



CITY OF BEAUMONT

2024 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

PURPOSE

The City of Beaumont's 2024 Legislative Platform confirms the City Council's position on current issues with the potential to directly or indirectly, impact the City. The platform establishes guidelines for actively pursuing support or opposition of pending legislation. Below are the Guiding Principles which will allow City staff to address 2024 legislative and regulatory issues in a timely manner, without precluding the consideration of additional legislative and budget issues that may arise during the legislative session.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

I. PRESERVE LOCAL CONTROL

Preserve and protect the City's powers, duties and prerogatives to enact local legislation and policy direction concerning local affairs and oppose legislation that preempts local authority. Local agencies should preserve authority and accountability for revenues raised and services provided.

II. PROMOTE FISCAL STABILITY

Support measures that promote fiscal stability, predictability, financial independence, and preserve the City's revenue base and maximum local control over local government budgeting. Oppose measures that shift local funds to the County, State or Federal Governments and/or 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.

III. SUPPORT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Support opportunities that allow the City to compete for its fair share of regional, state and federal funding. Support funding for programs with combined benefits to transportation, public safety and water/wastewater.

IV. ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH ADEQUATE PUBLIC SAFETY

Reform recently enacted criminal justice laws — enacted by both statute and initiative — that have eroded public safety protections of Beaumont residents. Protect existing city authority to deliver local emergency services.

POLICY STATEMENTS

Administration

- Oppose State or Federal efforts to “borrow” local revenues and encourage the State to find other methods of balancing its budget
- Support local government action, rather than the imposition of state, federal or regional mandates upon local governments, as well as federal mandates placed on the state.
- Oppose any amendment to the redistribution of sales and use taxes which will negatively affect the City and its ability to provide city services and thereby cause a negative fiscal impact

Community and Economic Development

- Support economic development initiatives that preserve and enhance a positive business climate and maintain and grow the business tax base
- Maintain an equitable program for the continued disbursement of sales and use taxes which reflect local impacts on various communities
- Oppose policies requiring a single power source
- Support legislation that allows local governments to continue to retain full authority to reject projects or to condition project approvals and impose mitigation measures
- Oppose measures to withhold funding dedicated to transportation funding unless proposed housing goals are being met
- Oppose measures which would undermine established general plan, zoning and housing documents
- Oppose measures which undermine the planning vision of local government and contradict the expectations of our community, which includes projects mitigation their impacts

Water and Wastewater

- Support and monitor legislation that would increase the availability of, and funding for, water conservation, water reuse technologies, water recycling, local water storage and other water supply technologies such as the Groundwater Replenishment System project
- Support legislation that requires water providers to service housing projects that meet RHNA and or other housing mandates
- Support the availability of funding for wastewater service providers and biosolids producers to address PFAS and other contaminants of emerging concern

Parks and Recreation

- Support legislation and funding opportunities (e.g. federal and state park grant funds, conservancy grant funds, project mitigation funds, etc.) that helps cities build better, stronger communities by providing funding to improve air, water, parks, open space, natural resources, historic preservation, the arts and cultural resources

Public Safety

- Recruitment and Education - continue to engage in the development of modernized educational requirements for CA law enforcement. Support all efforts to develop and recruit diverse police candidates
- Increase in Crime - prioritize policies that protect the public and ensure well-resourced public safety officers are given the tools to be successful in protecting our communities. Work with coalition partners to continue educating the public on the impacts of Proposition 47, and work collaboratively towards a legislative solution.
- Peace Officer Mental Health and Wellness - support funding for programs to improve peace officers' mental health and wellness and supports regular mental health and wellness checks for peace officers

- Mental Health Crises - support improving law enforcement's response to those in crisis – especially individuals with severe mental illness and substance abuse disorders, respond using highly trained co-deployment teams with capabilities that match the need.
- Training - Improve subject matters and modalities for training and support increased funding for law enforcement training.
- Fentanyl – The ongoing fentanyl crisis continues to impact communities across California, the consequences of which are devastating. CPCA will prioritize support for legislation that increases accountability of those responsible for the sale and distribution of fentanyl, public awareness of the crisis, resources for law enforcement to address the impacts, and treatment and services for those addicted to this deadly substance.
- Addressing Threats Against Schools, Places of Worship, and More – Ongoing threats made against schools, religious institutions, hospitals, and other fixed targets have continued to demand a swift law enforcement response whenever they occur, especially in the face of recurring mass shooting events. However, California Penal Code does not qualify a threat against a school, building, or a place of worship as a “criminal threat.”
- Community Service Officers: Introduction of Hearsay Testimony – Agencies who have hired non-sworn civilian community service officers (CSOs) to handle low-level calls are facing issues as those CSOs are not included in existing law that allows sworn officers to introduce hearsay statements at preliminary hearing

Public Works (Transportation and Infrastructure)

- Support legislation that would increase funding for local, sub-regional or regional transportation projects
- Support protection of dedicated transportation-related tax revenues
- Support commuter public transportation hubs to be located in areas where there will be a large public benefit

Finance

- Support policies that encourage fiscal responsibility at the federal, state and local level
- Support enhancement of municipalities flexibility to finance public projects economically and efficiently
- Oppose efforts that reduce local revenues or future opportunities for local revenue