

City of Westlake Village
Legislative Platform
(Adopted February 10, 2021)

Local Control

We Support:

- Legislation which preserves the decision-making authority of locally elected officials.
- Legislation that protects a local City Council's ability to create its own land use and zoning laws which respond to a City's local, unique, and individually defined circumstances and needs.
- Legislation, regulatory proposals, or administrative actions which acknowledge the unique differences across cities and counties and treat cities with equity across county lines.

We Oppose:

- 'One size fit all' mandates that do not recognize the unique differences of each city across the state and even within Los Angeles County.
- Legislation, regulatory proposals, or administrative actions that are not based on science or well measured data.
- Legislation which aims to supersede a jurisdiction's control of its own land use, zoning, or housing production standards.

Public Safety

We Support:

- Strategies, legislation, and funding that promotes mitigation, preparedness, resiliency, and recovery efforts for cities with populations of less than 10,000.
- The availability of grants and pilot project/demonstration project funding for public safety and emergency management priorities.
- Evidence-based studies that seek to improve law enforcement tactics and non-lethal force options that ensure both the safety of the public and peace officers.
- Meaningful police reform that enables public safety agencies to better support and work with the communities they serve with an eye to rising public safety costs.
- Transparency and data sharing between the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the Cities it serves to improve service delivery and smart policing.
- Emergency response tactics for large scale disasters that account for the unique characteristics of the different cities or jurisdictions such a disaster may be affecting.

We Oppose:

- Legislation that restricts emergency preparedness, mitigation, or recovery funding based on income criteria.

Fiscal Responsibility

We Support:

- Legislation that guarantees ongoing revenue sources for local government.
- The preservation and enhancement of the City's ability to generate revenues from all types of sales.
- State and Federal grants to accompany mandated local action.

We Oppose:

- Legislation that would preempt the City's authority over local taxes and fees.
- Unfunded State and Federal mandates.
- Federal, State, or County actions which diminish a City's revenue streams.

Contract City Authority

We Support:

- Legislation which protects the contract service model of government.
- Collaborative partnerships between contract service recipients and providers.

We Oppose:

- Legislation that would prohibit or limit local governments' ability to contract out for the provision of services.

Environment & Sustainability

We Support:

- Legislation and funding for the adoption of electric vehicles and supporting infrastructure.
- Legislation which protects and preserves the open spaces and parkland surrounding the City.
- Legislation, programs, grants, etc. that promote a local jurisdiction's ability to combat/address climate change.

Technology

We Support:

- Legislative initiatives and funding to promote the use of data and technology to create efficiencies, promote economic development, enhance public safety, improve transportation and mobility, improve sustainability, enhance municipal quality of life factors and help solve other civic challenges.
- Legislation which expands access to broadband internet and improves regional connectivity.
- Legislation, initiatives, and funding which allow cities to invest in technology to improve service delivery.
- Legislation and research to equip cities for the future through 'Smart City' initiatives.

Guidelines and Principles for Legislative Platform Use

- The legislative calendar will be used as a tool for strategic engagement in the legislative process.
- Strategic engagement in the legislative process requires dedicated time and resources to be educated on the proposed legislation, its origins, author, intent, impact to Westlake Village among other factors prior to taking a formal position.
- Recognizing the time and resources needed to effectively and strategically engage in the legislative process, focus should be on a limited number of bills such as 1 to 3 annually.
- The role of City Council members in legislative advocacy should be to represent the City Council positions when known.
- The Mayor and COG representative have the authority to work with the City Manager to send letters of support and oppose on legislative matters that clearly align with the policy categories of the adopted Legislative Platform:
 - Example – negative or positive financial impact to Westlake Village
- Taking formal positions on legislative matters whereby the Legislative Platform does not provide sufficient guidance will require further review and discussion with the Administrative Committee and City Council.

Legislative Calendar

With an eye towards planning the City's newly expanded work in the legislative advocacy field in a meaningful and strategic way, Staff have prepared a draft calendar which was reviewed by the Administrative Committee. The preliminary framework of the calendar is provided below; however, it should be noted that the idea of remaining flexible with the calendar is an essential part of being able to quickly respond to policy shifts or urgent issues which may arise throughout a legislative session.

- *November to March* – Learn about bills through communications with legislators, staffers, and policy experts.
- *April* – Study Session or City Council item to review legislation for formal consideration.
- *May to August* – Continue monitoring bills and prepare formal positions. Engage with legislators to make positions known.
- *September to October* – Study Session or City Council item for direct discussion with a local legislator. Learn about current bills, upcoming items, etc.

Current Available Resources

Through the City's existing partnerships and memberships, the City has access to a breadth of legislative resources. These resources are provided by organizations such as the League of California Cities, California Contract Cities Association, Southern California Association of Governments, Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments, and the American Planning Association to name a few. While these organizations operate robust legislative research and advocacy programs, their scope can be quite wide leaving additional work for the City should we want to utilize their work. Through these organizations, the City is more often than not, required to 'pull' information that is unique or of specific interest to the City, rather than have it proactively 'pushed' to us.

Additionally, since January 2022, the City has contracted with Renne Public Law Group for the legislative tracking of bills specific to local control as it pertains to land use and housing, public safety, and the

environment and sustainability. The scope of work does not include direct state legislative and administrative advocacy services which would have required the City to register with the California Secretary of State as a lobbyist employer. The consultant also provides bi-weekly meetings to brief City staff on legislative happenings in the state as well as semi-annual presentations to the City Council on such matters.