



LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

CITY • OF • ONTARIO • 2020

ONTARIO CITY COUNCIL



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PURPOSE STATEMENT

The 2020 Legislative Platform provides a framework for the City of Ontario’s Legislative Program. Adopted annually, the City’s Legislative Platform serves as a reference guide for legislative positions and objectives that provide direction for City Staff throughout the year. The Legislative Platform is an embodiment of the City Council Goals and is the foundation of a focused advocacy strategy.



LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The primary objective of the Legislative Platform is to establish official City positions on clearly stated legislative issues at the start of the legislative year.

The Legislative Platform is developed and maintained using the goals and objectives of the City Council, a review of legislative priorities from the League of California Cities, the County of San Bernardino, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA), input from City Staff, research of current law and pending legislation, as well as discussions with local legislative staff and the City’s legislative advocates.

Federal and state legislative proposals and policies consistent with the Legislative Platform may be supported by the City. Those policies or proposals inconsistent with this agenda may be opposed by the City. Generally, the City will not address matters that are not pertinent to the City’s local government services, such as social or international issues. The City may take nuanced positions such as support or oppose “if amended” as a situation warrants, but will not issue letters of concern without express City Council approval.

City departments are encouraged to monitor and be knowledgeable of any legislative issues related to their discipline. However, any requests for the City to take positions on a legislative matter must be directed to the Management Services Agency. City departments may not take positions on legislative issues without Management Services Agency review and City Manager approval.

2020 PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

STATE

- Support efforts, such as the Reducing Crime and Keeping California Safe Act of 2020, to assist law enforcement and counter rising crime rates statewide.
- Oppose legislation seeking to reallocate revenue obtained from the Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax.
- Oppose legislation seeking to block local governments from using economic development tools to generate revenue and facilitate job creation.
- Support legislation and CalPERS regulations that ensure the sustainability of public pension and retirement systems.
- Oppose legislation that eliminates local control of housing development by exempting classes of projects or types of uses from City land use regulations, or dilutes the City's authority to determine density, aesthetic, or parking requirements.
- Pursue funding for revitalization efforts in Downtown Ontario.
- Support efforts to place transit investments in San Bernardino County, subject to the appropriate consultation and consent of concerned local jurisdictions.
- Support the allocation of new funding for homelessness services and the construction of transitional housing facilities.
- Oppose legislation and regulations which preempt local control and regulatory authority on cannabis manufacturing, sales, and delivery.
- Oppose legislation that prohibits cities from contracting for personal services or creates burdensome reporting requirements for doing so.
- Oppose any linkage of state SB 1 funding, or other state grant funding, to the satisfaction of state housing requirements, including Regional Housing Needs Assessment quotas.



FEDERAL

- Support the increase of Federal Housing Administration mortgage loan limits in San Bernardino County.
- Support allocations of funding to address airplane sound mitigation.
- Support the preservation of tax-exempt private activity bonds and the low income housing tax credit program.
- Support new appropriations of funds for the maintenance and construction of transportation and airport infrastructure.
- Support legislation to reverse the FAA's determination that the Airport and Airway Improvement Act requires state and county sales taxes revenues derived from jet fuel sales to be used only for air travel-related expenses.
- Support congressional review and attention to ensure that local businesses and residents are not disproportionately or adversely effected by the enforcement of federal regulations concerning Virulent Newcastle Disease.

COUNTY/REGIONAL

- Support studies and funding to improve access to Ontario International Airport, including rail, contingent on local control of the project segments within San Bernardino County.
- Support efforts to implement commuter rail service on Union Pacific Railroad's Alhambra Subdivision, and to establish train stops at downtown Ontario as well as the Ontario International Airport.
- Support efforts to secure funding necessary to extend Foothill Gold Line light rail service to Claremont and ultimately the Montclair Transit Center, as well as to secure funding to complete a plan to facilitate service to Ontario International Airport.
- Support efforts to preserve local control and ensure adequate representation of the City and its interests at the Chino Basin Watermaster and Inland Empire Utilities Agency.
- Support regional efforts to promote Ontario International Airport.
- Oppose any efforts to eliminate or erode City control over 9-1-1 dispatch, including the City's ability to maintain its own data system.
- Support efforts to link greater amounts of funding to jurisdictions with large allocations under the Regional Housing Needs Assessment
- Support efforts to encourage the construction of schools in Ontario Ranch, including the identification of priority school sites.
- Support studies to consider the consolidation of Omnitrans with SBCTA.
- Actively communicate with local and regional agencies to coordinate the deployment of resource to address regional issues such as Virulent Newcastle Disease and Citrus Greening Disease.

ADDITIONAL 2020 LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS - STATE

Transportation and Infrastructure

- Work with regional partners—governmental, private, and nonprofit—to identify and pursue funding for projects improving infrastructure within the City.
- Support funding for non-motorized/active transportation infrastructure such as bicycle trails and pedestrian access.
- Support the consideration of public-private partnerships (P3s) in the development of transportation improvements.
- Support legislation and programs that fund transit-oriented development near rail and bus rapid transit stations while maintaining local control.
- Support legislation that protects local government authority over telecommunications facilities placed within public right-of-ways to include the aesthetics of equipment installed by contractors.
- Collaborate with regional transportation agencies to impact regulatory policies to bring equity and fairness to the Inland Empire region.

Revenue and Taxation

- Support state funding to assist local governments with meeting regional greenhouse gas reduction goals, including, but not limited to, grants, incentive funding, and economic development tools.
- Oppose legislation that would impose state-mandated costs for which there is no guarantee of local reimbursement.
- Oppose any legislation which would pre-empt or reduce local discretion over locally-imposed taxes.
- Oppose legislation that would eliminate the tax exemption for municipal bonds.
- Protect local government authority to collect revenues from telecommunication providers installing equipment within public right-of-ways.
- Support legislation to restore incremental tax funding options to cities, either as infrastructure finance districts, redevelopment agencies, or new funding programs.
- Oppose authority for sales tax initiatives that do not directly return a reasonably equivalent amount of sales tax revenue generated in Ontario back to the City.
- Oppose efforts to divert transportation revenues for non-transportation purposes.
- Oppose efforts to impose state requirements without the consent of the local agency for the expenditure of locally raised revenues.

ADDITIONAL 2020 LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS - STATE

Public Safety

- Oppose regulation that limits a local agency's ability to enforce California Vehicle Code sections or ordinances on parking, particularly the "72-Hour" rule for immobile vehicles.
- Support efforts to coordinate disaster preparedness programs in local jurisdictions and support guidelines to identify the strengths and weaknesses of local preparedness efforts.
- Oppose legislation which would interfere with the ability of law enforcement to remove individuals, either in person or in a vehicle, from public facilities, property, or streets.
- Oppose further legalization of marijuana beyond Proposition 64 allowances.
- Support legislation to regulate the sale of refined butane, for the purpose of curtailing the manufacture of illegal butane honey oil.
- Oppose the expansion of fireworks usage, including the creation of a second sales period before the New Year's holiday.
- Support legislation affirming the ability of local government to restrict the presence and residency of sex offenders near schools, parks, and other locations frequented by children.
- Oppose legislation restricting police tactics when responding to emergency calls.
- Oppose legislation which would interfere with a City's ability to use emerging technology to bolster law enforcement efforts.



Housing and Land Use Planning

- Support legislation that revises the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for purposes of expediting land use and housing projects.
- Support the streamlining of right-of-way acquisition processes.
- Support reduction of housing density requirements to qualify for state grant funding.
- Oppose additional affordable housing production mandates unless funding is appropriated to finance the mandate.
- Support funding and tax incentives for the identification, acquisition, maintenance, adaptive reuse and restoration of historic sites and structures.
- Oppose legislation that eliminates local control over the placement of small cell wireless facilities.
- Support legislation to allow local jurisdictions to work with others to fulfill RHNA requirements in order to meet regional demand.

ADDITIONAL 2020 LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS - STATE

Administrative and Employment Related

- Oppose legislation that mandates costly and unnecessary procedures related to the election process.
- Support efforts to update the Ralph M. Brown Act to help streamline and expedite public meetings.
- Oppose efforts to restrict local control on city districting decisions.
- Oppose legislation that would lessen the ability of local governments to enforce contractual language agreed to and contained within existing franchise documents.
- Support legislation to apply comparative fault to inverse condemnation actions involving a public entity.
- Oppose legislation which would allow the state to modify terms of an executed Joint Powers Authority (JPA) agreement.
- Oppose legislation or policies altering CalPERS eligibility and threshold requirements in a manner detrimental to local government interests.
- Oppose legislation and unfunded mandates imposing impractical requirements on records collection.
- Oppose efforts to strip local governments of their ability to determine term limits within their own jurisdictions.

Community and Human Services

- Support continued state funding for local art, cultural, and music programs.
- Support grants for sustainable growth, environmental equity and healthy living projects.
- Support tax credits for seismic retrofitting of commercial and residential buildings.
- Oppose any regulation mandating the curbside collection of household hazardous waste.
- Support funding for programs such as Mercy House, which help the homeless transition into housing and employment.

Environment

- Support efforts to streamline and improve the CEQA process.
- Support programs to provide refueling/recharging infrastructure for alternative fuel or electric vehicles.
- Support efforts to fund safe and affordable drinking water initiatives without increasing fees for rate payers.
- Support funding for the retrofitting of municipal buildings to increase energy efficiency.
- Support financial incentives for water reuse, and legislation that encourages the treatment of municipal wastewater for non-potable reuse and promotes the development of reasonable regulations to encourage and maximize the responsible use of reclaimed water.
- Support efforts to remediate groundwater contamination.
- Support funding for the implementation of climate action plans.
- Support measures that assist cities and local businesses with state mandated organics recycling requirements.
- Oppose efforts to mandate residential gallons-per-capita restrictions.

ADDITIONAL 2020 LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

FEDERAL



- Assist SBCTA, Omnitrans, and OIAA in pursuing grant funding for infrastructure projects within the City, or those which benefit the City and/or the region.
- Advocate for legislation and regulation that encourages home ownership in the Inland Empire, and that helps facilitate the construction of work force housing.
- Support local control of cell phone towers, including control over placement and design.
- Support local control over cable providers.
- Support legislative efforts to promote net neutrality without regulating internet providers as utilities.
- Support efforts to expand municipal broadband and cooperation of service delivery with the private sector.
- Support local options to privatize various aspects of transportation that would maximize available federal funding.
- Support recognition of the importance of inland ports to overall goods movement systems as part of any investment plan.
- Support streamlined environmental revisions that remove duplication of state and federal processes.
- Support efforts to reform the National Environmental Policy Act in order to create a more efficient process to access federal funds for local projects of all sizes.
- Support efforts to secure funds to facilitate the conversion of public sector fleets to alternative fuels to meet local, state, and federal fleet conversion mandates.
- Maintain full funding for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) and the Assistance to Firefighters grant programs and retain the local cost share waiver for both programs.
- Maintain funding for disaster preparedness, prevention, recovery, and response for all-hazard threats, including resources to upgrade to existing flood control systems.
- Support legislation that provides incentives and resources to expand local planning policies that integrate housing, transportation and land use.
- Maintain the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds and oppose proposals to cap the investor tax deduction on municipal securities investments.
- Support efforts to mitigate potential adverse impact on local small businesses due to tariff implementation.
- Support efforts to apply Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) funding to the environmental remediation, including facility demolition, for facilities closed by prior BRAC rounds.
- Oppose efforts that preempt local government regulation of the use of drones.
- Support legislation that provides immunity to local governments that designate drone “recreational areas.”

ADDITIONAL 2020 LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

COUNTY/REGIONAL



- Pursue funding for projects that improve the quality of life in Ontario.
- Support the allocation of SBCTA transportation funding for projects based on the amount of revenue generated in each jurisdiction.
- Support local input on regional land use and planning issues at SBCTA and SCAG.
- Support efforts to increase the amount of transportation funds allocated to local jurisdictions for discretionary projects.
- Oppose unfunded mandates to the City for any new or continuing program/service.
- Support regional economic development policies that provide for planned economic growth in the City and neighboring communities.
- Support continued development of the SBCTA Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.
- Support expanded public transit options, particularly routes serving Ontario Ranch, Downtown Ontario and the Ontario Airport Metro Center.
- Pursue funding for full bus rapid transit service infrastructure on Holt Boulevard, including center lanes, stations, street widening, and entitlements from Vineyard Avenue to Benson Avenue.
- Pursue Measure I funding for pavement improvement, grade separation projects, and interchange replacements.
- Preserve the City's water rights and encourage regional plans to mitigate drought conditions.
- Support reform of SCAQMD policies to mitigate impacts on the city and regional economy.
- Support accountability measures to increase communication with regional agencies seeking to implement fee increases.

