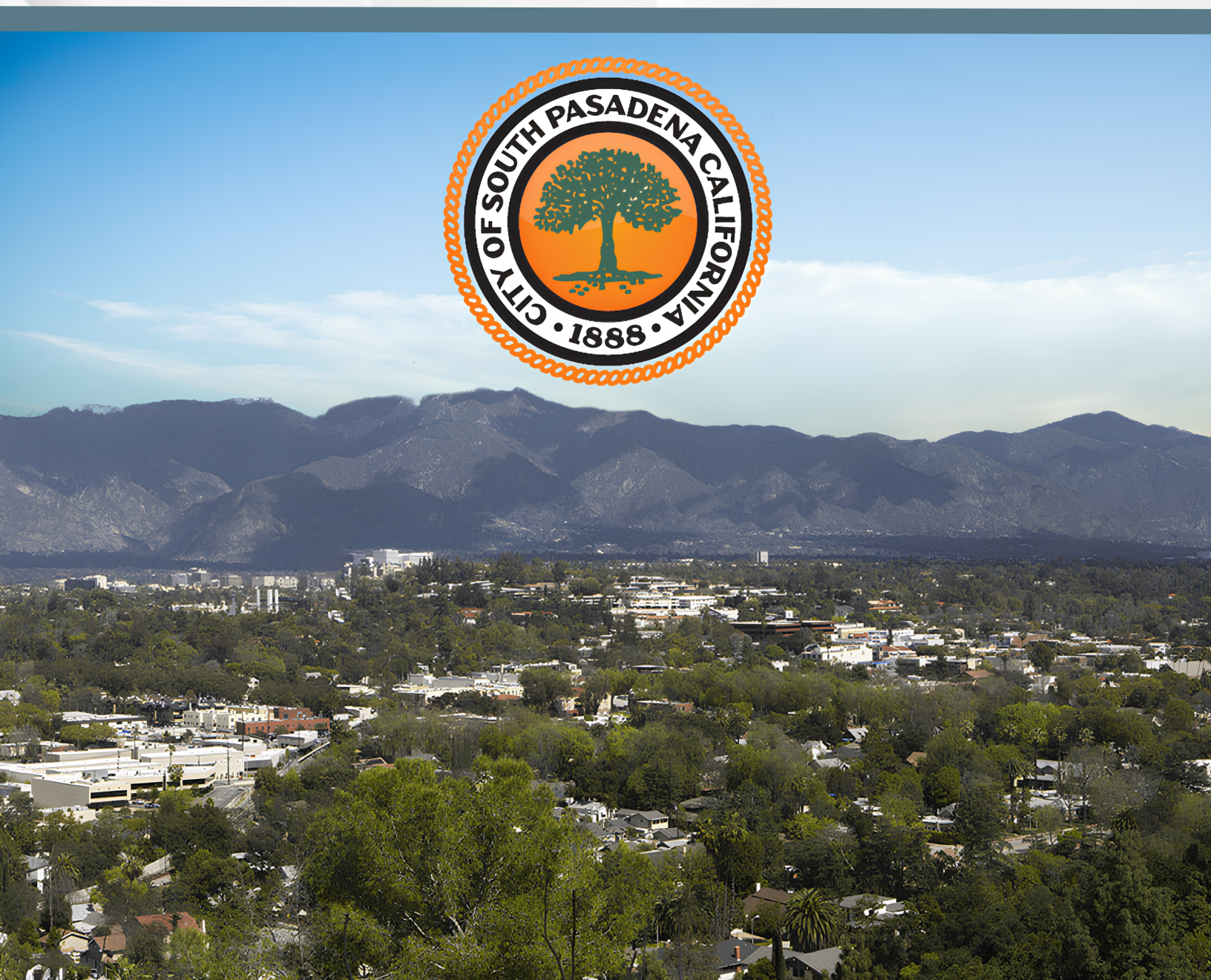


City of South Pasadena Legislative Platform

2024



ABOUT:

A legislative platform is a formal document that outlines the priorities, goals, and positions of a government entity, organization, or community regarding legislative matters.

It serves as a guide for decision-making and advocacy efforts related to proposed laws and policies at various levels of government, such as local, state, or federal.

The City of South Pasadena's Legislative Platform is formulated with consideration and analysis of documents including the City's 2021-2026 Strategic Plan and other policy documents adopted by the City Council.

Process for Responding to Legislative Proposals:

- 1. Once a determination is made that a legislative proposal may impact the City, a letter outlining the City's position (supporting or opposing the issue) will be drafted for the Mayor's signature.**
- 2. If the Mayor is unavailable, the Mayor Pro Tem will sign the position letter.**
- 3. If a legislative issue is not addressed in the Legislative Platform but impacts the City, staff will place the matter on the next City Council agenda for consideration.**
- 4. The position letter will be sent to the bill's author, the City's legislative representatives, Cal Cities, and other stakeholders as deemed appropriate.**
- 5. A copy of the final letter will be distributed to the full City Council.**

LOCAL CONTROL

Support:

- Legislation that enhances local control and allows cities to address the needs of local constituents within a framework of regional cooperation.
- Legislation that streamlines and simplifies the job of managing the City.

Oppose:

- Preemption of local authority whether by state or federal legislation of ballot propositions.
- Efforts that erode the City's authority to control its own affairs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Support:

- Legislation that preserves or increases funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program as provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Legislation that enhances the City's efforts to retain existing businesses and attract new businesses.
- Legislation that provides tangible and productive tools and incentives to support new investment and community development.
- Legislation that provides funding for the production of affordable housing.
- Efforts to increase resources for critical and sustainable local infrastructure projects including roads, public transit, active transportation, water availability, and broadband deployment that enhance workforce and economic development and improve quality of life.
- Legislation that increases Economic Development funding opportunities.

Oppose:

- Legislation that will reduce funds dedicated to the CDBG program.

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS

Support:

- Legislation and local, state, and federal programs that employ evidence-based best practice 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, including but not limited to mental health and substance abuse counseling services).
- Efforts to increase the supply and affordability of housing and resources to assist individuals at risk of homelessness, while preserving historic resources and local decision making to ensure cities retain flexibility based on the land use needs of each community.
- Legislation regarding Social Services, Mental Health services, and Veterans support.

LAND USE

Support:

- Legislation that strengthens the concept of local control/local home rule for local decision making on land use and zoning matters.
- Legislation that would increase available funding for affordable housing.
- Reforms and improvements to housing element law to provide clear protections for local jurisdictions to preserve historic resources and processes and flexibility to allow regional cooperation; and to establish realistic housing goals and performance standards—including modifications in criteria and methodology -to meet the State's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) goals.
- Legislation that strengthens local governments' regulatory authority and control over the siting of marijuana industries.

Oppose:

- Legislation that imposes unreasonable mandatory development standards in transit intensive areas and residential neighborhoods.
- Legislation that places new restrictions on local land use control and transportation funding tied to external factors beyond municipal control.
- 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.

TRANSPORTATION

Support:

- Measures to finance local and regional transportation programs and improvements, including Active Transportation Mode and Complete and Green Streets, and extension of Gold Line.
- Continuous appropriations of new monies directly to cities for the preservation, maintenance, rehabilitation, and development of local street and road systems.
- Efforts to fully fund the Transportation Systems Management (TSM)/Travel Demand Management (TDM) alternatives in accordance with prior City positions.
- Efforts to relinquish the properties along the SR-710 freeway between I-10 and I-210 back to the local jurisdictions.
- Legislation and opportunities for street and sidewalk maintenance programs and increased funding.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Support:

- Full cost reimbursement to the City for all federal, state and county-mandated programs.
- Legislation that strengthens and expands ongoing revenue for the City.
- Legislation for increased grants access and funding opportunities.
- Any legislation for technology funding, access and equitability, and technology replacement programs.

Oppose:

- Legislation that would make local agencies more dependent on the State for financial stability and policy direction.
- Legislation that would impose State mandated costs for which there is no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits.
- Any change in revenue allocations that would negatively (current or future) affect local government, including the redistribution of sales tax, property tax, COPS grants, Proposition 172 funds, gas tax (HUTA), transient occupancy tax (TOT) and vehicle in-lieu fees (VLF).
- Legislation that undermines and preempts local authority over local taxes and fees.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Support:

- Federal, state, and local assistance for local police, fire, and homeland security initiatives, and any measures that will help contribute to local public safety.
- Efforts that strengthen local law enforcement's ability to prevent and fight crime.
- Legislation that minimizes alcohol-related criminal behavior and underage drinking.
- Equitable public safety reforms that reduces liability to cities, improves public safety in the community, and strengthens community relations with peace officers, while addressing concerns over excessive use of force and distrust in peace officers.
- Legislation and additional resources to strengthen community disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery in collaboration with the state and federal governments.
- Ongoing efforts to mitigate wildfire disasters through responsible brush and forestry management, including coordination between local and state governments and utility providers.
- Efforts to fund crisis response units such as the San Gabriel Valley Crisis Assistance Response and Engagement (CARE), sponsored by the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG).

Oppose:

- Legislation that would impede local law enforcement from addressing crime problems and recovering costs resulting from a crime committed by the guilty party.
- Efforts to reprioritize public safety funding and programs without proper procedural or stakeholder engagement that would result in decreased public safety services and increased crime.

ENERGY

Support:

- Protect Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) local control and autonomy, especially with regard to finances, power procurement, reliability, and local customer programs.
- Legislation that keeps funding for public benefits programs in local communities.
- CCA efforts to purchase renewable energy at competitive rates and create benefits and savings for cities, small businesses, and residents.
- Equal treatment of bundled and unbundled customers by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and other state agencies.
- Efforts to expand consumer access to renewable energy, such as incentives and grants for solar, which would reduce reliance on non-renewable sources.

WATER

Support:

- Legislation that provides funding for Water Infrastructure, Security and Programs that promote water reuse and conservation.
- Legislation that extends the compliance period for Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) in drinking water.
- Support practical, feasible, and affordable solutions to meet mandatory compliance with water quality and treatment standards, notwithstanding prior agreements that otherwise limit cities' ability to undertake such activities.

Oppose:

- Efforts to mandate a state water public benefits charge unless funds remain within the local community.
- New regulations that do not allow appropriate time and resources to achieve compliance.
- Actions by Regional Water Quality Control Boards that impose mandates on cities that exceed state or federal regulations and/or are outside their jurisdictional authority to impose or enforce.

ENVIRONMENT

Support:

- Policy development, funding, research, and implementation strategies based on scientific data and human/ecological risk assessment for addressing urban water and storm water runoff.
- Policy development, “watershed based” solutions, funding and research for addressing urban runoff and beach closures, which identify the sources of bacterial, viral and other contaminants as well as human pathogens.
- Initiatives to advance the State’s goals for sales of all new passenger vehicles to be zero-emission by 2035 and additional measures to eliminate harmful emissions from the transportation sector and lawn care maintenance industry.
- Legislation for enhanced electrification infrastructure.

Oppose:

- Legislation that imposes undue hardship on local agencies to implement environmental regulations.

ARTS & CULTURE

Support:

- Legislation that will help maintain and enhance the City's performance arts venues, and funding for arts development, and incorporate the commitment to diversity in City sponsored performances from Sundown Town Resolution No. 7750.

Oppose:

- Any reductions and/or eliminations of arts and library programming or funding.

COMMUNITY SERVICES/RECREATION

Support:

- Legislation that will help provide residents with safe, accessible services and facilities.

Oppose:

- Action that depletes services and funding sources created to enhance the community's varying needs.

EMPLOYEE & LABOR RELATIONS

Support:

- Reform measures that provide sustainable and secure public pensions and other post-retirement benefits to ensure responsive and affordable public services.
- Legislation that streamlines the Workers' Compensation system and makes it easier for employers, employees, and health care providers to navigate.

Oppose:

- Any measure that imposes upon local government mandated employee benefits that are more properly decided at the local level.
- Efforts which reduce local control over public employee disputes and impose the regulations of an outside agency.
- Efforts to legislate changes in how the California Public Employee Pension System invests its assets if the proposed changes will result in a loss of funds.

ELECTIONS

Support:

- Legislation that provides small to mid-sized cities to have at-large elections instead of divisive districts, and public education efforts about redistricting laws, maps, and impacts.

FILMING

Support:

- Efforts that promote and retain film and television jobs in California.