



City of Culver City
City Council
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Legislative and Policy Platform Purpose Statement

The 2016 Legislative and Policy Platform (“Platform”) provides a framework for the City of Culver City’s legislative program and policy positions. Adopted by the City Council once every two years, the City’s Platform is the foundation of a focused advocacy strategy and serves as a reference guide for legislative and policy positions and objectives that provide direction for the City Council and staff throughout the year.

Legislative and Policy Program Overview

The primary objective of the Platform is for the City Council to adopt official City positions on specific legislative issues and policies. By doing this, the City Council’s approval process is streamlined, because the City Council is providing clear direction to staff on pertinent legislative issues. The Platform is developed and maintained using the goals and objectives of the City’s Work Plan; a review of legislative priorities; input from City Council and staff; research on current law; and review of pending legislation.

Federal, State, and regional legislative proposals, principles, and policies consistent with the Platform may be supported by the City. Those policies or proposals inconsistent with this agenda may be opposed by the City. For proposed legislation, either consistent with the Platform or consistent with positions the City has taken in the past, City staff shall be authorized to prepare position letters for the Mayor’s signature. In the absence of the Mayor, the Vice Mayor may sign position letters on behalf of the City. Any City Council Member may transmit his or her position on any issue as an individual Council Member, and the Council Member must clearly state that he or she is not addressing the issue on behalf of the City Council or the City. Additionally, the City Council would need to provide direction to staff at a City Council meeting, if 1) the item is not addressed in the City’s Platform; 2) the City Council position may result in an increase in taxes or fees for residents or businesses; or 3) the City Council position would result in a financial burden to the City (for example increased staff time or other resources).

The Platform priorities included herein are principally intended to provide direction on matters that affect the funding, programs, projects, and operations of the City of Culver City as a municipal organization. However, the City may advocate a position on social or international issues, if directed to do so by the City Council. While the City Manager’s Office is primarily responsible for legislative issues, City departments should monitor and be knowledgeable of any legislative issues related to their discipline. Any requests for the City to take a position on a legislative matter must be directed to the City Manager’s Office. City departments may not take positions on legislative issues without the City Manager’s Office review and approval.

Program Goals and Strategies/Actions

The Platform's Program Goals and Strategies/Actions are outlined below.

I. Program Goals:

- 1) Advocate the City's legislative interests at the Federal, State, and regional levels.
- 2) Promote cooperation on legislative proposals initiated by Culver City's legislators.
- 3) Inform and share information with our legislators, City Council, and staff on the issues, legislative process, and legislation that could have a potential impact on the City.
- 4) Serve as an active participant with other local governments, the Westside Cities Council of Governments, the Southern California Association of Governments, the Independent Cities Association, the League of California Cities, the National League of Cities, the United States Conference of Mayors, and local professional organizations on legislative issues that are important to the City and our region.
- 5) Seek grant and funding assistance for the City to enhance community projects, services, and programs.

II. Strategies/Actions:

- 1) Staff will communicate the City's legislative positions on proposed Federal, State, and regional legislation, measures, and initiatives.
 - Work with City departments and regional agencies to develop positions on proposed Federal and State legislative measures.
 - Review the positions and analysis done by local government/professional associations in formulating our positions.
 - Track key bills through the legislative process.
 - Take positions only on issues that clearly impact our City or are a threat to local control.
 - Communicate the City's position to federal, state, and county legislators, bill author(s), and committees, through correspondence, phone calls, public testimony, and in-person meetings as follows:
 1. Support: Legislation that the City should support as drafted.
 2. Oppose: Legislation that the City should oppose as drafted.
 3. Oppose unless amended: Legislation the City opposes unless amended.
 4. Support if amended: Legislation the City supports if amended.
 5. Watch: Legislation that the City should continue to monitor.
 - Work cooperatively with other cities, associations, the Culver City Unified School District, and other public agencies to advocate our legislative positions and vice versa.
 - Participate, as necessary, in the drafting and amending of proposed federal and state measures that have the potential to significantly impact the City.

- Provide a copy of the Platform to all legislators who represent Culver City prior to the start of each legislative session.
 - Schedule meetings with City Council Members, the City Manager or his designee, legislators and their representatives, as well as other federal, state, and county regional government officials on an as needed basis, to discuss local government issues, proposed legislation, requests for funding assistance, and City programs and services.
- 2) Seek public, foundation, and private funding through grants, and other discretionary funding for City projects, services, and programs.
- Provide information to City departments on potential grant funding opportunities and recognition programs.
 - Advocate and request letters of support for City projects and grant applications or other resources that are being considered for Federal, State, regional, and foundation funding.
- 3) Work closely with other local governments, the Westside Cities Council of Governments, the Southern California Association of Governments, the Independent Cities Association, the League of California Cities, the National League of Cities, the United States Conference of Mayors, and local professional organizations in advocating for the City's Federal, State, and regional legislative interests.
- Actively participate with the aforementioned bodies, including active involvement in League Policy Committees and other organization briefings and activities in order to stay updated on trends, upcoming initiatives, and pending legislation.
 - Interact with other cities on issues of mutual concern or impact.
 - Interact with regional groups that are involved with legislative programs.
 - Review requests from other governmental and regional organizations to consider supporting their legislative positions and/or funding requests.
- 4) Share information with the City Council, City staff, and the community on legislative issues.
- Work with department heads and staff to determine their legislative priorities and funding needs for the upcoming year.
 - Provide updates on legislative issues throughout the year, educating the community on the City's advocacy efforts on legislative issues.

Culver City Legislative and Policy Statements

Preemption of Local Authority

Support efforts to:

- Protect and/or expand the City's authority and rights over its affairs.

Oppose efforts that:

- Preempt the current authority possessed by the City and delegate that authority to federal, state, or other government agencies.

Economic Stability & Financial Development

Tax Base

Support efforts to:

- Protect the distribution of sales tax to the City.
- Address issues created by Culver City's status as a "low property tax" City.
- Simplify the collection of sales taxes nationwide and provide an equitable method for collecting sales taxes for Internet and catalog sales.
- Exempt cities from paying state sales tax.
- Assist the City in its efforts to create an overall revenue structure which balances both economically stable and volatile sources.

Oppose efforts that:

- Divert revenues from cities by the federal or state government.
- Compromise the City's ability to require and/or collect reasonable business license fees from Culver City businesses.

State and Federal Mandates

Support efforts to:

- Provide funding for federal and state mandates placed upon local government.
- Render mandates invalid if not fully funded.

Oppose efforts that:

- Place a mandate on the City without providing the funds necessary to carry out the mandated program.
- Require any mandated obligations to continue after funding for the mandate has been eliminated.

City Revenues

Support efforts to:

- Favorably address the state/local government fiscal relationship, including the reasonable, adequate, and sufficient allocation of former Tax Increment Funds to the Successor Agency to the Culver City Redevelopment Agency and the Culver City Housing Authority.

Oppose efforts that:

- Decrease revenue which the City receives from or which is collected on behalf of the City by the state.
- Reduce the City's autonomy and flexibility in dealing with the financing of public services.

Employment

Support efforts to:

- Ensure and enhance quality public services by fulfilling the human resource and employee relations needs of the City.
- Reform workers' compensation statutes that streamline the system and provide adequate benefits for injured workers, while continuing to control employer costs.
- Monitor mandates relative to health care costs and services.

Community Development

Housing and Homeless Assistance

Support efforts to:

- Allow local government to make decisions regarding housing density levels.
- Provide federal and state funding and grants that support the creation of and maintenance of existing affordable housing within the City.

- Raise the funding levels and allowable fair market rents for the City's Federal Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program to improve access to rental housing units by low income households and increase the number of households served.
- Reduce homelessness and increase services to the homeless both locally and regionally.
- Increase funding and programs to provide housing and supportive services to homeless individuals.
- Help cities address homeless encampments in a way that balances the needs and rights of the homeless with local health and safety concerns.
- Participate in the County of Los Angeles's effort to combat homelessness and further explore and collaborate with the County to identify and enhance support available for community members who are experiencing homelessness.

Economic Development

Support efforts to:

- Foster the City's efforts to spur economic development, revitalize neighborhoods, and remove blight.
- Develop and promote policies, legislation and grants that help urban areas foster greater economic opportunity.
- Retain, expand, and attract businesses to the City that create jobs compatible with the local workforce and tax revenues for the local economy.
- Ensure that requirements and government mandates for local businesses are reasonable.

Oppose efforts that:

- Impair the City's ability to carry out its mission of improving the economic vitality of the area while preserving the quality of life.
- Mandate or restrict the use of economic development funds.
- Usurp local zoning authority.

Environment

Water Conservation, Water Quality, and Air Quality

Support efforts to:

- Seek the expanded use of recycled water.
- Identify and fund City water conservation programs to reduce demands on the local water supply.
- Conserve water and increase a sustainable, affordable, local water supply for Culver City.
- Continue partnerships to advance recycling, groundwater cleanup, and stormwater capture as the largest elements in the community's future water portfolio.
- Invest in projects to permanently lower outdoor water use and partner with businesses to improve water use efficiency to help meet new demands. The goal is for all new demands to be met entirely by local efforts.
- Seek grants, including partnerships with the private sector, schools, public agencies, and non-profit organizations, to provide assistance with environmental clean-up projects.
- Advance clean-up of and improvements for waterways that affect the City.
- Seek federal and state funding to support the assessment of water quality and the clean-up of Ballona Creek.
- Adopt reasonable environmental regulations aimed at enhancing air and water quality, reducing stormwater pollution, and providing opportunities for corresponding funding mechanisms.
- Ensure that Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements, which represent the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards, are achievable and cost-effective. Also support efforts to provide the funding necessary to meet TMDL requirements.
- Protect municipalities from litigation if they are making good faith efforts to meet TMDL requirements.
- Increase the City's ability to comply with environmental regulations.
- Improve air quality in Culver City and surrounding areas.
- Help municipalities plan for and fund alternative fuel vehicle infrastructure (including electric).
- Ban or impose fees on the distribution of polystyrene containers.

- Obtain funding for greenhouse gas inventories, climate action plans, and other work that will help further the goals of AB 32 and related legislation.
- Place financial responsibility for the disposal of products on product manufacturers, rather than local jurisdictions, and increase Extended Producer Responsibility.
- Ensure that air quality, groundwater and public health are protected during oil and gas drilling.
- Prevent enhanced oil drilling recovery technologies such as hydraulic fracturing, and the disposal of fracking wastewater by injection wells, until the State Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources takes all necessary and appropriate actions to adopt, implement, and enforce comprehensive regulations concerning the practice of these techniques that will ensure that public health and safety and the environment will be adequately protected.

Energy

Support efforts to:

- Preserve municipalities' opportunities to provide energy alternatives to residents and businesses and maintain a utility-established rate structure that is fair and equitable for the City and its residents.
- Promote reliable, affordable, and renewable energy for businesses and residents.
- Establish Community Choice Aggregation legislation and policies, which would allow cities and counties to aggregate the buying power of individual customers within a defined jurisdiction in order to secure alternative energy supply contracts. Oppose fees and penalties that tend to make Community Choice Aggregation cost prohibitive.
- Promote funding solar energy and photovoltaic technology as well as energy conservation-related upgrades to public facilities and the private sector.
- Promote the installation of solar, wind or other renewable energy and offset cost by including a fully bundled retail rate credit for the energy they generate that is equivalent to their use of electricity at all customer sites.
- Eliminate site-specific "net metering" requirements for municipalities that wish to acquire solar, wind or other renewable energy systems, such as the current restrictions which prevent or make it difficult for the City to produce solar power at one facility and take credit for it on the bill at another facility.

Community Safety

Public Safety, Crime Prevention, and Fire Services

Support efforts to:

- Promote the Police Department's mission of providing visible patrol; criminal investigations; follow-up investigations; traffic accident investigations; and specialized investigations such as identity theft, vice offenses, and similar crimes.
- Advance the Police Department's goals to enhance community safety through the deterrence/prevention of crime, the apprehension of offenders, and the education of the public in self-protective measures to minimize victimization.
- Participate in procedural justice training for sworn and non-sworn supervisors - *Procedural Justice for Law Enforcement Agencies: Organizational Change through Decision Making and Policy* and support national efforts to implement the recommendations outlined in *President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing* Report.
- Continue to identify mental health resources available through partnerships (Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, local nonprofit organizations) for response, care and treatment of individuals in need. Pursue grant opportunities for new mental health programs.
- Increase the Fire Department's ability to provide Emergency Medical Services; fire suppression and rescue services; hazardous material spill mitigation; fire prevention; arson investigation; and public education.
- Increase funding for new technology and equipment and improve and replace existing technology and equipment for Police and Fire, including resources to support the Interagency Communications Interoperability System (ICI System).
- Provide funding for public safety facilities, including resources to support the construction of a replacement Drill Tower/Classroom facility.
- Provide funding for equipment, training, educational materials and exercises that enhance local capabilities to mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from small to large scale incidents and emergencies.
- Maintain City reimbursements for personnel costs paid to public safety employees for training and required appearances in state and/or county courts.
- Continue the availability of regional healthcare facilities, such as Southern California Hospital at Culver City; Cedars-Sinai Urgent Care facility; UCLA

Behavioral Health Associates - West Washington; and Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services.

Arts and Entertainment

Support efforts to:

- Expand arts opportunities for the public.
- Identify funding for the City's community arts programs and arts education in our schools.
- Keep film, television, and commercial advertisement production and post-production in Culver City, California, and the United States.
- Recognize and preserve the arts as an economic value and resource to the City.

Parks & Recreation

Support efforts to:

- Support legislation to preserve and enhance Culver City's quality of life by: improving and protecting our parks and natural resources through environmental best practices; making our parks safer, cleaner and healthier; facilitating and providing recreation and leisure opportunities; promoting health, wellness and human development; strengthening our sense of cultural unity through recognizing our cultural diversity; and strengthening our community's image and sense of place through collaboration with community members and groups.
- Support legislation, grants, and funding for parks and recreation, programs, maintenance, parkland acquisition, and capital improvements, to increase the quality of life for Culver City residents.
- Explore legislation and seek grants that are intended to serve dense urban areas.
- Support legislation that limits the City's liability at park and recreation facilities to instances when the City has acted negligently.

Senior & Social Services

Support efforts to:

- Maintain or increase funding for senior housing and nutrition programs, disabled services, paratransit services, and intergenerational care programs.
- Fund educational, recreational and physical fitness related programs for seniors.

- Seek funding that provides financial relief for cities in making facilities and other public places accessible as mandated by the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).
- Secure Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding at least at the current annual levels.

Youth & Education

Support efforts to:

- Promote services for the City's youth including youth employment, mentoring, diversion, and intervention programs.
- Enhance the services provided to children, parents, and families, including early education programs.
- Collaborate with the Culver City Unified School District on the Culver City Compact and secure funding that assists in enhancement and further development of education and the Youth Health Center.

Transportation

Support efforts to:

- Maintain and increase funding for transportation operations, programs and projects throughout the City including public transit, alternative transportation, bicycle and pedestrian projects; to enhance safety, reduce congestion, and increase efficient circulation in the City.
- Encourage the use of innovative, efficient, and renewable alternative fuels for vehicles.
- Permanently extend tax credits for alternative fuels and related infrastructure, including alternative fuels and related infrastructure to expand them to include electric and hybrid electric.
- Promote goals and objectives in the City Council Adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, including the "Complete Streets" transportation policy and design approach.
- Advocate for the preservation and enhancement of funding for the *Safe Routes to Schools* Program.
- Increase funding for regional rail projects.

- Fund the I-10/Robertson Interchange and other projects that will help relieve traffic congestion in the Westside subregion.
- Enhance and protect federal, state, and regional funding for Culver City's mass transit and transportation projects.
- Implement the *Vision Zero* initiative and other programs, policies, or initiatives that prioritize transportation safety and pursue the elimination of death and severe injury crashes on our roadways.
- Use public and private partnerships to successfully influence favorable policy outcomes.

Public Works

Support efforts to:

- Ensure that the City maintains public rights-of-way control and is allowed to collect fair compensation for its use.
- Maintain and increase funding for streets, roads, alley maintenance, and transportation infrastructure programs throughout the City.
- Reduce barriers to local governments' implementation of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, including innovative treatments.
- Identify funding for the City's aging sewer system.
- Preserve the right of local government to set fee structures.
- Identify increased funding for traffic mitigation and congestion management.
- Maintain local control over construction contract management, including retention amounts and prevailing wages.

Oppose efforts that:

- Put additional responsibility on municipalities for the maintenance of sidewalks and other public infrastructure without adequate funding.
- Compromise local control in regards to refuse collection, recycling, hazardous materials handling, landfill operations, and the safe transport of waste both interstate and intrastate.
- Would compromise local control in regards to sewer operations and treatment.

Telecommunications

Support efforts to:

- Promote “Culver Connect”, the City’s municipal broadband program.
- Provide individual universal access to the Internet.
- Ensure that the City receives the maximum benefit from Internet commerce.
- Maintain, facilitate, and protect Municipal Broadband Wireless Deployment.

Additional Issues

City’s Liability

Support efforts to:

- Shield cities from being treated as “deep pockets”.
- Limit liability to instances when cities have acted negligently.
- Limit the instances when cities have to pay damages without having acted negligently.

Oppose efforts that:

- Impair the City’s ability to meet existing legal and contractual obligations.

Government Transparency, Participation, Accessibility, and Public Notification

Support efforts to:

- Provide for greater opportunities for transparency, enhanced delivery of government information, government accountability and public access for the community.
- Increase opportunities and funding for collaborative problem solving, information accessibility and inclusion in participatory processes whenever possible.
- Allow electronic communications (e-mail, social media) as an accepted form of communication for mandated notifications.

Code Enforcement

- Oppose legal requirements and constraints that would inhibit the City’s ability to perform nuisance abatement related to conditions, activities and places.

Airplane Overflights

Support efforts to:

- Require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to commission a study of the noise, air quality, health and other impacts of airplane flights on affected residents of certain metropolitan areas, including the Los Angeles/Culver City metropolitan area.
- Study the health impacts of airplane flights on residents exposed to a range of noise and air pollution levels from such flights. Studies should include the examination of the health impacts of airplane flights on residents, including asthma exacerbation, sleep disturbance, stress, and elevated blood pressure.
- Study impacts on residents living partly or wholly within the land area underneath the flight paths most frequently used by aircraft flying, including during takeoff or landing, at an altitude lower than 10,000 feet.
- Research those impacts that manifest during the physical implementation of the NextGen RNAV program on flights departing from or arriving at Los Angeles International Airport.
- Identify Federal Aviation Administration funding to mitigate the noise, air quality, health and other impacts that result from living, working, and going to school underneath flight paths.

Oppose efforts that:

- Modify flight paths that would result in negatively impacting noise levels and air quality.

Civil and Human Rights

Support efforts to:

- Encourage equality, equal pay, marriage equality, religious freedom, immigrant rights, diversity, and social justice.
- Condemn all hateful speech and violent action directed people based on their religious beliefs, their immigration status, their race, their ethnicity, or their sexual orientation.
- Reject political tactics that use fear to manipulate voters or to gain power or influence.

- Commit to pursuing a policy agenda that affirms civil and human rights, and ensures that those targeted on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, or immigration status can turn to government without fear of recrimination.
- Reaffirm the value of a pluralistic society, the beauty of a society composed of multiple cultures, and the inalienable right of every person to live and practice their faith without fear.