



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Christina Taylor, Deputy City Manager
DATE: January 17, 2023
SUBJECT: Approve the City of Beaumont 2023 Legislative Platform and Establish Funding Priorities for City Projects

Description Establish the City Council's position on various legislative topics and identify funding priorities for the legislative session.

Background and Analysis:

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

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

Guiding principles of the legislative platform remain the same as in previous years with the exception of Number III - Support Funding Opportunities, which was slightly modified. The principles 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, 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.

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

Staff will compose a legislative tracking list for the current year along with any carryover bills from the previous session and provide it to City Council. 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.

In addition to the concepts in the Legislative Platform, staff recommends identifying key areas for which to seek funding. In previous years, funding priorities for projects have not been formally established or tied to the legislative platform. As City Council, staff, and the City's lobbying representatives increase interaction with elected officials at the State and Federal level, it is important that the City has identified significant projects for which funding is needed. Identifying a few key project areas allows both staff and the City's representatives to prepare informational materials and focus on securing funding as the opportunities present.

The projects categories staff has identified as funding priorities are:

Recycled Water Projects

- Infrastructure for retention or distribution of recycled water
- Pond recharge
- Infrastructure rehabilitation
- Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) Mitigation

Transportation Projects

- Grade separations
- Freeway on/off ramps

Fiscal Impact:

The cost to prepare this staff report is approximately \$175. Current lobbying services are budgeted at \$2,000 per month and are paid out of General Fund revenues.

Recommended Action:

Approve the proposed 2023 Legislative Platform and funding priorities.

Attachments:

- A. 2023 Draft Legislative Platform