

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Edi E. Birsan, Chair  
Carlyn S. Obringer, Member

Civic Center  
1950 Parkside Drive  
Concord, CA 94519  
www.cityofconcord.org



**Special Meeting of the  
Policy Development &  
Internal Operations  
Committee**

Monday, March 19, 2018

5:30 p.m.

Garden Conference  
Room, Wing A  
1950 Parkside Drive

**AGENDIZED ITEMS** – The public is entitled to address the Committee on items appearing on the agenda before or during the Committee’s consideration of that item. Each speaker will be limited to approximately three minutes.

**1. ROLL CALL**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**3. REPORTS**

- a. **Review** – legislative platform. **Report by Kathleen Salguero Trepá, Assistant City Manager.**

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

**ADA NOTICE AND HEARING IMPAIRED PROVISIONS**

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Distribution: City Council  
Valerie Barone, City Manager  
Susanne Brown, City Attorney  
Kathleen Salguero Trepá, Assistant City Manager  
Joelle Fockler, City Clerk



## **Staff Report**

**Date:** March 19, 2018

**To:** Council Committee on Policy Development and Internal Operations

**From:** Valerie J. Barone, City Manager

**Prepared by:** Kathleen Salguero Trepá, Assistant City Manager  
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(925) 671-3155

**Subject:** **Review legislative platform**

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### **Report in Brief**

Traditionally City staff have prepared letters of advocacy related to various bills and initiatives at the state and federal level based on the Council's past direction on various policy areas. Those letters are prepared for the Mayor's signature and included in the public record as part of the agenda packet for the next City Council meeting.

The Mayor has requested that City Council consider adopting a legislative platform to ensure a Mayor is endorsing a legislative position consistent with Council consensus. The draft legislative platform is attached for consideration.

### **Recommended Action**

Review legislative platform and provide feedback.

### **Background**

Legislative platforms are typically not specific to actual bills but instead support policy positions so that staff can prepare and disseminate advocacy letters quickly. Often there is limited time to respond to bills as they move through the legislative process, so the ability to advocate a position quickly is essential to influence the bill's outcome, either in support or opposition.

The City of Concord's advocacy is typically aligned with guidance from the League of California; however, staff review and monitor legislation to evaluate impacts to the City of Concord before preparing letters for the Mayor's signature.

### **Analysis**

The proposed legislative platform (Attachment 2) includes general policy statements by topical area consistent with the League of California's [Summary of Existing Policy and Guiding Principles, March 2016](#), and Council's previous direction on various policy matters. To ensure sufficient flexibility to address bills as they are proposed at the state and federal level from year to year, basic guiding principles have been incorporated. The platform is designed to be policy oriented so that it can remain a guiding document from year to year unless the City Council changes a policy position.

In all cases the City takes a position on legislation only when it is relevant to the City of Concord. The City's legislative program is intended to only address issues directly relevant to or impacting the provision of municipal services. In general, the City will not address matters that are not pertinent to the City's local government services unless specifically considered by the City Council.

### **Financial Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with adopting a legislative platform.

### **Public Contact**

The Agenda was posted.

### **Attachment**

1. City of Concord Legislative Platform

**CITY OF CONCORD  
LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PROGRAM  
MARCH 2018**

**Purpose**

The primary objective of the Legislative Platform is for the City Council to adopt official City positions on legislative issues. In so doing, the legislative advocacy process is streamlined, allowing staff to prepare letters of support or opposition quickly.

The Platform is developed and maintained using the goals and objectives adopted by the City Council, a review of legislative priorities from the League of California Cities, guidance from City Council dialog and direction during Council meetings, research of current law and pending legislation, as well as discussions with local legislative staff.

Federal and state legislative proposals and policies consistent with the legislative priorities may be supported by the City. Those policies or proposals inconsistent with this Platform may be opposed by the City. In such a case, staff shall be authorized to prepare position letters representing the City of Concord for the Mayor's signature; and the Mayor is authorized to sign. Items not addressed in the Legislative Platform would be referred to the full Council for further consideration. However, an item not addressed in the Legislative Platform that requires an urgent response from the City may be acted upon by the Mayor on behalf of the City.

The City's legislative program is intended to only address issues directly relevant to or impacting the provision of municipal services. In general, the City will not address matters that are not pertinent to the City's local government services unless specifically considered by the City Council.

All requests for a legislative position letter must be directed to the City Manager's Office. While departments monitor and are knowledgeable of legislative issues related to their discipline, legislative advocacy must be approved by the City Manager's Office.

**Guiding Principles**

There are two primary, overarching principles related to the City's legislative advocacy efforts.

I. Preserve local funding

The City supports the protection of state and local funding sources and the authorities that provide revenue to the City of Concord. Such areas include the protection of state-shared revenues, assets of the former redevelopment agency, and the ability to collect compensation for the use of the public right-of-way or city-owned facilities. The City

opposes any mandates that are not funded and / or inadequately funded. The City supports new programs that would increase revenue to the City of Concord.

II. Preserve Local Authority

The City supports local decision-making authority and opposes pre-emption of local control. Cities are voluntarily created by the residents of a community to provide local self-government and to make decisions at the local level to best meet the needs of the community. Each community has unique needs and characteristics that are best met by policies set by its local governing body. Statewide efforts to remove the ability to set policy at the local level should be opposed, while promoting legislation that allows flexibility in the City's effort to cost-effectively meet goals and mandates.

## **LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

### **LOCAL CONTROL**

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1. Support legislation that enhances local control and allows cities to address the needs of local constituents within a framework of regional cooperation.
2. Oppose pre-emption of local authority whether by state or federal legislation or ballot proposition.
3. Support legislation that streamlines and simplifies the job of running a city and oppose efforts that erode the City's authority to control its own affairs.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

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1. Support efforts that strengthen local law enforcement's ability to prevent and fight crime.
2. Support efforts that advocate for additional funding for local law enforcement, nuisance abatement and crime prevention efforts.
3. Oppose legislation that would impede local law enforcement from addressing crime problems and recovering costs resulting from crime committed by a guilty party.

### **HOMELESSNESS**

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1. Support legislation and local, state and federal programs that employ best practices and strategies to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness by preventing homelessness for those at-risk, providing emergency and transitional housing, expanding affordable permanent housing, and promoting self-empowerment through counseling, job training and other supportive services.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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1. Oppose legislation that erodes the ability of cities to condition and deny projects that inadequately mitigate for impacts to the community.
2. Support legislation that preserves or increases funding for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) as provided by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Support legislation that expands the eligibility and allowable uses of CDBG funds. Oppose legislation that would reduce funding to the CDBG program.

3. Support legislation that enhances the City's efforts to retain existing businesses and attract new businesses.
4. Support legislation that provides tangible and productive tools and incentives to support job creation and retention.
5. Support legislation that facilitates implementation and funding of Smart City technologies.

#### **LAND USE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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1. Support legislation that strengthens the concept of local control / local home rule for decision making on land use and zoning matters, and oppose legislation that erodes local determination.
2. Oppose legislation that imposes mandatory caps on local parking standards in transit intensive areas and removes local authority to determine acceptable building heights and design standards consistent with surrounding neighborhoods.
3. Support legislation that emphasize sustainable development, improves environmental standards without an undue burden on local agencies, simplifies the regulatory process, and provides incentives and financial support for preservation of natural resources and promote sustainable energy policies.
4. Support legislation that allows flexibility in the City's effort to cost-effectively meet energy goals.

#### **TRAFFIC, TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

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1. Support measures to finance local and regional transportation programs and improvements, including money for: (1) roadway maintenance and improvements, (2) alternative modes of transportation (3) traffic demand management systems, and (3) Smart City technologies.
2. Support continuous appropriations of new monies directly to cities for the preservation, maintenance, rehabilitation and development of local streets and road systems.

#### **PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

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1. Support legislation and propositions that provide funding for the benefit of public libraries, recreational facilities, economically disadvantaged communities, and cultural arts.

## **GENERAL GOVERNANCE AND LABOR RELATIONS**

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1. Oppose any measure that imposes upon local government mandated employee benefits.
2. Oppose legislation that undermines good faith negotiations between employee organizations and local agencies.
3. Support reform measures that provide sustainable and secure public pensions and other post-retirement benefits to ensure responsive and affordable public services.
4. Support legislation that reforms the California Voting Rights Act by allowing cities to address the allegation of a violation before any person may file a lawsuit related to the alleged violation, provides increased time to transition to district-based elections, and clarifies the threshold for determining racially polarized voting.

## **REVENUE, STATE & FEDERAL FUNDING**

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1. Oppose legislation that would impose mandated costs for which there is no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits; support full cost reimbursement for all federal, state and county-mandated programs.
2. Oppose changes in revenue allocations that would negatively affect local government and Concord in particular without guaranteed offsets elsewhere.
3. Support legislation that strengthens and expands ongoing revenue for the City.
4. Oppose legislation that undermines and pre-empts local authority over local taxes and fees.
5. Support increased flexibility for the utilization of municipally generated revenues, such as Public Education & Government fee.
6. Support efforts to restore funding mechanisms eliminated by the dissolution of redevelopment agencies that promote economic development and include initiatives to provide financing for infrastructure and affordable housing.