



Law and Legislation Committee Report

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File ID: 2019-00033

February 5, 2019

Discussion Item 04

Title: Review and Approval of City's State and Federal Legislative Platforms

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Pass a Motion approving the City's State and Federal Legislative Platform and forwarding the platform to City Council for approval.

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Attachments:

1-Description/Analysis

2-2019 Legislative Platform

Description/Analysis

Issue Detail: In order to allow the City's Governmental Affairs staff, and contract state and federal legislative advocates, to be timely and responsive in protecting the City's interests at the State legislature and in Congress, the Law and Legislation Committee is requested to review and approve the 2019 State and Federal Legislative Priorities and Platforms articulating the City's policies in its areas of interests, and forward to the City Council for its consideration.

Policy Considerations: Approving the state and federal legislative platforms is in alignment with the City Council's Policies and Procedures.

Economic Impacts: Not applicable

Environmental Considerations: Not applicable

Sustainability: Not applicable

Commission/Committee Action: Not applicable

Rationale for Recommendation: The California State Legislature and Congress consider hundreds of bills each year. Additionally, state and federal administrations make policy and funding decisions that could impact the City. To ensure that the City's interests are protected and that our policy direction is consistent, staff is recommending that the policy platforms and areas of interest be approved. The documents have been designed to create flexibility and cover a range of topics where state and/or federal action could directly or indirectly affect City operations, policies, and/or programs.

Financial Considerations: Not applicable

Local Business Enterprise (LBE): Not applicable



2019 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The City of Sacramento's Legislative Platform serves as the framework for the City's advocacy positions on federal and state legislative, administrative, and budget issues. The following policy areas are deemed to be the priority policy goals of the Mayor and City Council, the General Plan, and the strategic direction of the City of Sacramento.

Housing Opportunities for Every Level of Income and A Commitment to Ending Homelessness

The City supports efforts to end homelessness in the City of Sacramento and improve the quality of life for those who are experiencing homelessness, and the creation and maintenance of housing affordable to residents at all income levels. Priorities include:

- Building or maintaining affordable housing, providing needed services, and addressing the impacts of homelessness at the local level.
- Supporting innovative housing options and services, including shelters and triage centers, and recognizing the need for low to no barrier housing or shelter options.
- Reducing barriers to new housing construction.
- Creating a California preservation/historic tax credit program.
- Maintaining funding for Housing Choice Voucher rental housing assistance.
- Funding programs that assist residents in accessing a range of shelter and housing options and homeless services and programs targeted to the unique needs of homeless youth and transition age youth.
- Supporting programs and funding to address mental health and homelessness issues.

Job Creation and Economic Development

The City supports legislation and funding for programs that advance equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout Sacramento's business community, increase talent pipelines, and expand employment opportunities at all levels, including:

- Incentivizing private investment, technological innovation, and job creation throughout the City.
- Streamlining tools and incentives.
- Supporting policies that reflect Cap and Trade priorities in the Sacramento region.
- Continued authorization of programs that bring resources to Sacramento's most challenged neighborhoods.

- Supporting policies and funding for educational institutions to adapt to the changing market and labor needs to prepare our workforce for the future economy.
- Aligning workforce development resources to improve economic development outcomes.
- Protecting workers from harassment and discrimination and promoting diversity and equity.
- Increasing the certainty of state and local cannabis industry regulations by moving cannabis from Schedule I to Schedule II.
- Providing lawful cannabis businesses access to the banking industry and the ability to record tax deductions or credits for income associated with cannabis.

Investment in Infrastructure and Mobility

The City supports investment that develops, maintains, and rehabilitates infrastructure, further enhancing the City’s ability to attract new businesses and residents. It continues to pursue policies that support smart growth land decisions and principles. Priorities include:

- Repairing, maintaining, or replacing of critical infrastructure, including roads, paths, and bridges, and robust infrastructure funding at the state and federal level.
- Creating transit-friendly neighborhoods that are walkable and bikeable.
- Reducing deaths and injuries on Sacramento roads, paths, and sidewalks for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers.
- Reducing disabled parking placard fraud and abuse and increasing parking access for those with disabilities.
- Improving rail safety for passengers and preventing accidents and derailments, particularly related to hazardous materials, and phasing out rail cars that no longer meet safety standards.
- Diversifying mobility options, including the responsible introduction of technologies balancing the needs of existing modes.
- Fully funding the Downtown Riverfront Streetcar Project.

A Healthy, Sustainable and Green Community

The City supports policies and funding to support the growth of a strong, healthy, and green community for all City residents, including:

- Achieving flood protection goals and improvements to levee systems.
- Building upon the sustainability principles contained in the Sacramento Area Council of Government’s Blueprint, Sacramento General Plan, Sustainability Plan and Climate Action Plan.
- Sustainable planning and development policies, programs, and funding that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollution, facilitate smart growth, and aid in the recruitment and retention of green businesses and programs.
- Funding for environmental remediation of contaminated sites.
- Addressing persistent drought conditions, climate resiliency, and changing hydrological conditions, and meeting water quality and water supply needs of local communities.

- Funding water infrastructure needs and opposing privatization or public-private partnerships that might create disadvantages to secure public project financings.
- Assisting regional and local governments in developing and implementing energy efficiency, long term water use and conservation strategies.
- Developing a comprehensive management plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.
- Fixing water systems that chronically do not meet state and federal clean water standards, supporting local government management and operation of those water systems, and reducing or eliminating cost burdens on City ratepayers to pay for those systems.

A Safe and Prepared Community

The City supports legislation and funding to improve the safety, security, and quality of life for all City residents, including support of the following priorities:

- Reducing and preventing gun violence, crime, drug use, and gang violence, and promoting public outreach and intervention programs.
- Improving fire suppression and prevention, hazardous materials mitigation, rescue emergency medical services, and disaster and emergency preparedness and response.
- Providing services and facilities for people experiencing a mental health or other crisis and first responder psychological wellness.
- Increasing access to youth mental health services.
- Independently investigating and prosecuting, if warranted, any lethal use of force by law enforcement.
- Increasing transparency of police actions and past conduct and opposing legislation that shields law enforcement personnel from prosecution.
- Supporting policies specifying the appropriate level of use of force by police officers.
- Increasing and improving communication during disasters and public safety events.
- Providing rigorous oversight and regulation of cannabis cultivation, manufacturing, dispensing and delivery, as well as mitigation of negative impacts such as illegal grow houses.
- Allowing the City to enforce laws and regulations aimed at addressing the illegal growth, manufacturing, and sale of cannabis.

Youth and Families

The City supports efforts that aid in the development of all children and youth so they can reach their fullest potential and policies that support families, including:

- Expanding transit networks to enable youth to safely and affordably travel to work, school, and other locations.
- Providing activities and amenities that enrich the lives of youth, including the arts, libraries and recreation.
- Supporting efforts to reduce child pornography, child predators and sex offenders, and human sex trafficking.

- Limiting the ability of minors to engage in alcohol consumption, vaping, and use of other substances like marijuana and synthetic marijuana.
- Including youth in workforce development efforts, including training programs, internships, and other similar programs.
- Creating and expanding affordable child care resources and other early childhood development programs.

Equal Rights for All Sacramento Residents

The City seeks to ensure that the fundamental rights guaranteed by the California and U.S. Constitutions apply to every person in the city, including:

- Supporting comprehensive immigration reform to provide a path to citizenship, supporting the needs of refugees, and promoting family unity.
- Increasing funding for robust Census outreach and communications operations and expanded field operations.
- Opposing efforts to dissuade use of public benefits to which immigrants are entitled.
- Opposing the addition of a Census question asking about citizenship and other proposals that could limit participation in the Census.

Preservation of Local Authority and Local Funding

The City supports preservation and expansion of local authority and the flexibility to meet local needs and opposes diminishment of the City's ability to provide essential services, reduction of revenue sources required to maintain services, or mandated costs without appropriate reimbursement. Priorities include:

- Expediting project reviews and permit approvals.
- Modernizing and streamlining the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to prevent abuse of the law while continuing to protect communities and the environment.
- Protecting shared revenues, assets of the former redevelopment agency, and the use of public right-of-way or city-owned facilities.
- Retaining local control over the installation of telecommunications infrastructure.
- Supporting secure defined benefit pension plans and reforms to make pension costs sustainable.
- Opposing federal preemption of local control over curb management for autonomous vehicles and for-hire vehicles.
- Opposing the use of federal funds to prevent the City from implementing or enforcing laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of cannabis on non-Federal lands.