



# City of South Pasadena Legislative Platform 2018-19

The primary objective of the Legislative Platform is for the City Council to adopt official City positions on specific legislative issues at the start of the legislative session. The legislative platform will streamline the approval process by providing staff clear direction on pertinent issues at the beginning of the legislative session.

The Platform is developed and maintained using the goals and objectives adopted by the City Council, a review of legislative priorities from the League of California Cities, input from City Council and staff, research of current law and pending legislation, as well as discussions with local legislative staff and the City's legal counsel.

For proposed legislation, either consistent with the City's legislative priorities or consistent with legislative positions the City has taken in the past; City staff shall be authorized to prepare position letters for the Mayor's signature after City Council consideration. Items not addressed in the City's legislative priorities will require further Council direction, and staff will be required to submit a request to Council. Legislative priorities may only address issues directly relevant to or impacting the provision of municipal services.

City departments are encouraged to monitor and be knowledgeable of any legislative issues related to their discipline. However, any requests for the City to take positions on a legislative matter must be directed to the City Manager's Office. City departments may not take positions on legislative issues without City Manager's Office review and approval.

The process for responding to legislative proposals is streamlined as follows:

1. Once a determination is made that a legislative proposal may impact the City, a letter outlining the City's position (supporting or opposing the issue) will be drafted for the Mayor's signature.
2. If the Mayor is unavailable, the City Manager will sign the position letter.
3. If a legislative issue is not addressed in the Legislative Platform but impacts the City, staff will place the matter on the next City Council agenda for consideration.
4. The position letter will be sent to the bill's author, the City's legislative representatives, the League of California Cities, and other stakeholders as deemed appropriate.
5. A copy of the final letter will be distributed to the City Council.

## **City of South Pasadena Legislative Platform**

<b>LOCAL CONTROL</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Support legislation that enhances local control and allows cities to address the needs of local constituents within a framework of regional cooperation.</li><li>2. Oppose preemption of local authority whether by state or federal legislation or ballot propositions.</li><li>3. 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.</li></ol>
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Oppose legislation that erodes the ability of cities to condition and deny projects that negatively impacts to the community.</li><li>2. 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 will reduce funds dedicated to the CDBG program.</li><li>3. Support legislation that enhances the City's efforts to retain existing businesses and attract new businesses.</li><li>4. Support legislation that provides tangible and productive tools and incentives to support job creation and retention.</li></ol>
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Support measures to finance local and regional transportation programs and improvements, including alternative modes of transportation and transportation demand management systems.</li><li>2. Support continuous appropriations of new monies directly to cities for the preservation, maintenance, rehabilitation, and development of local street and road systems.</li><li>3. Support efforts to fully fund the TSM/TDM alternatives.</li></ol>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Oppose any legislation that would make local agencies more dependent on the State for financial stability and policy direction.</li> <li>2. Oppose legislation that would impose State mandated costs for which there is no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits.</li> <li>3. Oppose any change in revenue allocations that would negatively (current or future) affect local government, including the redistribution of sales tax, property tax, COPS grants, Proposition 172 funds, gas tax (HUTA), transient occupancy tax (TOT) and vehicle in- lieu fees (VLF).</li> <li>4. Support full cost reimbursement to the City for all federal, state and county-mandated programs.</li> <li>5. Support legislation that strengthens and expands ongoing revenue for the City.</li> <li>6. Oppose legislation that undermines and preempts local authority over local taxes and fees.</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LAND USE</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Oppose legislation that imposes a mandatory cap on local parking standards in transit intensive areas.</li> <li>2. Support legislation that strengthens local governments' regulatory authority and control over the siting of marijuana industries.</li> <li>3. Oppose legislation that weakens local governments' ability to regulate massage establishments through zoning code provisions.</li> <li>4. 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.</li> <li>5. Support legislation that strengthens the concept of local control/local home rule for local decision making on land use and zoning matters.</li> <li>6. Support legislation that would increase available funding for affordable housing.</li> </ol>

<p><b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support federal and state local assistance for local police, fire, and homeland security initiatives, and any measures that will help contribute to local public safety.</li> <li>2. Oppose legislation that would impede local law enforcement from addressing crime problems and recovering costs resulting from a crime committed by the guilty party.</li> <li>3. Support efforts that strengthen local law enforcement's ability to prevent and fight crime.</li> <li>4. Support legislation that minimizes alcohol-related criminal behavior and underage drinking.</li> </ol>
<p><b>ENERGY</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support legislation that allows flexibility in the City's effort to cost- effectively meet energy goals.</li> <li>2. Support legislation that keeps funding for public benefits programs in local communities.</li> </ol>
<p><b>WATER</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Oppose efforts to mandate a state water public benefits charge unless funds remain within the local community.</li> <li>2. Oppose new regulations that do not allow appropriate time and resources for compliance.</li> <li>3. 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.</li> </ol>
<p><b>ENVIRONMENT</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Oppose legislation that imposes undue hardship on local agencies to implement environmental regulations.</li> <li>2. Oppose air quality legislation that restricts the land use authority of cities.</li> <li>3. 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.</li> <li>4. 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.</li> </ol>

<p><b>ARTS &amp; CULTURE</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support legislation that will help maintain and enhance the City's performance arts venues, and funding for arts development.</li> <li>2. Oppose any reductions and/or eliminations of arts and library programming or funding.</li> </ol>
<p><b>COMMUNITY SERVICES/ RECREATION</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support legislation that will help provide residents with safe, accessible services and facilities.</li> <li>2. Oppose action that depletes services and funding sources created to enhance the community's varying needs.</li> </ol>
<p><b>EMPLOYEE AND LABOR RELATIONS</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Oppose any measure that imposes upon local government mandated employee benefits that are more properly decided at the local level.</li> <li>2. Oppose efforts which reduce local control over public employee disputes and impose the regulations of an outside agency.</li> <li>3. Support reform measures that provide sustainable and secure public pensions and other post-retirement benefits to ensure responsive and affordable public services.</li> <li>4. Oppose efforts to legislate changes in how the California Public Employee Pension System invests its assets if the proposed changes will result in a loss of funds.</li> <li>5. Support legislation that streamlines the Workers' Compensation system and makes it easier for employers, employees, and health care providers to navigate.</li> </ol>
<p><b>ELECTIONS</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support legislation that provides small to mid-sized cities to have at-large elections instead of divisive districts.</li> </ol>
<p><b>HOMELESSNESS</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ol>
<p><b>FILMING</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support efforts to promote and retain film and television jobs in California.</li> </ol>