



City of South Pasadena Legislative Platform 2021-2022

The primary objective of the Legislative Platform is for the City Council to adopt official City positions on specific legislative issues, including proposed state initiatives, at the start of the legislative session. The legislative platform will streamline the approval process by providing staff clear direction on pertinent issues at the beginning of the legislative session.

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, input from City Council and staff, research of current law and pending legislation, as well as discussions with local legislative staff and the City's legal counsel.

For proposed legislation, either consistent with the City's legislative priorities or consistent with legislative positions the City has taken in the past; City staff shall be authorized to prepare position letters for the Mayor's signature after City Council consideration. Items not addressed in the City's legislative priorities will require further Council direction, and staff will be required to submit a request to Council. Legislative priorities may only address issues directly relevant to or impacting the provision of municipal services.

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 City Manager's Office. City departments may not take positions on legislative issues without City Manager's Office review and approval.

The process for responding to legislative proposals is streamlined as follows:

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, the League of California Cities, and other stakeholders as deemed appropriate.
5. A copy of the final letter will be distributed to the City Council.

City of South Pasadena Legislative Platform

LOCAL CONTROL	<ol style="list-style-type: none">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 preemption of local authority whether by state or federal legislation or ballot propositions.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.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Oppose legislation that erodes the ability of cities to condition and deny projects that negatively impacts to the community.2. 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. Support legislation that expands the eligibility and allowable uses of CDBG funds. Oppose legislation that will reduce funds dedicated 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 new investment and community development.5. Support legislation that provides funding for the production of affordable housing.6. Support 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.

<p style="text-align: center;">HOUSING/ HOMELESSNESS</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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). 2. Support 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. 3. Work collaboratively to facilitate the purchase, rehabilitation, and resale of the Caltrans-owned SR 710 surplus properties in compliance.
<p style="text-align: center;">LAND USE</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oppose legislation that imposes unreasonable mandatory development standards in transit intensive areas and residential neighborhoods. 2. Support legislation that strengthens the concept of local control/local home rule for local decision making on land use and zoning matters. 3. Support legislation that would increase available funding for affordable housing. 4. Support 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. 5. Oppose legislation that places new restrictions on local land use control and transportation funding tied to external factors beyond municipal control. 6. Support legislation that strengthens local governments’ regulatory authority and control over the siting of marijuana industries. 7. Oppose 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.

<p>TRANSPORTATION</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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. 2. Support continuous appropriations of new monies directly to cities for the preservation, maintenance, rehabilitation, and development of local street and road systems. 3. Support efforts to fully fund the TSM/TDM alternatives in accordance with prior City positions. 4. Support efforts to relinquish the property along the SR-710 freeway between the I-10 and I-210 back to the local jurisdictions
<p>FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oppose any legislation that would make local agencies more dependent on the State for financial stability and policy direction. 2. Oppose legislation that would impose State mandated costs for which there is no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits. 3. Oppose 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). 4. Support full cost reimbursement to the City for all federal, state and county-mandated programs. 5. Support legislation that strengthens and expands ongoing revenue for the City. 6. Oppose legislation that undermines and preempts local authority over local taxes and fees. 7. Support efforts to secure direct and flexible funding and resources for cities to protect residents from the COVID-19 pandemic, deliver essential services, support small businesses, and assist the community's ability to fully recover from the effects of the pandemic. 8. Support suspension of the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement for SB1 funding (Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program) in consideration of the economic challenges cities are facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

<p>PUBLIC SAFETY</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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. 2. Oppose legislation that would impede local law enforcement from addressing crime problems and recovering costs resulting from a crime committed by the guilty party. 3. Support efforts that strengthen local law enforcement’s ability to prevent and fight crime. 4. Support legislation that minimizes alcohol-related criminal behavior and underage drinking. 5. Support 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. 6. Oppose 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. 7. Support legislation and additional resources to strengthen community disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery in collaboration with the state and federal governments. 8. Support ongoing efforts to mitigate wildfire disasters through responsible brush and forestry management, including coordination between local and state governments and utility providers.
<p>ENERGY</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) local control and autonomy, especially with regard to finances, power procurement, reliability, and local customer programs. 2. Support legislation that keeps funding for public benefits programs in local communities. 3. Support CCA efforts to purchase renewable energy at competitive rates and create benefits and savings for cities, small businesses, and residents. 4. Support equal treatment of bundled and unbundled customers by the CPUC and other state agencies. 5. Support efforts to expand consumer access to renewable energy, such as incentives and grants for solar, which would reduce reliance on non-renewable sources.

<p>WATER</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oppose efforts to mandate a state water public benefits charge unless funds remain within the local community. 2. Oppose new regulations that do not allow appropriate time and resources for compliance. 3. Oppose 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. 4. Support legislation that provides funding for Water Infrastructure, Security and Programs that promote water reuse and conservation. 5. Support legislation that extends the compliance period for Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) in drinking water. 6. 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.
<p>ENVIRONMENT</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oppose legislation that imposes undue hardship on local agencies to implement environmental regulations. 2. 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. 3. Support 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. 4. Support 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.
<p>ARTS & CULTURE</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support legislation that will help maintain and enhance the City's performance arts venues, and funding for arts development. 2. Oppose any reductions and/or eliminations of arts and library programming or funding.
<p>COMMUNITY SERVICES/ RECREATION</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support legislation that will help provide residents with safe, accessible services and facilities. 2. Oppose action that depletes services and funding sources created to enhance the community's varying needs.

<p>EMPLOYEE AND LABOR RELATIONS</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oppose any measure that imposes upon local government mandated employee benefits that are more properly decided at the local level. 2. Oppose efforts which reduce local control over public employee disputes and impose the regulations of an outside agency. 3. Support reform measures that provide sustainable and secure public pensions and other post-retirement benefits to ensure responsive and affordable public services. 4. Oppose 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. 5. Support legislation that streamlines the Workers' Compensation system and makes it easier for employers, employees, and health care providers to navigate.
<p>ELECTIONS</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support legislation that provides small to mid-sized cities to have at-large elections instead of divisive districts.
<p>FILMING</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support efforts to promote and retain film and television jobs in California.