CITY OF FOLSOM

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM
and
ADVOCACY MANUAL

Adopted: June 2021
Updated: May 2023; April 2025

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The City of Folsom is a full-service charter city, providing a wide range of quality programs, services, and amenities to residents, with excellence as a top priority. Protecting the high quality and distinctive character of Folsom calls for an active and engaged legislative advocacy program, which guides how Folsom advocates for its legislative and policy interests by enabling the City Council and City staff to address legislative and regulatory issues promptly.

FOUNDATIONAL LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

The below principles create the foundation for the City's policy interests.

Preserve Local Control

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

Promote Fiscal Stability

Support measures that promote fiscal stability, predictability, financial independence, and preserve the City's revenue base and maximize local control over local government budgeting. Oppose measures that shift local funds to the county, state or federal governments and make cities more dependent on the county, state, or federal governments for financial stability, such as unfunded mandates or mandated costs with no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits.

Support Diverse Funding Opportunities

Support opportunities for the City to compete for its share of regional, state, and federal funding. Support funding for programs with benefits to air quality, water quality, affordable housing, infrastructure, multi-modal transportation systems, public safety, and public health.

Enhance Quality of Life Through Adequate Public Safety

Support criminal justice laws that reinforce public safety protection for Folsom residents. Support legislation that reduces access to firearms for individuals who have been identified as potentially dangerous through civil measures such as extreme risk protection orders or red flag laws. Support measures that protect city authority and ability to deliver local emergency services.

POLICY STATEMENTS

Administration

1. Oppose State or Federal efforts to "borrow" local revenues and encourage the State to find other methods of balancing its budget.
2. Support local government control, rather than the imposition of state, federal or regional mandates upon local governments.
3. Support maximum flexibility for local government in contracting and contract negotiations.
4. Support reasonable legislation that sustains the principles of the open meetings provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act without creating onerous burdens on local government.
5. Support legislation that preserves the ability of local governments to determine the appropriate type of election for their jurisdiction.
6. Oppose any amendment to the redistribution of sales and use taxes which will negatively affect the City and its ability to provide city services and thereby cause a negative fiscal impact.
7. Oppose legislation that creates unfunded mandates or that creates mandates which adversely impact the affordability of City services.

Air Quality

8. Support continued funding and incentives to local agencies to work together to improve air quality through the reduction of emissions and advancing economic and technical developments.
9. Oppose any policy or guidelines that restricts the introduction of mixed-use development projects near multi-modal transportation centers.
10. Support policies, guidelines, incentives, and funding for programs with combined benefits to air quality, water quality, housing, infrastructure (including multi-modal transportation systems), and public health.

Building

11. Support policies and guidelines to facilitate options for alternative building methods, materials, and technologies.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

12. Support all efforts to create efficiencies within CEQA and support efforts to limit delays in the local planning and development process.
13. Support legislation that allows state agencies and local governments to continue to retain full authority to reject projects or to condition project approvals and impose mitigation measures.

Economic Development

14. Support international, statewide, regional, and local efforts to attract, retain and provide resources for current and future businesses.
15. Support efforts to provide funding mechanisms for economic development tools including infrastructure investment, housing, and economic development.

16. Support policies and programs that encourage working with other cities, counties, and government agencies to jointly leverage resources and assets to create and strengthen economic clusters within the region.
17. Support policies, projects, programs, and regulations for diversifying Folsom's economic base and facilitating investment that will result in maintaining or growing local jobs and creating an environment that is attractive to current and emerging industries.
18. Support economic development initiatives that preserve and enhance a positive business climate and maintain and grow the business tax base.

Environment

19. Support legislation that provides funding opportunities focused on coordinating sustainable planning in transportation, housing, and economic development.

Fire and Emergency Medical Services

20. Support local control of emergency medical services and ambulance services, including pre-hospital care and transport.
21. Support efforts to streamline and coordinate hazardous materials regulations.
22. Support legislation increasing resources and local authority for the appropriate abatement of homeless camps to mitigate public health risks, including fire risks in open space.
23. Support efforts to increase fuel reduction projects, defensible space, and ignition resistant building construction within the City of Folsom.

Human Resources and Risk Management

24. Oppose measures that reduce local control over employee relations issues or mandate new or enhanced local government employee benefits.
25. Oppose measures that impose compulsory and binding arbitration with respect to employees.

Land Use Planning and Housing

26. 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.
27. 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.
28. Support funding opportunities that are provided to local jurisdictions through statewide bond efforts.
29. Monitor local, state, and federal actions related to medical and recreational marijuana regulatory changes.
30. Oppose measures to withhold funding dedicated to transportation funding unless proposed housing goals are being met.
31. Oppose measures that restrict local discretion over physical development and design in keeping with adopted plans and policies.
32. Support measures that recognize and promote preservation of the unique development and design patterns of the City's Historic District.
33. Support legislation increasing resources for services and shelters for those experiencing homelessness.

Libraries

34. Support federal legislation and funding for the Library Services and Technology Act and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which provide grants to states that support local library initiatives.
35. Support renewed state funding of the California Library Services Act that fosters physical and digital resource sharing among libraries.
36. Support renewed funding for the Building Forward Library Improvement Grant Program that supports local agencies in constructing and maintaining library facilities.

37. Support renewed funding for online educational and workforce development programs.
38. Support legislation that preserves libraries' right to purchase digital content, including eBooks and eAudiobooks, at the same price as consumers.
39. Support legislation defending the freedom to read and unrestricted access to materials that encompass diverse points of view.

Natural Hazards

40. Support programs which provide funding to hazard mitigation projects including those identified in a FEMA-approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.
41. Support funding of state efforts to update and prepare earthquake hazard mapping.
42. Support legislation and funding that would create an earthquake early warning system.

Parks and Recreation

43. Oppose efforts that erode funding for vital regional and community services that negatively impact Californian's access to parks, open space, bike lanes, after school programming, senior services, facilities that promote physical activity, protect natural resources, and strengthen safety and security.
44. Support legislation and funding opportunities (e.g., federal and state park grant funds, conservancy grant funds, project mitigation funds, etc.) that helps cities build better, stronger communities by providing funding to improve air, water, parks, open space, natural resources, historic preservation, and arts and cultural resources.
45. Promote local agency control over policies that recognize the benefits of parks and recreation facilities.

Police Public Safety

46. Support measures that encourage community safety and well-being including those which support state and federal reimbursement of homeland security related expenses.

47. Support the use of Homeland Security Funds for local law enforcement agencies as first responders.
48. Support local control over adult entertainment facilities, problem alcohol establishments and properties where illegal drugs are sold.
49. Support local control for the regulation of cultivation, storage, manufacture, transport and use of marijuana.
50. Support legislation increasing resources and local authority for abatement of public vandalism, especially graffiti.
51. Support use of Homeland Security Funds for local public safety agencies.
52. Monitor and review statewide actions to reform the California Public Safety Officers Procedural Bill of Rights Act, commonly referred to as POBR.
53. Support legislation that preserves non-lethal options for law enforcement officers when apprehending suspects.

Solid Waste and Recycling

54. Support measures that maintain and enhance local authority and economic flexibility to regulate solid waste and recyclables.
55. Oppose any measures that invalidate AB 939 (California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989) indemnification and prevent cities from negotiating indemnification clauses with waste haulers as well as support measures that would mandate state agencies to comply with AB 939 in the same manner as required of cities and counties.

Transportation and Public Works

56. Support legislation that would increase funding for local transportation projects including road resurfacing projects, local transit projects, adding bicycle lanes, sidewalks, and trails throughout the city where appropriate, programs that facilitate development-oriented transit and transit-oriented development and enhancing pedestrian safety.

57. Support increased State and Federal funding of transportation improvements with regional or sub-regional benefits for all modes of transportation.
58. Support protection of dedicated transportation-related tax revenues and enhance the ability of local agencies to finance local transportation programs and facilities.
59. Support joint planning efforts and projects with Folsom's border cities on traffic congestion relief projects.
60. Support the reallocation of state or federal transportation dollars to fund local rail and transit projects.
61. Support commuter public transportation hubs to be located in areas in populated areas where there will be a large public benefit.

Wastewater

62. Support legislation or regulations that discourage the flushing of wipes through the sewer system unless they meet certain performance standards.
63. Support and monitor legislation that would increase the availability of funding for infrastructure improvements and wastewater treatment.
64. Oppose legislation or regulations that mandate volumetric pricing of wastewater.
65. Support legislation that allows State agencies and local governments to continue to retain full authority to reject projects or to condition project approvals and impose mitigation measures.

Water Quality and Water Supply

66. Support and monitor legislation that would increase the availability of, and funding for, water conservation, water use efficiency, water reuse technologies, water recycling, local water storage stormwater capture, and other projects, programs, or technologies that improve water supply or water quality.
67. Support the enhancement of a reliable, resilient, and sustainable water supply for California.

68. Support measures to increase water supply and improve water quality in the region, including drought relief legislation.
69. Support funding opportunities that are provided to local jurisdictions through state or federal legislation.
70. Support legislative and regulatory measures that enhance local agencies' ability to share regional water resources and the ability to implement regional conjunctive use.
71. Support legislation that protects the security of, and access to, water rights' water and Central Valley Project contract water at Folsom Reservoir.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY MANUAL

PURPOSE

The goals of the City of Folsom's Legislative Advocacy Program are to:

- Describe the City's internal procedures related to federal, state, and local advocacy
- Ensure potentially impactful federal, state, and local legislation is identified, analyzed, tracked, and that the City's legislative position is communicated to legislators

COORDINATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

When City staff learns of governmental action potentially affecting the City, internal communication and coordination to analyze the action begins.

Action can then proceed in either of two ways:

1. If the Council has previously adopted a legislative policy statement relevant to the legislation, the City Manager may act by engaging in established advocacy methods.
2. If there is no relevant legislative policy statement or Council direction related to a potentially impactful bill, if the issue is politically controversial, or if there is significant local interest in the issue, the proposed legislation will be referred to Council for direction.

THE ROLE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council has ultimate responsibility for determining the City's position on legislative issues. The Council's specific responsibilities include:

1. Establish legislative priorities
2. Meet with the City's state and federal legislative advocates as needed or desired to best represent the interests of Folsom
3. Work with external entities on issues of shared regional policy concern

4. Determine positions on resolutions proposed for adoption by the League of California Cities, the National League of Cities, and similar regional entities, as requested
5. Assume an active advocacy role with legislators on behalf of the City. This may include travel, and any such travel will be consistent with current City travel policies

THE ROLE OF THE CITY MANAGER

The City Manager is the central coordinator of the City's legislative program. The City Manager may designate a legislative liaison to assist with coordinating the City's legislative program. The responsibilities and activities of the City Manager include:

1. Ensuring the consistency of legislative action throughout the City
2. Coordinating contacts and communications with legislators and their staff
3. With departmental assistance, evaluating proposed legislation that may affect the City
4. Disseminating information on public policy items of interest to City departments
5. Directing and overseeing the City's lobbyists, including setting priorities for action that are consistent with Council direction
6. Preparing advocacy letters for the Mayor or Vice Mayor's signature. If neither the Mayor nor Vice Mayor are available to sign advocacy letters, the City Manager shall sign on behalf of the City. Copies of the communication will be distributed immediately to the City Council.
7. Serving, as needed, as the liaison to stakeholder groups, legislative offices, and local jurisdictions concerning legislative activities
8. Coordinating, briefing, and providing support to Council members for visits with state and/or federal legislators, as requested

THE ROLE OF CITY DEPARTMENTS

Active departmental participation is essential to the success of the Legislative Program. Departmental employees can provide technical assistance and unique insight into issues

potentially impacting the City. Responsibilities of the departments include, but are not limited to:

1. Informing the City Manager of policy issues of importance to the City and any specific bills they become aware of that may impact the department
2. Designating key contacts within the department or division who are responsible for evaluating legislation and/or assisting with legislative analysis and advocacy letters
3. Suggesting organizations, individuals, publications, and/or legislators who may be allies in advocating the City's position on certain legislation

CITY COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

City employees who are staff or liaison to Council appointed advisory commissions and committees should encourage those bodies to bring to the City Manager's attention any proposed legislation for which they recommend a position or wish the City Manager to track.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

The Environmental and Water Resources Department carefully monitors legislative developments, due to the heavily and separately regulated nature of the utilities. Advocacy actions that squarely and solely affect the Environmental and Water Resources Department (i.e.: an increase in utility rates, a change in departmental operations or policies, or additional work for staff of only the Environmental and Water Resources Department) and that conform with approved legislative guidelines, may be approved by the Director of the Environmental and Water Resources Department.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The City Council is the official voice of the City of Folsom and the final authority for determining legislative positions. The processes outlined below reflect instances when staff has no prior Council authority, the issue is controversial, or is a current item of significant community interest, or time constraints preclude action by the City Council.

Staff will place the item on a City Council agenda, including a specific bill number, if any, an analysis of the item, and a recommendation if warranted, for Council deliberation. Staff will follow the direction from Council related to the specific item. If there is no relevant legislative platform guideline and time limits preclude action by the City Council, the Mayor and Vice Mayor shall coordinate with the City Manager to determine the City's position on proposed legislation and communicate the position as appropriate. Copies of the communication will be distributed to the City Council and presented for ratification at the earliest possible Council meeting. In the event that a majority of the City Council disagrees with the position expressed by the Mayor, Vice Mayor and/or City Council, clarifying communication will be sent as appropriate.

SIGNATURES ON LEGISLATIVE COMMUNICATION

Letters and other communications expressing the City's position will customarily bear the signature of the Mayor. However, if the legislation's principal impact is on the City's operating procedures, the communication may be signed by the City Manager. In order to keep the Council and others informed of all City communication on legislation, copies of the letters will be distributed to the City Council.

COMMUNICATION WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

From time to time, Councilmembers may meet with the City's local, state, and/or federal representatives. These meetings are an important component of building legislative relationships and sharing issues of significance to Folsom. Any meetings or communication with local, state, or federal elected officials must be done in a coordinated way to ensure consistency of messaging, accurate information and record keeping, and sharing of resources. Therefore, any communication with a local, state, or federal elected official or legislative staff shall be coordinated through the City Manager.

ADVOCACY METHODS

Drafting position letters is one advocacy tool, best used in conjunction with others. The City Council, City Manager, and lobbyists may use any, or a combination of the below additional advocacy methods:

1. Calls to policymakers, their staff, or legislative committee staff
2. Meeting with legislators and their staff, stakeholders, and other groups active on the same issue or bill
3. Testifying at a committee hearing regarding the City's position and/or concerns
4. Building coalitions with like-minded entities

####