



CITY OF LOMITA 2015 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

This Legislative Platform, adopted by the City Council, clearly outlines the position of the City on priority issues that impact the City's ability to operate effectively. The Legislative Platform allows City elected officials and staff to act quickly in reaching out to legislators, executive branch elected officials, and their staff in order to communicate the City's interests at the Federal, State, and regional levels.

For legislative or regulatory issues for which the City Council has established a policy within this Legislative Platform, the Legislative Affairs Ad-Hoc Committee may approve a position letter to be communicated by the Mayor, City Manager or designated staff to legislators, administration officials, legislative or administration staff, and other entities. When timeliness of action is required, position letters on legislative or regulatory issues covered within the Platform may be communicated by the Mayor, City Manager, or designated staff without prior approval of the Legislative Affairs Ad-Hoc Committee.

For those legislative or regulatory issues for which no policy exists within this Legislative Platform, the issue will be brought to the Legislative Affairs Ad-Hoc Committee for a recommendation to the full City Council. These matters may also be brought directly to the full City Council in the event that timeliness of action by the Council is required or upon request of the Council.

PLATFORM OVERVIEW

The City values its ability and authority to exercise local control and to protect and enhance the quality of life for Lomita residents. To that end, the City's primary legislative focus is to protect local government control and promote stable revenue for local governments to plan for future growth and needed public facilities and services.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

1. Support legislation that enhances local control and allows cities to address the needs of local constituents within a framework of regional cooperation. Oppose preemption of local authority whether by state or federal legislation or ballot propositions. Support legislation that streamlines and simplifies the job of running a city and oppose efforts that erode the City's authority to control its own affairs.

2. Support reforms related to pensions and other post-employment benefits (OPEB) that would allow cities to better manage the long-term growth of unfunded pension and OPEB liabilities and reduce the risk of fiscal and service level insolvency by cities.
3. Oppose legislation that mandates cities provide specific benefits which can be more properly determined through labor negotiations.
4. Oppose legislation that would diminish or eliminate local governments' ability to contract out for the provision of services.

FISCAL STABILITY

5. Support legislation that maintains or enhances ongoing revenues to the City. Oppose legislation that undermines and preempts local authority over local taxes and fees. Monitor the State and Federal budget deliberations and oppose attempts to balance the State and/or Federal budget by shifting funds from local government.
6. Support legislation which updates the tax structure to enhance local government revenues that have declined due to the expansion of e-commerce, increased consumption of services rather than durable goods, and innovations in technology.
7. Support legislation that makes the distribution of property taxes more equitable for cities and counties throughout the state.
8. Oppose the imposition of unfunded or inadequately funded federal and state mandates on local governments. Support legislative reform that would remove unnecessary state-imposed mandates. Encourage the use of incentives for local government action rather than mandates (funded or unfunded).
9. Support legislation and regulatory actions that ensure timely distribution of mandated reimbursements owed to the City. Oppose actions that defer reimbursements for state mandated programs.
10. Oppose measures that eliminate development fees or limit the ability of cities to levy fees to provide for infrastructure or services.

PUBLIC WORKS

11. Support legislation that will provide local governments with new and innovative revenue options and resources to finance critical infrastructure maintenance and construction needs to transportation, water supply, wastewater, stormwater, and other critical infrastructure systems.
12. Support efforts to ensure the City receives its fair share of transportation funding.

13. Support legislation that enhances the safety of City streets for car, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic, reduces traffic congestion, or supports regional transportation improvements.
14. Support legislation that enhances transparency in the decision-making process of the State Water Resources Control Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.
15. Support legislation that encourages the optimum and sustainable utilization of local groundwater basins. Support legislation that provides funding for the cost effective development of local water resources to reduce dependence on imported water sources.
16. Support legislation that creates flexibility in the implementation of mandatory stormwater programs and provides funding for those programs.
17. Oppose legislation that would infringe upon the ability of local governments to effectively administer and modify state and local construction provisions and standards.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

18. Support legislation that maintains cities' authority over land use decisions. Oppose legislation that would interfere with the decision-making authority of local government in the area of local land use and zoning.
19. Oppose legislation that erodes the ability of cities to condition and deny projects that inadequately mitigate impacts to the community.
20. Support legislation that strengthens local governments' regulatory authority and control over the siting of medical marijuana dispensaries.
21. Oppose legislation that weakens local governments' ability to regulate massage establishments through zoning code provisions.
22. Oppose legislation and regulatory efforts that would diminish or eliminate the authority of cities to zone and plan for the development of telecommunications infrastructure, including the siting of cellular communications towers or transmission sites.
23. Support legislation that preserves or increases funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program as provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Support legislation that expands the eligibility and allowable uses of CDBG funds. Oppose legislation that would reduce funds dedicated to the CDBG program.

24. Oppose legislation that would diminish or eliminate cities' authority to regulate condominium conversions.
25. Support legislation that would create a more equitable Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process. Support legislation that creates more flexibility for local jurisdictions to work together to provide housing that counts toward RHNA requirements.
26. Support legislation that enhances the City's efforts to retain existing businesses and attract new businesses.
27. Support legislation that provides tangible and productive tools and incentives to support job creation and retention.

PUBLIC SAFETY

28. Support legislation and grant opportunities that increase funding for local law enforcement, fire suppression and prevention, hazardous materials mitigation, and emergency medical services.
29. Support legislation that provides funding to local agencies for training, disaster preparedness, and emergency planning.

PARKS / QUALITY OF LIFE

30. Support legislation that creates new funding opportunities for parks and community facilities. Support funding for ADA facility and park upgrades.
31. Support legislation and regulatory actions that safely reduce the noise pollution caused by helicopters within the Los Angeles Region in general and around Torrance Municipal Airport in particular.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

32. Support legislation that provides flexibility and incentives to pursue cost-effective environmental policy programs in the areas of energy and water efficiency, greenhouse gas reduction, solid waste, and storm- and waste- water, among others. Support legislation that lessens the financial impact of state and federal unfunded mandates related to compliance with environmental programs and regulations.
33. Support legislation that maintains local authority and flexibility to regulate solid waste and recyclables. Oppose waste and resource recovery measures imposing state mandated costs when there is no guarantee of local cost recovery or offsetting benefit.

34. Support legislation and regulatory actions that expand the markets for recyclable materials by providing economic incentives to innovative in-state businesses that utilize recyclable materials to create new products. Support incentives for the development of alternatives to recycling and composting, such as conversion technologies which convert post-recycled residual solid waste into renewable energy, biofuels and useful products.
35. Support legislation requiring manufacturers to be responsible for safe disposal or reuse of their products and by-products, particularly for hazardous products such as sharps, unused prescription drugs, and fluorescent light bulbs.
36. Support programs that provide incentives for “green” commercial and residential development. Support legislation that provides incentives to individual homeowners and businesses for the installation of solar panels. Support efforts to rebate individual homeowners and businesses for returning excess power back into the grid as a result of owner-generated energy.