



CITY OF IRVINE 2008 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The City Council recognizes the need to protect Irvine's interests and identify various avenues to implement its strategic goals. These goals have traditionally been based on the City Council's understanding that investments of financial, physical, and staffing resources made today ensure that the community's quality of life is preserved and enhanced in the future.

The Council's priorities as defined in the Strategic Business Plan are to make sure that the City is clean, well maintained, and safe: that no visible disorder or deterioration ever takes hold; to promote a prosperous business climate; and ensure cost-effective and responsive services to residents. In part, to be effective in this effort, the City Council has established a Legislative Platform consistent with the City's adopted Strategic Business Plan and General Plan. The goal of the Legislative Platform is to ensure Irvine's fiscal viability and enhance the physical environment.

The Legislative Platform includes City Council policy statements that set forth the City's goals for the 2008 Legislative Session and provides general direction to staff and the City's Legislative Advocates during the year. The Policy Statements are core principles and positions that the City should take to address a variety of issues that may or may not be addressed in the 2008 Legislative Session.

Staff recommends that the Legislative Platform be updated annually to reflect the interests unique to the City of Irvine and interests also common to cities throughout the State. Guided by the Legislative Platform, staff can more effectively respond in a timely manner to new legislation introduced at the state and federal levels. Adoption of the Legislative Platform allows the Mayor or City Manager to send letters to the Legislature and to Congress consistent with the Platform. Moreover, the Platform provides a vehicle for summarizing the City Council's positions on priority issues without precluding the consideration of additional legislative and budget issues that arise during the legislative session.

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POLICY STATEMENTS

I. CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

A. Local Government Finance/Fiscal Stability

1. Oppose measures making cities more dependent on the state for financial stability and policy direction.
2. Oppose measures imposing state-mandated costs when there is no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits.
3. Monitor the State budget deliberations and oppose attempts to balance the State budget by shifting funds from local government.
4. Oppose changes in State law that would limit the ability of charter cities to preserve their local revenue base.
5. Support efforts to bring additional revenue to the state/local revenue structure to meet the needs of a growing population.
6. Support legislation and grants that provide increased funding for public facilities and infrastructure construction, renovation, and development.
7. Support the ability of cities to retain public, educational and government access channels, institutional networks and revenue from cable television providers.

B. Redevelopment

1. Support protection of redevelopment funding and authority.
2. Support efforts that retain the discretion of cities to prohibit or limit their own use of the power of eminent domain to acquire property.
3. Oppose measures that would reduce or redirect tax increment.

C. Libraries

1. Support legislation and grants that provide increased funding for library construction, renovation, and development.

D. Orange County Great Park

1. Oppose any efforts that would jeopardize the development of the Orange County Great Park at the former Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro.
2. Support efforts to secure funding that will support the development of a transit guideway system, which will aid in promoting access and walkability within the Orange County Great Park and Spectrum Area.
3. Support efforts to secure funding to purchase and install fiber optic infrastructure at the Orange County Great Park.
4. Support efforts to secure federal funds that will support the development of park facilities and open space areas at the Orange County Great Park.
5. Support implementing legislation that increases opportunities to compete for Urban Park funds from State Proposition 1C and for Nature Education Centers, Museums and Aquariums and sustainable communities for urban greening from Proposition 84.

E. Government Affairs

1. Monitor mandates in connection with any proposed legislation to implement or revise the governing responsibilities of City Councils or Redevelopment Board Members, including but not limited to ethics, FPPC requirements, compensation, Brown Act, and the California Public Records Act, etc., applicable to both Charter and General Law Cities.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

A. Employee Relations

1. Oppose measures which impose upon local government-mandated employee benefits which can be more properly negotiated at the bargaining table.
2. Oppose proposals that would create additional financial burden on, or threaten the viability of the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS).
3. Oppose efforts that reduce local control over public employee disputes.

III. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A. Air Quality

1. Support measures that provide for continued funding and incentives to cities to work together to improve air quality through the reduction of emissions and advancing economic development.
2. Support air quality efforts that emphasize the use of advanced technologies, market incentives, and incentives for the use of alternative fuels and the development of the infrastructure for alternative fuel vehicles.
3. Support measures that maintain and enhance local decision-making authority, where appropriate, in the development and implementation of air quality attainment strategies.
4. Support legislation and grants that encourage the use of clean-burning alternative fuels for vehicles and that provide incentives and rewards for cities with innovative alternative fuel programs.
5. Support strategies that demonstrate and provide for the most cost-effective means for meeting air quality goals.

B. Housing

1. Support legislation and grants that promote the development and enhancement of affordable, sustainable, and accessible housing within the City.
2. Oppose legislation and measures diminishing the housing and community development authority of local elected officials.
3. Support measures that give local government the legislative authority to implement reasonable housing occupancy standards.
4. Support measures allowing local jurisdictions to pool resources in meeting sub-regional affordable housing goals.
5. Support housing bonds within State capacity limits to increase financial assistance to local governments, redevelopment agencies, nonprofit housing organizations and public/private partnerships to provide affordable, transitional, and emergency housing.

6. Support measures to establish regulations that increase the City's ability to effectively compete for state and federal funding such as Proposition 1C funds.
7. Support housing measures that provide for safe and decent housing for all economic segments of the community.
8. Oppose Federal legislation that would reduce funds dedicated to the Community Development Block Grant Program.
9. Support housing legislation that creates and supports an equitable Regional Housing Needs Allocation process.
10. Support legislation that permits self-certification of the City's Housing Element.

C. Land Use Planning

1. Support land use patterns that maintain safe residential neighborhoods, bolster economic prosperity, preserve open space, and enhance overall quality of life in Irvine.
2. Support efforts to strengthen the legal and fiscal capability of local agencies to prepare, adopt, and implement plans for orderly growth, development, beautification and conservation of local planning areas, including but not limited to, regulatory authority over zoning, subdivisions, and annexations.
3. Oppose legislation that diminishes the City's discretionary ability to approve land use patterns and entitlement applications.

D. Regional Governance/Growth Management

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. Oppose legislation that mandates compliance between the City's local land use authority and regional, sub-regional or countywide plans.
3. Oppose any legislation or acquisition of land that would attempt to establish casino gambling-type operations within the City of Irvine.
4. Support measures to achieve fair and proportionate representation on countywide and regional boards.

5. Support policies promoting wildlife and habitat protection and enhancement, including endangered and threatened species, and sustainable economic development.
6. Support efforts to increase funding for the design and development of a regional multimodal transportation center in the City of Irvine. Enable public-private partnership for such development.
7. Support the fair and effective implementation of the 2006 infrastructure bonds, consistent with the needs of local cities.
8. Support funding for state and local investment in the physical infrastructure of California including, but not limited to, its roadways, bridges, levees, parks, libraries, and systems for delivering and treating water, wastewater, and storm water.
9. Safeguard local land use planning authority; oppose efforts at the regional, state or federal level that would dictate growth and development within the City.

E. Sustainable Development

1. Support funding and incentives for smart growth and sustainable development.
2. Support efforts that promote the use of solar/alternative energy within City facilities and promote solar energy solution programs for residents.
3. Support legislation and grants that would provide funds to support sustainable community infrastructure demonstration projects and renewable energy demonstration projects for publicly owned facilities.
4. Support legislation and grants that would support zero-energy goals and assist in reducing the City's energy usage.

IV. COMMUNITY SERVICES

A. Parks/Recreation

1. Support legislation and grants to fund parks, recreation and capital improvements, and programs to increase the quality of life for Irvine residents.

2. Support and work with County and State officials in the development of regional and State parks.

B. Services to Families and Youth

1. Support legislation and grants that provide for the reduction of youth obesity and encourage proper nutrition.
2. Support legislation and grants that provide for affordable quality child care services and assistance to low-income families.
3. Support legislation and grants that facilitate the provision of child and youth activities that promote socially productive behavior.
4. Support legislation and policies that promote activities and availability of resources that support and assist families.
5. Support reforms in health care by addressing prevention, health promotion, wellness, affordability, and cost containment.

C. Services to Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

1. Support legislation and grants that provide services for senior citizens, especially in the areas of nutrition, accessibility, housing, transportation, recreation, and social services.
2. Support legislation and grants that provide services for persons with disabilities, especially in the areas of nutrition, accessibility, housing, transportation, recreation, and social services.

D. Animal Care

1. Support efforts that provide for quality care and shelter for impounded animals.
2. Support measures that facilitate responsible pet ownership.
3. Oppose animal services or care measures imposing state-mandated costs when there is no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefit or local fees.

E. Facility Services

1. Support grants and legislation that provide for appropriate construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of public facilities.

V. PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Public Safety

1. Support legislation to provide a greater share of asset forfeiture funds and increased latitude for spending local funds.
2. Oppose the development of maximum-security county facilities within close proximity to residential neighborhoods.
3. Support legislation efforts to improve local law enforcement, fire suppression and prevention, hazardous materials mitigation, rescue, emergency medical services, and disaster preparedness initiatives.
4. Support legislation that seeks to reimburse the City for overtime costs paid to public safety personnel who are required to appear in State and/or County courts.
5. Support legislative efforts to grant state and federal funding to supplement local law enforcement to increase staffing and equipment to maintain the safety, security and the quality of life for Irvine residents.
6. Support legislation that promotes comprehensive drug and alcohol education and rehabilitation.
7. Support legislation that discourages drivers from operating motor vehicles while under the influence of drugs or alcohol and maintain state funding to operate sobriety and driver's license checkpoints.
8. Support legislation and seek funding to assist local law enforcement to reduce crimes related to illicit drugs, burglary, and assault, including domestic violence.
9. Support legislation that provides funding at the local level to promote crime prevention, public outreach, and intervention programs.

B. Crime Victims

1. Support efforts to strengthen and enforce legal protections for all individuals who are victims of crime, especially violent crime including domestic or sexual abuse.
2. Support legislation that provides funding for shelters and related services, including counseling, to assist victims of domestic violence.

C. Homeland Security

1. Support efforts to coordinate homeland security and emergency response efforts among federal, state, and local governments with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all parties involved.
2. Support state and federal funding for counter-terrorism programs, including training.

D. Emergency Preparedness

1. Support legislation that provides funds to cities and counties to enhance Emergency Operation Centers with state-of-the-art technology.
2. Support efforts, strategies, and state and federal legislation that promote and fund emergency preparedness and recovery efforts for cities.
3. Support efforts to secure adequate frequencies and communications systems for multi-jurisdictional connectivity for public safety and protect the frequencies from intrusion.
4. Support an increase in Emergency Management Performance Grant funding retaining flexibility in use of funds for emergency preparedness training and disaster events.

E. Youth

1. Support legislation to treat and assist the needs of at-risk juvenile offenders and juveniles placed on court-ordered formal probation.
2. Support legislation that provides funding at the local level to address gang prevention and intervention programs.
3. Support measures that protect children and youth from tobacco use and tobacco-related products.

VI. PUBLIC WORKS

A. Solid Waste

1. Support measures that expand the market for recyclable materials.
2. Support measures that maintain and enhance local authority and flexibility to regulate solid waste and recyclables.

B. Transportation

1. Support efforts to increase funding for transportation programs and projects within the City.
2. Support measures to enhance the ability of local agencies to finance local transportation programs and facilities.
3. Support measures to assure that Irvine receives its fair share of transportation revenue.
4. Support legislation providing increased State funding for preservation and maintenance of local roads.
5. Support efforts to secure the maximum amount of State funding for the construction and maintenance of local roads, infrastructure, transportation projects and major corridors.
6. Support protection of dedicated transportation-related tax revenues and funding on an annual basis, to maintain and enhance personal mobility and the movement of goods and services.
7. Support development of an integrated, comprehensive, and efficient multi-modal transportation network in Orange County, meeting the needs of its residents and businesses, to include inter-county and intra-county highways, mass transit, high-speed rail, facilities, and infrastructure.
8. Support initiatives to provide transit operations and maintenance funding to local jurisdictions.

C. Utilities

1. Support the ability of local governments to be providers of electricity and ancillary services for the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors.
2. Pursue legislation to specifically allow municipalities to use public-goods funds for development of renewable energy resources.
3. Oppose measures that limit using revenues from a municipal utility for general fund expenditures.
4. Oppose efforts to erode the ability of local governments to maintain existing fees on telecommunications services.
5. Support the authority of cities to zone and plan for the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure.
6. Support the ability of cities to maintain and manage the public right-of-way and receive compensation for its use.

D. Water Supply

1. Support measures to increase water supply and improve drinking-water quality in this region.
2. Support measures that would increase funding for desalination and water reuse technologies, including support for the Groundwater Replenishment System project by the Orange County Water District and the Orange County Sanitation District to create new water supplies through recycling.
3. Support measures that permit the sale, lease, exchange or transfer of surplus water within the State, especially north to south, and agricultural-to-urban transfers.
4. Encourage the conservation of water resources, to the extent practical. Conservation programs among multiple agencies should be coordinated to maximize benefits.

E. Water Quality/Urban Runoff

1. Support solutions to water-quality impairments that are “watershed-based” and reflect state-of-the-art science, including cost-sharing studies with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

2. Support policy development, funding, research, and implementation strategies based on scientific data and human/ecological risk assessment for addressing urban runoff.

F. Miscellaneous

1. Support efforts to reduce the toxic and non-reusable waste load.
2. Support changes in the law that allow cities the option to use design/build contracting and other innovations designed to bring efficiency to public contracting.