legislation that provides funding to local agencies for emergency planning, disaster training, preparedness, prevention, protection, mitigation, response, recovery and resiliency to disasters, biological and environmental threats.
61. Legislation that applies to local governing boards should also equally apply to state representatives.

VII. Social Justice and Equity

61. Support legislation and funding that provides residents with equitable access to City programs and services.
62. Support legislation and funding for the City and its community partners to proactively engage with residents on issues of prejudice, discrimination and social justice to promote education, understanding, expanded opportunity and acceptance between diverse groups in the community, making Lakewood a welcome place for everyone.