

CITY OF LAKE FOREST 2023 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The Legislative Platform (“Platform”) defines the City’s Policy guidelines and provides the foundation for advocacy efforts at the federal, state, and local levels. Staff uses this Platform to identify relevant topic areas and subject matter, and makes recommendations to the City Council on specific legislation consistent with the policy guidelines. Additionally, in the event it is necessary for the City to respond to a legislative proposal in a timeframe that does not allow the City Council to take formal action, staff would express positions on bills in accordance with these guidelines, and then seek City Council direction at the appropriate time.

Policy Guidelines:

1. The City supports legislation that leads to greater financial independence from federal, state and/or county government, and protects local resources from seizure by federal, state and/or county agencies.
2. The City supports legislation maintaining maximum local flexibility in all areas of its responsibility and operations and opposes legislation that imposes intrusive, unnecessary or unfunded state-imposed mandates or preempts local authority.
3. The City supports legislation that advocates fair and proportionate representation on countywide and regional boards.
4. The City supports modification to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) to eliminate duplicative and unnecessary provisions of the existing law.
5. The City supports efforts to reestablish the authority and financing capability previously afforded to local governments by redevelopment through legislation designed to support businesses through economic development and the City supports efforts to facilitate economic development efforts that enhance opportunities for local businesses.
6. The City supports legislative efforts that would amend existing law to ensure that prevailing wage rates do not impede its ability to pursue small-dollar projects and lower operating costs.

7. The City supports efforts to amend the current occupancy calculation in the Uniform Housing Code (“UHC”) to achieve a more reasonable standard, thereby, improving the health, safety, and residential character of our community.
8. The City supports efforts, at both the federal and state level, to provide local agencies with regulatory tools related to short-term rentals and other uses in residential areas that have the ability to affect the quality of life.
9. The City supports bills that would lower taxation rates for businesses and residents.
10. The City supports religious freedom and legislation protecting religious freedom at both the state and federal level.
11. The City opposes legislation or policies that limit the type and or number of clean, renewable, sustainable energy sources available to consumers.
12. The City opposes legislation that makes the City more dependent on federal, state, and/or county government or agencies for policy direction.
13. The City opposes any legislation that is inconsistent with the doctrine of home rule, interferes with local exercise of police powers over local land use, or requires a federal, state, and/or county entity to develop model planning practices and policies.
14. The City opposes legislation or ballot initiatives that would alter the legislative intent of Proposition 13, including a split real-property tax roll that would affect commercial property and any amendment that would affect residential property.
15. The City opposes legislation to create new financial burdens or erode public safety through realignment implementation.
16. The City opposes legislation to limit the City’s ability to contract for municipal services.

17. The City opposes legislation that seeks to impede the construction Portola Parkway and the construction of Foothill-South, the proposed extension of the 241 Toll Road south to the 1-5 near San Clemente.
18. The City Council opposes efforts by the State Legislature to assess taxes on public goods and services such as water and electricity.
19. The City opposes legislation that would lower the vote threshold as a method to impose new taxes or create new financing opportunities.
20. The City supports legislative efforts that reduce or delay the financial and compliance impacts of State-mandated organics recycling.
21. The City supports maximum flexibility with regard to expending grant funds that address economic recovery associated with public health declarations, natural disasters, and other emergencies.
22. The City will take into consideration the strategic goals adopted by the League of California Cities.
23. Staff is authorized to continue to advocate a position for a bill which has been amended into a new bill number as long as the language and intent remain substantially unchanged.
24. The City supports legislation that advances the practice or policy of favoring individuals in hiring and similar contexts based solely on their abilities and personal merits, including education, skills, experience, and other similar factors.
25. The City supports legislation that invests in, provides for the research of, and promotes desalination technologies for seawater, brackish water, and contaminated freshwater in order to develop and reclaim new water supplies.