



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Elizabeth Gibbs, City Manager
Darron Usher, Principal Management Analyst
DATE February 4, 2025
SUBJECT: Adoption of the City of Beaumont's Legislative Platform

Description Annual review and adoption of the City's legislative platform and policies.

Background and Analysis:

Each year, the City Council reviews and updates its legislative platform, which aims to establish the City Council's position on various legislative topics and issues. This will allow City staff and representatives to act quickly on the City's behalf when proposed legislation that either agrees with or conflicts with the City's position as described in the platform.

Regarding specific issues not included in the legislative platform, no official City position will be established until the City Council discusses the topic and reaches a consensus.

The guiding principles of the legislative platform remain the same as in previous years and are as follows:

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, and 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 air quality, water quality, affordable housing, infrastructure (including multi-modal transportation systems), public safety, and public health.

IV. ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH ADEQUATE PUBLIC SAFETY

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

The platform policy statements have been paired down from previous years and cover the following areas:

1. Administration
2. Community and Economic Development
3. Water and Wastewater
4. Parks and Recreation
5. Public Safety
6. Public Works (Transportation and Infrastructure)
7. Finance

2025 Public Safety Legislative Platform

The following is the legislative platform for the Beaumont Police Department:

- I. *Law Enforcement Education Standard* - Develop an educational standard for Peace Officers to elevate recruitment efforts and reduce negative impacts.
- II. *Reduction in Criminal Threats* - Support legislation to reduce threats to schools and religious institutions and help reduce mass shootings.
- III. *K-9 Guidelines within Law Enforcement Agencies* - Help support guidelines to build quality standards for K-9s in law enforcement agencies.
- IV. *Illegal E-Bikes Guidelines* - Support legislation to target illegal e-bikes that exceed established speed thresholds.
- V. *Illegal Radio/Signal Interface Devices* - Support legislation to combat devices that impact radio devices used by emergency services.
- VI. *Drones* - Support legislation to establish requirements for foreign-made drones to help address concerns about national security and privacy.

Staff will work with the City's State lobbyist to compose a legislative tracking list for the current year along with any carryover bills from the previous session. The tracking will highlight those bills that may have significant impacts on the City and provide a recommended position on the bills. These positions will be used to either support, oppose, or monitor each bill as it makes its way through the legislative process.

Fiscal Impact:

The cost to prepare this staff report is approximately \$275.

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends City Council approve the 2025 Legislative Platform as presented.

Attachments:

- A. 2025 Legislative Platform – Presentation
- B. 2025 Legislative Platform – Detailed by Department