



City of Arcata 2019/2020 Legislative Platform and Procedures

Background

To promote a structured and proactive policy to respond to local, state, regional and federal legislative issues and ceremonial requests, the following Legislative Policies and Procedures will be utilized to assist the Mayor and City Council to generate a consistent voice on issues of concern and interest to the City of Arcata.

Policy Defined

The Legislative Policy provides guidance with respect to legislative priorities, and will provide Council and staff clear direction concerning issues the City will monitor during the legislative session. Legislative inquiries and responses will be administered consistently with “one voice” as to the approved guidance set by City Council.

It is recommended that the City Council, on an annual basis, review the Legislative Guidance Policy with consideration for revisions to reflect current concerns and positions the City Council has taken on previous and proposed future legislative issues.

LEGISLATIVE POLICY

FINANCE

A. State and Federal Mandates

1. Support legislation requiring the State and Federal Government to provide full cost reimbursement to cities for all mandated programs and for all programs resulting in revenue losses.
2. Support legislation that further protects local government revenue from being taken, confiscated, diverted or otherwise used to fund state government operations and responsibilities.
3. Support efforts to reduce the fiscal impacts of Proposition 218, Proposition 26 and Senate Bill 998 on cities.
4. Oppose legislation that imposes federal mandated costs for which there is no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits.
5. Oppose any measure that mandates procedures that would make local government more dependent on the state for financial stability or reduces local discretion in the use of local government revenues.

B. Long Term Financing of Local Agencies

1. Support legislation that provides for the collection of internet sales tax and divides internet sales tax based on the point of purchase or sale.
2. Support legislation to stabilize local government financing, to increase funding to local agencies and to permit the most cost-efficient management of state-mandated programs.
3. Support legislation which preserve and enhance the City's ability to generate revenues from all types of sales.
4. Support legislation to protect and preserve local control over locally imposed taxes (such as transient occupancy tax and franchise fees).
5. Oppose legislation which shifts revenue from local government to the state for any purpose.

PERSONNEL

A. Labor Relations

1. Support legislation that strengthens good faith negotiations between employee organizations and local agencies.
2. Oppose any measure that seeks to impose federal or state mandates on the collective bargaining process.
3. Oppose legislation that mandates cities provide specific benefits which can be more properly determined through labor negotiations.
4. Oppose any legislation that would reduce local authority to resolve public employee disputes, and support legislation that would preserve court jurisdiction, and/or impose regulations of an outside agency (such as Public Employment Relations Board).

B. Retirement

1. Support measures that would lessen the impact of CalPERS investment losses on employer rates.
2. Support measures related to pensions and other post-employment benefits (OPEB) that would allow cities to better manage the long-term growth of unfunded pension and OPEB liabilities and reduce the risk of fiscal and service level insolvency by cities.

C. Workers' Compensation

1. Support legislation that would control medical and legal costs related to Workers' Compensation.
2. Support legislation reform that streamlines the Workers' Compensation program and makes it easier for employers, employees, and health care providers to navigate.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Police

1. Support efforts to increase frontline public safety funding for cities to address increases in crime as a result of Public Safety Realignment and the early release of prisoners.
2. Support legislation to protect the public from the dangerous and improper use of weapons and enact necessary regulations to limit or control their use.
3. Support legislation that would strengthen state graffiti law and provide local government revenue and resources for graffiti abatement.
4. Support legislation that would protect the public from crimes committed by use of the computer, internet or identity theft.
5. Support legislation that would provide funds for local law enforcement technology.
6. Support legislation that would provide funds for additional equipment, services, or personnel (COPS bill).
7. Oppose legislation which would weaken the authority of local law enforcement to control the issuance of concealed weapon permits.
8. Support legislation which would provide a greater share of seized assets to localities.
9. Support legislation that would require transfer of information to local officials regarding threats to local safety as threats occur.
10. Advocate for legislation/funding that would take advantage of current technology to prevent crime (i.e. - the ability to use surveillance cameras and automatic license plate recognition technology).
11. Support legislative “fixes” to Proposition 47, AB 109, and the 2011 Corrections Realignment, in order to minimize its impacts on public safety.
12. Support legislation that provides local law enforcement agencies authority to recover any costs associated with complying with any federal, state or court-ordered licensing, registration and testing requirements.
13. Support legislation that prohibits local law enforcement from contacting members of the public based solely on suspected immigration status and from conducting operations with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) personnel.
14. Support legislation that provides funding or reimbursement for non-bias based policing, procedural justice, emotional intelligence and police legitimacy training.
15. Support legislation that provides funding or reimbursement for de-escalation training, tactics and equipment.
16. Support legislation that encourages the research, development and implementation of less lethal technology.
17. Support legislation that protects children and provides assistance to families.
18. Support legislation that provides funding and/or reimbursement for police training.
19. Support legislation that provides funding for crime prevention, community engagement and elder abuse awareness.

20. Support legislation that provides funding for continued collaboration between law enforcement, housing experts and mental health clinicians.
21. Support legislation that provides funding and/or reimbursement for awareness, education and enforcement to protect minors from consuming nicotine products and alcohol.

B. Emergency Services/Community Technology

1. Support legislation that provides funding to local agencies for training, disaster preparedness, and emergency planning and operations.
2. Support legislation protecting local discretion regarding building and fire code standards.
3. Support measures that create or maintain local governmental authority as it applies to the cable, video and telecommunications industry and franchising processes.
4. Support rural broadband deployment.
5. Support legislation to preserve Net Neutrality.
6. Oppose legislation that reduces local government control over cellular technology infrastructure development, installation and deployment.

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS

A. Traffic/Roads/Highways

1. Support legislation to repair and maintain critical infrastructure, including roads and bridges, for motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and transit for multimodal transportation emphasizing forms of transportation with lower environmental impacts.
2. Support creative financing to make up for losses in gas taxes due to increased use in electric and hybrid vehicles and lower gas prices.
3. Support state-local partnerships to fund regional transportation projects.
4. Support legislation to retain local control over public rights-of-way.
5. Support legislation which provides equitable amounts of state and federal funding for roads and highways, and facilitates timely construction of local transportation projects.

B. Water/Wastewater

1. Support legislation that protects water quality.
2. Support legislation that provides additional flexibility to increase and stabilize the water supply.
3. Support legislation to provide funding for mitigation measures and projects to divert, filter, or treat urban runoff.
4. Oppose legislation that imposes more stringent requirements on wastewater discharge and storm drain runoff without providing funding.
5. Oppose measures that impose unreasonable or unfunded water testing/treatment requirements.
6. Oppose efforts to mandate a state water public benefits charge unless funds remain within the local community.

C. Solid Waste and Recycling

1. Support legislation that provides funding and program support to move Arcata towards meeting its goal of zero waste.
2. Support legislation that reduces plastic waste and provides funding and program support for increased recycling standards.
3. Support legislation encouraging active development of markets for recycled goods.
4. Support incentives for the development of alternatives to recycling and composting, such as conversion technologies which convert post-recycled residual solid waste into renewable energy, biofuels and useful products.
5. Support legislation requiring manufacturers to be responsible for safe disposal or reuse of their products and by-products, particularly for hazardous products such as sharps, unused prescription drugs, and fluorescent light bulbs.
6. Support programs that provide incentives for “green” commercial and residential development.

ENVIRONMENT

1. Support legislation that encourages locally-based models for energy provision and delivery.
2. Support efforts designed to reduce or eliminate the spread of graffiti.
3. Support legislation which allocates state and/or federal funds for the compliance of federal and state environmental standards.
4. Oppose measures that provide only minimal improvements in air and water quality while incurring excessive public and private costs associated with implementation.
5. Oppose legislation that adversely impacts wetlands without an overriding public benefit (e.g., sea level rise protection).
6. Support sustainable communities funding.
7. Support legislation that seeks to protect creeks, rivers, lakes, waterways and the ocean.
8. Support programs that provide incentives for “green” commercial and residential development. Support legislation that provides incentives to individual homeowners and businesses for the installation of solar panels.
9. Support efforts to rebate individual homeowners and businesses for returning excess power back into the grid as a result of owner-generated energy.
10. Support legislation that provides funding and resources for alternative fuel vehicles for replacement of municipal fleet equipment. Support efforts to provide adequate charging station infrastructure for emerging electric vehicle technology. Support legislation that provides funding and resources for retrofitting municipal buildings to increase energy efficiency.
11. Support legislation that supports conversion of infrastructure towards long-term renewables and away from natural gas dependency.
12. Support legislation that would electrify the rail system.

13. Support legislation that develops incentives and education on trading out and/or upgrading wood heating.
14. Oppose efforts to increase off-shore oil and / or Natural Gas drilling along the California coastline.

LAND-USE PLANNING, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, HISTORIC PRESERVATION

1. Encourage federal and state financial support to provide adequate affordable housing for low-income individuals. Specifically support legislation that provides local funding to address homelessness.
2. Oppose legislation that would impose state-mandated development standards or procedures that are contrary to the City of Arcata General Plan or local land-use policy.
3. Support legislation that strengthens the concept of local control/local home rule for local decision making on land use and zoning matters.
4. Support legislation consistent with the City's Historical Preservation Element of the General Plan, including state or federal incentive programs, streamlining and grant programs.

COMMUNITY/RECREATIONAL/SOCIAL ISSUES

1. Support federal and state funding opportunities for cultural arts programs, libraries, parks, recreation and human service, open space, and facility development/renewal.
2. Support legislation that preserves the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.
3. Support legislation that increases access to and affordability of education including vocational, technical and training programs and alternatives to four-year colleges.
4. Support measures that promote volunteerism.
5. Support federal and state funding opportunities that promote the ability to provide public access to technology at community facilities.
6. Support legislation that provides funding and resources for local governments to implement Healthy Cities programs and policies aimed at strengthening families and reducing adverse childhood experiences, obesity, high rates of diabetes, heart disease, and other health conditions.
7. Oppose legislation that would defund and/or shut down Planned Parenthood health centers and/or compromise access to reproductive healthcare.
8. Support State and Federal Universal and/or Single Payer Healthcare programs and legislation.
9. Support legislation that provides resources and/or programs that address substance abuse and harm reduction strategies.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/TOURISM

1. Support the repeal or modification of the federal prohibition of Marijuana.
2. Oppose legislation and regulatory efforts that would diminish or eliminate the authority of cities to zone and plan for the development of telecommunications infrastructure, including the siting of cellular communications towers or transmission sites.

3. Support legislation that preserves or increases funding for and increases functionality of Housing and Community Development grant programs, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership (HOME) programs as provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Support legislation that expands the eligibility and allowable uses of program funds. Oppose legislation that would reduce funds dedicated to the programs.
4. Support legislation that provides tangible and productive tools and incentives to support job creation and retention. Support legislation that enhances the City's ability to promote economic development and job creation.

CEREMONIAL RECOGNITION REQUESTS

1. Certificates of recognition, appreciation and/or achievement that commemorate a person, living or in memory of.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES TRACKING

The City Manager (or designee), will periodically provide updates on important legislative issues and/or those matters that the City has a stated a position on during the Legislative Session.

RESPONSE

When a legislative matter requires action between regular City Council Meetings, the City Manager (through the Mayor) is authorized to take a position on the matter in accordance with the adopted Legislative Policy.

If there are mitigating factors where Council may want to take a position that varies from the approved Policy, or, if it is a matter that is not inherent in the Policy, the measure shall go to the full City Council for direction.

1. The Mayor and City Manager (or designee), shall review all requests for a Mayor's letter on legislative issues to determine if the legislation aligns with the existing and approved position through the City's Legislative Policy.
2. Department Heads shall coordinate the initiation and development of legislative letters with the City Manager (or designee).
3. If the matter aligns with approved Policy, City response shall be supplied in the form of a Mayor's letter to the legislative body reviewing the bill/measure.
4. If possible, the letter shall include examples of how a bill would specifically affect the City of Arcata e.g. "the funding the City will lose due to this measure could pay for x miles of road rehabilitation."
5. When a letter is sent to a state or federal legislative body, state legislators representing the City of Arcata shall be included as a courtesy copy "cc" on the letter. The appropriate contact at the League of California Cities and legislative consultants, if applicable, shall also be included as a cc on legislative letters.
6. All letters that are sent under this policy will be cc'd to each Councilmember and posted on the City's website.