



**2017
LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

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CITY OF GOLETA 2017 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Introduction. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the City of Goleta's Legislative Platform is to intentionally promote the adoption of state and federal legislation that will establish sound public policy for responsible governance; protect and enhance public health, safety and welfare; and aid the City's delivery of high quality services to its residents.

The Legislative Platform is intended to articulate the City's positions on issues that are currently, or are anticipated to be, the focus of future legislation by the state or federal governments.

The positions contained in the Platform are intended to supplement the broad range of goals, policies and programs reflected in the Goleta Strategic Plan, the General Plan, the Municipal Code and other adopted documents. Therefore, advocacy efforts may be based on references articulated in these policy documents as they provide current direction for the City organization.

City departments are authorized to review proposed legislation to determine how it relates to the City's Legislative Platform and to recommend that the Mayor take a position on legislation that the department determines to be "high priority" and write letters, contact legislators, and otherwise communicate the position of the City as appropriate. The Mayor, or his/her designee, after conferring with City staff, may make contact with legislators to advocate for or against legislation which is consistent with the legislative platform.

Section 1. Administration

A. Employee and Labor Relations

1. Oppose any measure that imposes upon local government mandated employee benefits that are more properly decided at the local level.

2. Oppose efforts which reduce local control over public employee disputes and impose the regulations of an outside agency.
3. Support measures that increase the transparency of all public employee compensation and benefits.
4. Support reform measures that provide sustainable and secure public pensions and other post-retirement benefits to ensure responsive and affordable public services.
5. Support legislation that streamlines the Workers' Compensation system and makes it easier for employers, employees, and health care providers to navigate.

B. Public Contracts

1. Support measures that preserve the City's right to assure that all public contracts are completed in a timely and professional manner to avoid liens and stop work notices.
2. Support changes in the law that allow cities the option to use design/build contracting and other innovations designed to bring efficiency to the public contracting process.
3. Support measures that preserve a minimum 5 percent retention for construction contracts.

C. Tort Reform

1. Support legislation to limit local government liability for property damage.
2. Oppose legislation that limits power of local government to negotiate indemnification protections in public contracts.
3. Support measures to reform California's tort system to curtail unreasonable liability exposure for public agencies and restore the ability of public agencies to obtain affordable insurance.

D. Elections

1. Support legislation to reduce unnecessary and costly procedures for conducting municipal elections.

E. Public Records Act

1. Oppose legislation that would circumvent the Public Records Act, Government Code §6255 and potentially reverse the “balancing test” used by public agencies to disseminate documents.

F. Open Meeting Law (Brown Act)

1. Support legislation that recognizes the need to conduct the public’s business in public. To this end, the City supports the regulation of the state and all public agencies to ensure conformance to the principles of the open meetings provision in the *Ralph M. Brown Act*.
2. Support legislation that recognizes the realities under which a local governing body must operate that necessitates judicious use of closed door sessions, including:
 - Privacy rights granted to individuals under the United States and California Constitutions;
 - Protection of taxpayer interests over property and other acquisitions by a public agency; and
 - Proper maintenance of the same attorney-client privilege enjoyed by the private sector.

G. Political Reform Act/Conflict of Interest Laws

1. Support legislation and regulations that establish sound practices and principles related to political campaigns. Regulations that would restrict or preempt local authority are opposed.
2. Support legislation designed to improve and streamline the Political Reform Act and its implementation through regulations.
3. Support measures that increase the transparency of all public official compensation and benefits.

Section 2. Housing, Community, and Economic Development

A. Housing

1. Support legislation that increases financial assistance to local governments, nonprofit housing organizations, and public/private partnerships to provide affordable, transitional, special needs, and emergency housing to seniors, farmworkers and people with special needs, including people who are homeless or are at risk of experiencing homelessness.

2. Support housing measures that increase the City's ability to effectively compete for state and federal funding.
3. Support legislation and grants that promote development and enhancement of safe, affordable, sustainable, and accessible housing within the City.
4. Support measures that maintain local government's legislative authority to implement reasonable, non-discriminatory housing occupancy limitations.
5. Support measures allowing local jurisdictions to pool resources to meet sub-regional affordable housing goals.
6. Support legislation that provides the City with options in meeting its housing needs; or that would simplify the housing element review process while still recognizing the important role that State Housing and Community Development plays; and still ensuring City housing needs are being met.
7. Oppose efforts to cut funding for Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") programs.
8. Oppose legislation and measures that diminish the housing and community development authority of local elected officials.

B. Land Use Planning

1. Support environmentally sustainable land use patterns that maintain safe residential neighborhoods, bolster economic prosperity, preserve open space, and enhance the overall quality of life in Goleta.
2. Support efforts that are consistent with the doctrine of "home rule" and the local exercise of police powers over local land use.
3. Support efforts that would provide priority processing of Coastal Development Permits for critical needs, including affordable housing projects, public and quasi-public medical facilities and public safety facilities.
4. Oppose legislation that diminishes the City's discretionary ability to approve land use patterns and entitlement applications or restrict city permitting and land use planning authority.
5. Oppose project entitlements in areas outside the City limits, but within the City's General Plan proposed sphere of influence that do not conform to current City standards.

6. Support efforts that retain the discretion of cities to prohibit or limit their own use of power of eminent domain to acquire property.
7. Support legislation that streamlines the California Environmental Quality Act, while supporting its goals.
8. Monitor City of Santa Barbara Airport and noncontiguous territory of the City of Santa Barbara situated at the center of Goleta.

C. Regional Governance/Growth Management

1. Support funding for state and local investment in the physical infrastructure of California, including but not limited to, its roadways, bridges, railway systems, levees, dams, parks, libraries, public safety facilities, jails, prisons, and systems for delivering and treating water, wastewater and storm water.
2. Support measures to achieve fair and proportionate representation on statewide and regional boards.
3. Support proposals encouraging regional, sub-regional or countywide cooperation in planning urban development strategies in areas such as: transportation, air quality, affordable housing and conservation; especially those that provide funding for effective implementation of agreed upon goals.
4. Oppose legislation that mandates compliance of the City's local land use authority to regional, sub-regional, or Countywide plans.

D. Local Agency Formation Commissions' ("LAFCO") Policies

1. Support the clarification and redefinition of the sphere of influence concept to provide better planning for growth, development and service delivery while preserving agricultural and open space resources, discouraging urban sprawl, and coordinating local and regional planning.
2. Support the enhancement of LAFCO's ability to mitigate fiscal impacts regarding "change of organization" proposals through tax sharing conditions.
3. Support legislation that provides for tax reform to mitigate negative fiscal impacts to local governments from past and present tax revenue shifts away from said local governments.
4. Support legislation aimed at creating equity in determining annexation matters.

5. Support legislation which amends the Revenue and Taxation Code so that counties are no longer allowed to block annexations in exchange for unreasonable property tax sharing agreements.

E. Economic Development

1. Support efforts that encourage economic development using broader criteria in addition to generally limited census tract-based eligibility.
2. Monitor legislation that would increase the cost of doing business in California.
3. Support legislation that enhances or expands community and economic development tools and funding to address revitalization and redevelopment needs.

F. Building

1. Support continual adoption of enhanced building energy efficiency standards and building safety standards.
2. Oppose measures that diminish the authority of local jurisdictions to enforce building codes, or mandate the manner of enforcement.
3. Support rebate programs, tax credits, and other financial incentives that encourage property owners to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy systems.
4. Support legislation to ensure that new construction and major renovations include smart meters, pre-wiring of buildings to accommodate future GHG-reducing retrofits such as solar hot water heaters, photovoltaic (PV) panels, or other distributed renewable power sources and metered charging outlets in parking areas for electric vehicles.
5. Support the use of green building rating systems for new construction and existing buildings as one of several model options for achieving verifiable greenhouse gases emissions reductions and improving energy efficiency.

Section 3. Public Works

A. Transportation

1. Support measures to enhance the ability of local agencies to finance local transportation programs and facilities.

2. Support measures that ensure Goleta receives its fair share of transportation revenue.
3. Support legislation that provides increased state and federal funding for preservation and maintenance of local roads and secures the maximum amount of state and federal funding for maintenance and construction of local roads, infrastructure, transportation projects and major corridors.
4. Support legislation that reduces local reliance on gas tax revenues for roads and streets improvements, and proposes new alternative funding solutions with longer-term sustainability.
5. Support the protection of dedicated transportation-related tax revenues and funding for transit operations and maintenance
6. Support legislation that provides funding for development of an integrated, comprehensive, and efficient multi-modal transportation network; this includes inter-county and intra-county highways, pedestrian and bicycle, mass-transit, commuter rail service, facilities and infrastructure within the region.
6. Support legislation that provides local agencies greater discretionary authority to expend available transportation funds.
7. Support funding opportunities for transit and para-transit operations, including service for persons with disabilities as well as the senior citizen community.
8. Support legislation that encourages reform that expedites federal review and reduce delays in payment of local agencies and their contractors for transportation project development, right-of-way and construction activities.
9. Support legislation that increases administrative flexibility and streamlines reform that assists cities with operating and maintaining the existing transportation network; this includes lobbying for consistency between the National Environmental Protection Act (“NEPA”) and the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) to alleviate redundant environmental review of transportation projects which will promote expedited project delivery.
10. Support legislation that lowers the voting requirements for passage of local special purpose agency funding propositions.
11. Support legislation that increases safety on Highway 154.

12. Support legislation that ensures transportation infrastructure funding issues do not jeopardize critical projects with each reauthorization.
13. Support legislation that allows for discretion on the part of traffic engineering professionals in setting appropriate speed limits rather than having to rely on prevailing speeds.

B. Water Supply

1. Support measures to diversify the City's water supply resources and improve water quality in the region.
2. Support measures that would increase funding for infrastructure to distribute reclaimed water city-wide.
3. Support legislation that calls for the conservation of water resources.

C. Telecommunications

1. Support legislation that preserves state and local authority to manage public rights-of-way (including the appearance and aesthetics of equipment placed within it), zoning, and protects public safety and welfare.
2. Oppose legislation that reduces or eliminates compensation paid to cities for the use of their property and rights-of-way for telecommunications.

D. Utilities

1. Support the ability of local governments to provide electricity and ancillary services to residential, commercial and industrial sectors.
2. Support cities' authority to zone and plan for the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure.
3. Support cities' ability to maintain and manage the public right-of-way and receive compensation for its use.
4. Support legislation to specifically allow municipalities to use public-goods funds for development of renewable energy sources and require public utilities to improve and expand incentive structures for renewable energy generation.
5. Oppose efforts that erode the ability of local governments to maintain existing fees on telecommunications services.

6. Support legislation that would result in lower energy rates for the residents and businesses of Goleta including funding that assists with the conversion of outdated energy systems to new energy efficient options.
7. Support measures and legislation that improve the reliability and consistency of electrical supply and improve transmission of electricity to local governments and their communities.

Section 4. Community Services

A. Parks and Recreation

1. Support legislation and grants that fund parks, recreation and capital improvements, as well as programs that enhance the quality of life for Goleta residents.
2. Support initiatives to develop regional and state parks and connecting trail systems.
3. Support legislation that increases funding to repair, maintain and develop state and local park and facility infrastructures.
4. Support efforts to monitor and protect Goleta Beach Park.

B. Facilities

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

C. Libraries

1. Support legislation and grants that provide increased funding for library construction, renovation, and development.
2. Support legislation that restores state funding for public libraries.
3. Support local measure for additional funding for the Goleta Valley Library.

D. Arts, Cultural Resources and Historic Preservation

1. Support state and federal funding measures for local arts activities and historic preservation.
2. Support funding measures for the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Office of Museum Services within the Institute of Museum and Library.

3. Support funding measures for Arts in Education in the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for Improvement of Education to encourage high quality arts instruction in schools.

E. Services for Families and Youth

1. Support legislation and grants that provide for reduction of youth obesity and encourage proper nutrition.
2. Support legislation and grants that provide affordable, quality prenatal care and child care services and assistance to low-income families.
3. Support legislation and grants that facilitate the provision of child and youth activities.
4. Support reforms in healthcare policy that address prevention, promote health and wellness, and encourage affordability and cost containment.
5. Support legislation and policies that promote mental health services and make resources available that support and assist families and youth.
6. Support legislation and grant programs that provide funding for youth programs, such as job training programs, after school programs and educational programs.

F. Services for Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities

1. Support legislation and grants that provide services for senior citizens; services will specifically include nutrition, housing, transportation, recreation, and social services.
2. Support legislation and grants that provide services for persons with disabilities; services will specifically include nutrition, housing, transportation, recreation, and social services.

G. Homelessness

1. Support legislation and local, state, and federal programs that employ evidence-based best practice strategies to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness by: preventing homelessness for those at-risk; providing emergency and transitional housing; expanding affordable permanent housing; and promoting self-empowerment through counseling, job training, and other supportive services.

H. Animal Care

1. Support measures that facilitate responsible pet ownership.
2. Oppose animal services or care measures that impose state-mandated costs when there is no assurance of local reimbursement, alternative benefit, or locally generated revenue.
3. Support legislation that increases the penalties for animal abuse.

Section 5. Environmental Quality

A. Climate Adaptation and Sustainability

1. Oppose any infringement on local home rule authority to plan for and adapt to future climate conditions, including sea level rise, precipitation patterns, temperatures, and air quality attainment strategies.
2. Support legislation, programs, and funding for local governments' implementation of SB 375, AB 32, and sea level rise adaptation.
3. Support measures that provide for continued funding and incentives to cities to work together to improve air quality by reducing emissions and advancing economic development.
4. Support legislation that holds gross polluters (those which exceed current standards) directly accountable for increased emissions.
5. Support efforts that emphasize the use of advanced technologies such as solar power and battery storage, and market incentives as a means to achieve state emission reduction objectives for all sources, in addition to providing incentives and grants for their implementation.
6. Support measures to increase state funding for Urban Forestry programs.
7. Support legislation that provides funding and other incentives for the installation of charging stations for "low" and "zero emission" vehicles.

B. Oil and Gas Cleanup, Restoration, and Oil-Spill Prevention

1. Support legislation that results in the discontinuation of offshore unused or abandoned facilities, and the restoration of areas affected by existing or former oil and gas facilities within the City.
2. Support measures that mandate a percentage of state revenue from onshore and offshore coastal leases be directed to the cleanup and natural restoration of those leaseholds, particularly those leaseholds that

lie along Haskell's Beach, Ellwood Mesa, Sands Beach and Coal Oil Point.

3. Support measures and legislation to fund oil-spill prevention and response as well as remediate improperly abandoned legacy oil and gas wells.

C. Water Quality, Urban Runoff, and Biology

1. Support policy development, funding, research, and implementation strategies based on scientific data and human/ecological risk assessment for addressing urban water and storm water runoff.
2. Support policy development, "watershed based" solutions, funding and research for addressing urban runoff and beach closures, which identify the sources of bacterial, viral and other contaminants as well as human pathogens.
3. Support legislation that would regionally retain any Regional Board fines that are levied against storm water permit violators within the Region.
4. Oppose actions by Regional Water Quality Control Boards that impose mandates on cities that exceed state or federal regulations and/or are outside their jurisdictional authority to impose or enforce.
5. Support legislation and grants that promote wildlife, habitat protection, and preservation of endangered or threatened species, including care for injured wildlife.

D. Solid Waste

1. Support measures that expand the market for recyclable materials and encourage meeting state and local commercial recycling goals.
2. Support measures that maintain and enhance local authority and flexibility to regulate solid waste and recyclables.
3. Continue to support measures that streamline compliance and implementation of the Integrated Waste Management Act.
4. Oppose any measures that invalidate the Integrated Waste Management Act indemnification and/or prevent cities from negotiating indemnification clauses with waste haulers
5. Support measures that increase local funding to governments and special districts for the collection of household waste.

6. Support efforts to reduce the toxic and non-reusable waste load.
7. Support Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation to encourage manufacturers to design environmentally friendly products by holding producers responsible for the costs of managing their products at end of life.

Section 6. Public Safety

A. Public Safety

1. Support legislation that provides a greater share of asset forfeiture funds for cities and increases latitude for spending local funds.
2. Support legislation and funding to improve local law enforcement, fire suppression and prevention, hazardous materials mitigation, rescue services, emergency medical services, and disaster preparedness initiatives.
3. Support legislation that seeks to reimburse the City for the overtime costs associated with public safety personnel who are required to appear before state or county courts.
4. Support legislative efforts to provide state and federal funding to supplement local law enforcement in order to maintain the safety and security of Goleta residents.
5. Support legislation and grants that provide funding for Public Safety equipment upgrades, training and capital improvements.
6. Support legislation that: A) Promotes comprehensive drug and alcohol education and rehabilitation; B) Discourages drivers from operating motor vehicles while under the influence of drugs or alcohol; and, C) Maintains state funding necessary to post and operate sobriety and driver's license checkpoints.
7. Support legislation that seeks funding to assist local law enforcement with reducing crimes related to illicit drugs, burglary and assault.
8. Support legislation that provides funding at the local level to promote crime prevention, public outreach, and intervention programs.
9. Support flexible block grants to local governments that improve security and public safety at the local level.

10. Support federal funding for first responder training and improved communications systems as part of Homeland Security.
11. Support legislation that mitigates the impacts of transferring state and federal inmates into our community.
12. Oppose attempts to eliminate local control of alcohol beverage establishments and any state or federal interference with local codes or compliance mechanisms.
13. Support legislation that promotes and increases bicycle and pedestrian safety.
14. Support legislation which bans the personal possession and use of assault weapons.
15. Support legislation that strengthens cities' ability to enforce massage therapy regulations.
16. Oppose legislation that diminishes local authority to establish regulations regarding reasonable use of public space and appropriate behavior in public spaces.
17. Support legislation that enhances local control to regulate medical marijuana dispensaries, cooperatives, collectives or other distribution points.

B. Emergency Preparedness

1. Support legislation, strategies and initiatives that provide increased state and federal funding for emergency preparedness, planning, response and recovery.
2. Support efforts to secure adequate frequencies and communications systems for multi-jurisdictional connectivity for public safety and protect the frequencies from intrusion.
3. Support an increase of Emergency Management Performance Grant funding which retains flexibility of fund usage for emergency preparedness training, disaster events and disaster communication outreach efforts.
4. Support federal, state, and local regulations that provide the highest levels of public health and safety in the transportation of hazardous materials.
5. Support legislation that ensures first responders can perform their duties during an emergency without interference from unmanned aerial systems

(UAS) or drones, and measures that provide local agencies immunity if responders damage or destroy UAS during emergency operations.

C. Crime Victims

1. Support efforts to strengthen and enforce legal protections for all individuals who are victims of crime, especially victims of family violence and sexual assault.
2. Support legislation that provides funding for shelters and victim advocacy, as well as trauma and crisis counseling to assist victims of violent crime.

D. Youth

1. Support legislation that treats and assists with the needs of at-risk juvenile offenders and juveniles that are placed on court-ordered probation.
2. Support legislation that provides funding at the local level to address gang prevention and intervention programs including after school programs for at-risk teens.
3. Support measures that educate and protect children from tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.
4. Support legislation that encourages safe routes to schools and enforcement of school zone speed limits.
5. Support legislation that would expand the limits of school zones to more than the current 500 ft. to allow for reduced speed limits.

Section 7. Revenue and Taxation

A. Local Government Finance

1. Support legislation that provides tax reform to mitigate negative fiscal impacts to local governments from past and present tax revenue shifts away from local governments such as Revenue Neutrality Agreements.
2. Support full cost reimbursement to local agencies by the state and federal government for all mandated programs.
3. Oppose measures that impose state-mandated costs for which there is no guarantee of local reimbursement, or in the alternative, a worthwhile, quantifiable benefit.

4. Support measures to relieve taxpayers of the burden of paying for services that could be charged directly to the service user.
5. Support measures that ensure the retention of existing local revenue sources, including the City's share of property taxes, sales taxes, use tax, transient occupancy taxes, vehicle license fees, etc.
6. Oppose measures, such as "maintenance of effort" requirements, that further limit cities' ability to administer their own revenues.
7. Oppose legislation that shifts tax revenues away from local governments without the adequate provision of a constitutionally guaranteed "backfill" to offset the lost revenues of those local governments.
8. Oppose state or regional legislation or efforts that delay the payment of revenues due the City.
9. Support state and federal legislative action that will enhance revenue for cities.
10. Support measures and legislation that bolster local authority to enforce local ordinances and tools to collect revenue associated with short-term vacation rentals.
11. Oppose legislation that undermines the City's ability to manage financial resources and limits decisions regarding the long-term interests of local residents.
12. Support legislation which streamlines the creation and expands the applicability of Infrastructure Finance Districts as well as Enhanced Infrastructure Finance Districts.

B. Property Tax Appeals Process

1. Support changes to the property tax appeals procedures providing each public agency receiving property tax with the legal standing to appear and be heard at any property tax appeal affecting property tax revenue received by such agency.
2. Support legislation that would require the State Board of Equalization to inform local jurisdictions in a timely manner of Sales Tax disputes prior to the issuance of adjustments to the local jurisdictions Sales Tax payments.