



CITY OF IRVINE
2013 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM
Approved: February 12, 2013

The Legislative Platform's purpose is to protect and promote the City's interests on priority issues and matters that may impact the City. It is a key tool for use by City officials, staff and legislative advocates when considering appropriate action to safeguard and/or advance the City's interests at the State or Federal level. Below are the Guiding Principles and Policy Statements that allow City staff to address 2013 legislative and regulatory issues in a timely manner, without precluding the consideration of additional legislative and budget issues that arise during the legislative session. This Platform supplements other City Council established goals and policies reflected in other strategic plans and policy documents.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

I. PRESERVE LOCAL CONTROL

Preserve and protect the City's charter powers, duties and prerogatives to enact local legislation and policy direction concerning local affairs, and oppose legislation that preempts local authority. Local agencies should preserve and enhance authority and accountability for revenues raised and services provided.

II. PROMOTE FISCAL STABILITY

Support measures that promote fiscal stability, predictability, and financial independence. Support measures that preserve the City's revenue base and local control over local government budgeting, recognizing that economic cost is a determinate in considering the merits and/or impacts of any proposed legislation or regulation. Oppose measures that make cities more dependent on the County, State or Federal Governments for financial stability, such as mandated costs with no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits. Oppose measures that shift local funds to the County, State or Federal Governments, without offsetting benefits.

III. SUPPORT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Support opportunities that allow the City to compete for its fair share of regional, state and federal funding, and that maintain funding streams. Opportunities may include competitive grant and funding programs. Opportunities could also include dedicated funding streams at the regional, state and federal levels that allow the City to maximize local revenues, offset and leverage capital expenditures, and maintain City goals and standards.



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POLICY STATEMENTS

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

A. Governmental Affairs

1. Support the preservation and enhancement of the City's ability to generate and retain sales and use tax revenue, and local point-of-sale revenue allocations.
2. Monitor mandates in connection with proposed administrative or legislative action that would modify the governing responsibilities and regulation of City Councils or Successor Agencies to former Redevelopment Agencies.
3. Support legislation that modifies requirements for publication of legal notices to allow for electronic posting.
4. Support economic development initiatives that preserve and enhance a positive business climate and maintains and grows the business tax base.

B. Post Redevelopment

5. Support efforts to pursue funding mechanisms in support of infrastructure development, economic development and housing needs associated with military base reuse.
6. Support efforts to streamline the redevelopment dissolution process with consistency and equitability.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

A. Employee Relations

7. Oppose measures that reduce local control or create additional financial burden related to employee relation and collective bargaining issues that can be more appropriately negotiated at the bargaining table.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A. Building Code

8. Support adoption of effective state building codes to promote community building safety and mitigation of natural hazards.
9. Support adoption of effective and clear green building standards in the California Building Code.

10. Support adoption of accessibility standards in the California Building Code consistent with federal standards.

B. Housing

11. Support housing measures that promote the development and enhancement of safe and affordable housing, and accessible housing within the City, for all economic segments of the population.
12. Support reforms to housing element law that address potential conflicts between local growth projections and State regional housing need numbers, regional transportation plans, sustainable community strategies and problems associated with the distribution of Regional Housing Needs Assessment units within a council of governments.

C. Land Use Planning

13. 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.

D. Regional Governance/Growth Management

14. Oppose any expansion of the Orange County Sheriff's Department Musick Jail facility which changes the character of the facility; houses medium- or maximum-security inmates; or "rents" beds to federal, state or other jurisdictional agencies; and oppose the development of any law enforcement facility within close proximity to residential neighborhoods or educational facilities.
15. 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.
16. Support measures to achieve and maintain fair and proportionate representation on countywide and regional boards.
17. Support policies promoting wildlife and habitat protection and enhancement, including endangered and threatened species, consistent with the City's participation in the Orange County Central-Coastal Natural Communities Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan and other related plans.
18. Support the fair and effective implementation of State infrastructure bonds consistent with the needs of diverse local cities.

E. Water Supply and Water Quality

19. Support measures to increase water supply, encourage conservation of water resources, and improve drinking-water quality in this region.
20. 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.
21. Support “watershed-based” regulations and legislation to address water-quality improvements and urban runoff, using scientific data and human/ecological risk assessment, which also promotes cost-sharing with watershed partners, State/Federal agencies, including Corps of Engineers.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

A. Parks, Recreation and Open Space; Services to Families, Youth, Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

22. Oppose attempts by the State to reduce Proposition 10 funding, which promotes early childhood development and school readiness for children up to age 5.
23. Support legislation and policies that promote effective and relevant wellness and prevention efforts, including mental health resources, which support and strengthen families and youth.
24. Support and work with County and State officials in the development of regional and State parks and open space, consistent with Irvine policies and priorities.
25. Support grants and legislation that provide for appropriate construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of public facilities.
26. Support measures and funding that promote youth related prevention and intervention programs and increase participation in after school educational and recreational programs.

B. Animal Care

27. Oppose animal services or care measures imposing state-mandated costs when there is no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefit or local fees.

C. Energy and Environment

28. Support efforts to promote solar and alternative energy and other advanced technologies to reduce energy use.

29. Support measures that expand markets for recyclable materials and maintain local authority and flexibility to regulate solid waste and recyclables.

ORANGE COUNTY GREAT PARK

30. Oppose efforts that would jeopardize the development of the Orange County Great Park at the former Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, including the use of federal lands and all agreements made at the time of base closure and transfer.
31. Support efforts to secure federal and state funds for programs and activities, and the development, operation and maintenance of facilities and open space areas, including infrastructure implementation (sewer, water, natural gas, electricity), at the Orange County Great Park.
32. Support implementing legislation that increases opportunities to compete for Federal, State and local grants and future bond measures to meet 2013 goals including, but not limited to:
 - 32a. Park and Recreation - Support ongoing construction efforts, including the Western Sector Development Plan.
 - 32b. Water – Obtain funding for water infrastructure planning and projects, including but not limited to, the Orange County Great Park Storm Water Management Plan.
 - 32c. Transportation – Secure funding to improve access and mobility both to and within the Orange County Great Park
 - 32d. Agriculture – Support efforts to expand both agricultural operations and educational programming to demonstrate to visitors the importance of fresh produce and nutrition.
 - 32e. Education/Culture – Obtain funding to support the development and expansion of Board approved programming.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Public Safety

33. Support legislation to provide a greater share of and increased latitude to spend asset forfeiture funds.
34. Support legislative efforts to improve local law enforcement, fire suppression and prevention, hazardous materials mitigation, rescue, emergency medical services, and disaster preparedness.

35. Support legislation to reimburse the City for overtime costs paid to public safety personnel who are required to appear in State and/or County courts,
36. Oppose efforts to impose booking fees for arrestees brought to jail.
37. Support legislative efforts to grant state and federal funding to supplement local law enforcement to increase staffing, equipment and capital improvements to maintain public safety.
38. Support Federal efforts to provide law enforcement/public safety agencies greater access to wireless communication necessary to support a national wireless broadband network capable of use by any public safety entity to serve and protect communities throughout the nation.
39. Support legislation that promotes comprehensive and effective drug and alcohol education and rehabilitation and oppose attempts by the State to eliminate non-court inmate rehabilitation programs.
40. Support legislation and seek funding to assist local law enforcement to reduce crimes related to illicit drugs, burglary, and assault, including domestic violence, and sobriety and driver's license checkpoints.
41. Support legislation to combat the proliferation of dangerous synthetic drugs that mimic marijuana, methamphetamine and other illicit drugs.
42. Support measures that deter access to illegal drugs, including marijuana, especially by minors.

B. Realignment

43. Oppose attempts to expand "early release" for low-risk serious and violent offenders without an increase in sustained funding to ensure responsible supervision by parole agents and for local agencies that provide post-release supervision.
44. Support measures that provide frontline funding for police services associated with the "early release" of state prisoners as a result of State-mandated criminal justice realignment provisions enacted in 2011.

C. Crime Victims

45. Support efforts to strengthen and enforce legal protections for all individuals who are victims of crime, especially minors and victims of family violence and sexual assault.
46. Support legislation to maintain or increase funding for shelters, victim advocacy, trauma and crisis counseling and related mental health services,

to assist victims of violent crime, especially minors and victims of family violence and sexual assault.

D. Homeland Security

47. Support efforts to coordinate homeland security programs, training and emergency response efforts among federal, state, and local governments with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.
48. Support and seek funding for Urban Area Security Initiative (“UASI”) and other funding initiatives administered by the Department of Homeland Security to enhance Irvine’s ability to respond to regional or national threats.

E. Emergency Preparedness

49. Support efforts to secure adequate frequencies and communications systems for multi-jurisdictional connectivity for public safety and protect the frequencies from intrusion.
50. Support an increase in Emergency Management Performance Grant funding retaining flexibility in use of funds for emergency preparedness training, disaster events and disaster communication out-reach efforts.

F. Youth

51. Support legislation to treat and assist the needs of at-risk juvenile offenders and juveniles placed on court-ordered formal probation.
52. Support measures that protect children and youth from tobacco, alcohol and drug use and related products, and that support related prevention and intervention programs including gang prevention and after-school programs.

PUBLIC WORKS

A. Transportation

53. Support efforts to assure Irvine receives its fair share of transportation revenue proportionate to transportation tax dollars generated in the City, and increase funding for local transportation and transit programs and projects.
54. Support protection of dedicated transportation-related tax revenues and enhance the ability of local agencies to finance local transportation programs and facilities (e.g. Gas Tax, M2, State bond funds).
55. Support cooperative development and funding of an integrated, comprehensive, and efficient transportation network to include inter-county and intra-county highways, mass transit, facilities, and infrastructure in Orange County, meeting the needs of its residents and businesses.

56. Support efforts to secure funding for the design and development of a regional multimodal transportation center at the Irvine Train Station and to enable public-private partnership for such development.
57. Support initiatives for local transit operations and maintenance funding.

B. Utilities

58. Support efforts that maintain the ability to retain existing fees on telecommunications services and for public, educational and governmental channels.
59. Support the authority of cities to zone and plan for the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure.
60. Support the ability of cities to maintain and manage the public right-of-way and receive compensation for its use.
61. Support efforts, including but not limited to the California Public Utilities Commission, to require enhanced, more effective and timely notification requirements for planned and unplanned repairs resulting in power outages to customers.
62. Monitor California Public Utilities Commission and regulatory system for impacts to overall safety, health, and quality of life of the residents of Irvine.