

City of La Palma

2020 State and Federal Legislative Platform

Adopted by the City Council on November 5, 2019

The Mayor is authorized to submit advocacy letters on behalf of the City if the State or Federal legislation clearly follows the City's adopted legislative platform. The City Manager is authorized to do the same if the Mayor concurs.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

I. PRESERVE LOCAL CONTROL

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

II. PROMOTE FISCAL STABILITY

Support measures that promote fiscal stability, predictability, and financial independence. Support measures that preserve the City's revenue base and local control over local government budgeting, recognizing that economic cost is a determinate in considering the merits and/or impacts of any proposed legislation or regulation. Oppose measures that make cities more dependent on the County, State, or Federal Governments for financial stability, such as mandated costs with no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits. Oppose measures that shift local funds to the County, State, or Federal Governments, without offsetting benefits.

III. PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Support legislation and regulatory reforms that provide the City with the necessary tools and opportunity to continue to grow its economy and enhance economic development efforts. Support measures that provide the City with the capability to attract and retain businesses, as well as encourage current businesses to expand and retain jobs locally.

IV. 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 including, but not limited to, economic development, transportation projects, utility undergrounding, public works, water infrastructure, parks and recreation, and public safety.

POLICY STATEMENTS

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

1. Support legislation that preserves the ability of local governments to determine the appropriate type of election for their jurisdiction. A 2018 community survey found that 70% of residents indicated that they want to be able to vote for all five city council members.
2. Continue to support legislation that allows La Palma children to have a choice of attending schools within La Palma. Since the City is served by five school districts, the City has been actively advocating for La Palma children to be able to attend La Palma schools for some time. Due to the location of school district boundaries, some La Palma children are not eligible to attend a school located within the City limits and have to attend a school that is miles from their home.
3. Support legislation maintaining maximum local flexibility in all areas of the City's responsibility and operations, and oppose legislation that imposes intrusive, unnecessary, or unfunded state-imposed mandates or preempts local authority.
4. Oppose legislation that creates unnecessary regulations, and/or restricts the City's capability to choose the most cost-efficient and effective form of providing essential services.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Finance

1. Oppose State or Federal efforts to "borrow" local revenues and encourage the State to find other methods of balancing its budget.
2. Support legislation that includes state, federal, and regional funding formulas that ensure equitable distribution of funds at the local level.
3. Support efforts that ensure the retention of existing local revenue sources.

Human Resources

1. Oppose measures that reduce local control over employee relations issues.
2. Oppose legislation mandating new or enhanced local government employee benefits.
3. Support efforts to further reform pension benefits administered by California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) that would help protect the long-term solvency of local entities and CalPERS.
4. Support changes in state law or judicial precedent to allow employers to negotiate plan changes with classic CalPERS members.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development

1. Support efforts that are designed to provide local governments with the tools necessary to bolster economic development.
2. Support legislation and regulatory streamlining initiatives that would enhance the City's ability to attract and retain businesses as well as encourage business expansion and job retention.

Housing & Land Use

1. Oppose legislation that imposes regional, state, or federal growth, development, or land use planning standards within the City.
2. Oppose legislation that penalizes local governments for noncompliance with their housing element, or regional housing needs assessment requirements.
3. Support efforts to strengthen the legal and fiscal capability of local agencies to prepare, adopt, and implement plans for orderly growth, development, and conservation of local planning areas.
4. Support State and Federal legislation that would provide resources for the City to meet its housing needs as described in the Housing Element of the General Plan.
5. Support measures that provide municipalities with increased input in the development of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA).

Regional Governance

1. Support proposals encouraging regional, sub-regional, or countywide cooperation in planning urban development strategies, especially those that provide funding for effective implementation of agreed-upon goals.
2. Support measures to achieve fair and proportionate representation on countywide and regional boards.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Parks and Recreation

1. Support legislation and funding for youth-related prevention and intervention programs, including after school educational and recreational programs.
2. Support efforts to provide an expedited process for the fair distribution of State bond funds and other grant opportunities.

Public Works

1. Support legislation that would increase funding for local transportation projects.
2. Support legislation that affords local agencies greater discretionary authority to expend available transportation funds and affords local jurisdictions greater flexibility over transportation-related issues.
3. Support legislation that would require public utilities to underground power lines and support funding for undergrounding of utilities.

Solid Waste

1. Support measures that maintain and enhance local authority and economic flexibility to regulate solid waste and recyclables.

Water Supply

1. Support legislation that encourages strong water efficiency standards and increased water conservation strategies.
2. Support legislation that would increase the availability of, and funding for, water reuse technologies, water recycling, local water storage, and other water supply technologies.
3. Support measures to increase water supply and improve water quality in the region, including drought relief legislation.

PUBLIC SAFETY

1. Support measures that encourage community safety and well-being.
2. Support legislation and implementation of State programs and policies that promote pedestrian and bicycling safety.
3. Support legislation to provide a greater share of asset forfeiture funds and increased latitude for spending local funds.
4. Support legislative efforts to increase the amount of grant funding for local law enforcement operations, including school resource officers, and disaster preparedness initiatives.
5. Support legislation that discourages drivers from operating motor vehicles while under the influence of drugs or alcohol and maintain state funding to conduct sobriety checkpoints.
6. Support initiatives involving County, State, and Federal governments to reduce and prevent homelessness.