

Torrance Legislation 2013

CONTACT

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WHY ARE WE INVOLVED

- ⇒ Influence legislation proposed by State and Federal legislative bodies.
- ⇒ Take action on potential laws that could impact the City's ability to effectively govern.
- ⇒ Take positions on State Ballot initiatives or on pending bills in the State or Federal law-making process.
- ⇒ Oppose legislation that is detrimental to the City's ability to manage financial resources, zoning and land use issues.
- ⇒ Promote legislation to enhance local control.

HOW WE MONITOR AND TAKE ACTION OF PENDING LEGISLATION

- ⇒ Coordinate with City's lobbyists on bills that impact the City. The lobbyists are:
 1. David Turch and Associates (Federal)
 2. Joe A. Gonsalves & Son (State)
- ⇒ Determine how bill affects local control, the fiscal impact and affect on public safety.
- ⇒ Maintain working relationship with district staff.
- ⇒ On-going contact with Federal and State legislators on City's position of bills.
- ⇒ Track legislation by department and recommend support or opposition of bills.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

ROLE OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION

- ⇒ Review legislative information from City lobbyists, professional organizations and state and federal websites.
- ⇒ Analyze bills to determine impact on department and City.
- ⇒ Draft letters of support or opposition for the Mayor's signature.
- ⇒ Communicate with City Manager's Office on any legislation of interest or concern.

ROLE OF CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

- ⇒ Provide legislative information to departments for review, comment and position on bill.
- ⇒ Coordinate with City Lobbyists on priorities and strategies.
- ⇒ Review request from other organizations requesting letters of support or opposition.
- ⇒ Inform Mayor and Council of bills that would have a significant impact on the City.
- ⇒ Send letters of support or opposition to the authors of bills, the committee members where a bill is being heard, to the Governor, and to the City's local legislators.

FINANCE ADMINISTRATION, REVENUE SOURCES, TAXATION REFORM AND REVENUE NEEDS

SUPPORT

- ⇒ Revenue reform allowing each level of government to adequately finance its service responsibilities, with each being accountable to taxpayers for its own programs.
- ⇒ Legislation that secures fiscal independence and a sound intergovernmental financial structure.
- ⇒ Legislation that ensures the integrity of existing city revenue sources including the city share and situs allocation, of property tax, sales tax, vehicle license fees, etc.
- ⇒ Preservation of local authority to regulate and manage public right-of-ways to zone and to collect just and fair compensation.
- ⇒ Reform of the state-mandated programs approval and reimbursement process to ensure prompt reimbursement to local government.

OPPOSE

- ⇒ Deferral of reimbursements for State-Mandated programs.
- ⇒ Preemption of municipal regulatory authority for franchising, zoning and local land use decisions.
- ⇒ Fiscal policies which would diminish the ability of local government to respond to local economic need and erode revenues.
- ⇒ Pension reform which would adversely impact local governments' financial structure as well as the ability to attract and retain employees.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSIT

SUPPORT

- ⇒ Appropriation of new monies directly to cities and counties for the preservation, maintenance and rehabilitation of the local street and road system.
- ⇒ Protection of the Transportation Congestion Relief Program funds.
- ⇒ Additional funding for local transportation and transit needs.
- ⇒ Ability to “flex funds” – use federal transportation funding as deemed necessary by state and local officials.
- ⇒ Protect and enhance funding sources and the flexible use of all State and Federal transit and transportation revenues and programs.
- ⇒ Investment and maintenance of the existing transportation funding as deemed necessary by state and local officials.
- ⇒ Equity in policy for treatment of all transportation modes.
- ⇒ Support integrated transit systems within the SCAG region ensuring that the integrity of the system is maintained and that projects are not constructed in piecemeal fashion.

- ⇒ Programs for bicycle and pedestrian access with maximum local government flexibility in prioritizing transportation needs.
- ⇒ Policies that encourage environmental sustainability, promote the preservation and protection of natural and urban resources, enhance aesthetics, and protect the environment through sound design practices that further multi-modalism.
- ⇒ Support legislation which establishes funding and incentives for transit programs and amenities (shelters, customer information, safe waiting areas, etc.) which encourage walking and biking and other alternative forms of local transportation such as neighborhood vehicles.
- ⇒ Support legislation that protects local government authority over telecommunications facilities placed within public right-of-ways, to include the aesthetics of equipment installed by contractors.
- ⇒ Protect local government authority to collect revenues from telecommunication providers installing equipment within public right-of-ways.
- ⇒ Seek and support legislative measure that will increase funding for:
 - ⇒ Street and highway capital improvements, maintenance, and traffic management systems.
 - ⇒ Local and regional transit systems for capital and operating purposes.

OPPOSE

- ⇒ Policies that would divert or reduce transportation revenues or reduce program allocation formulas.
- ⇒ Transportation policies that either increase or fail to reduce pollution including air, water, noise and pollution of the visual environments.
- ⇒ Policies that would restrict local government participation in state or county transportation planning.
- ⇒ Unfunded mandates for transit.

AVIATION

SUPPORT

- ⇒ Regional airport issues.
- ⇒ Policies for aviation security systems.
- ⇒ Local governments' rights to have the authority to regulate airport use and be included in decisions made regarding airport use.
- ⇒ Preservation of municipal airport space.

OPPOSE

- ⇒ Policies that limit the ability of local governments to continue to determine the scope and type of airport facilities needed or the type of airport use restrictions, including airport noise or airport access restrictions, imposed in their respective locations.

HOUSING, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUPPORT

- ⇒ Proposals which would stimulate the economy by accelerating increasing spending on public works and infrastructure projects, especially those which would improve public health, public safety, mitigate hazards, reduce energy usage, or improve transportation.
- ⇒ Measures that promote economic incentives as a means to attract or retain businesses.
- ⇒ Policies providing local discretion in the assessment, collection and usage of development fees.
- ⇒ Legislation that provides tangible and productive tools and incentives to support job creation and retention.
- ⇒ Measures maintaining the ability of cities to condition and deny projects that inadequately mitigate impacts to the community.
- ⇒ Federal workforce development funding.
- ⇒ Policies which give local government the decision-authority and the primary public sector responsibility to shape regional economic development.
- ⇒ Legislation to enhance workforce development for high technology industries.
- ⇒ Funding and legislation that establishes innovative and flexible approaches to housing creation including infrastructure that it requires.
- ⇒ Legislation policies that incentivize economic opportunities, including but not limited to CDBG funding, workforce assistance programs, etc.

OPPOSE

- ⇒ Measures that eliminate any development fees or taxes including excise taxes.
- ⇒ Policies limiting the ability of cities to levy fees to provide for infrastructure or services.
- ⇒ Land use mandates and controls by the state and federal governments.
- ⇒ Policies which would preempt local authority and its land use, rights-of-way decision-making authority.
- ⇒ Policies of any federal, state, county or any other non-municipal government unilaterally making local land use decisions.
- ⇒ Policies which undermine local control regarding eminent domain issues.
- ⇒ Unfunded mandates.

ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES

SUPPORT

- ⇒ Legislation to finance cost effective conversion of vehicles to alternative fuels or propulsion systems.
- ⇒ Legislation that allows for innovation and local flexibility in developing, maintaining and expanding cost-effective programs that increase vehicle ridership.
- ⇒ Proposals that increase funding for environmental protection programs and capital projects, including resources, open space, and shoreline protection.
- ⇒ Policies for funding of acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities and open space.
- ⇒ Legislation to promote environmentally friendly programs that address reasonable protection of resources such as pesticide use, care of trees, ecological systems, and open space.
- ⇒ Measures to develop and increase the availability of alternative fuel and refueling infrastructure.
- ⇒ Measures that promote cooperation with neighboring communities and other governmental agencies in preserving open space resources, including properties that lie outside the City's jurisdiction, but are important to residents.
- ⇒ Initiatives funding state mandated fingerprinting of all park staff and volunteers responsible for supervision of minors.
- ⇒ Legislation for the expansion of electricity generation and supply in the State, including a waiver of air quality emission standards when electricity supply is critically low.
- ⇒ State and Federal funding legislation for storm water infrastructure improvements and compliance with storm water quality regulations.
- ⇒ Proposals increasing funding to public agencies to encourage reduced energy consumption, develop alternative energy sources, and shift usage to non-peak hours.
- ⇒ Maximum flexibility in the funding received by cities for the reduction of mobile source emission, such as AB 2766 funds.
- ⇒ Legislation that supports flexibility as well as funding to pursue cost effective, sustainable and responsible environmental policies and programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, conserve energy, as well as promote solid waste removal and recycling.
- ⇒ Legislation and measures that support the conservation of drinking water supplies by promoting the use of recycled, waste water and storm water for beneficial use in an environmentally responsible manner.
- ⇒ Measures that protect groundwater supplies from contamination and /or provide funding for the remediation of contaminated groundwater to meet prescribed water quality standards.

- ⇒ Proposals and measures that encourage the optimum and sustainable utilization of local groundwater basins in a cost effective manner.
- ⇒ Proposals for providing supplemental funding for the cost effective development of alternative local water resources to reduce dependence on imported water sources.
- ⇒ Proposals and measures that responsibly address environmental restoration issues and provide for sustained reliability of imported water sources.
- ⇒ Legislation and policies to lessen the financial impact of state and federal unfunded mandates for air and storm water compliance requirements.
- ⇒ Economic development that is coupled with environmental sustainability.
- ⇒ Funding for zero emission vehicles and necessary infrastructure for both regular and slower speed electric vehicles.
- ⇒ Legislation that provides incentives for environmentally responsible green design and construction.
- ⇒ Local government involvement in the expenditure of the public goods charge funds that are collected for energy efficiency pursuant to the CPUC on utility bills.

OPPOSE

- ⇒ Air and storm water quality legislation and/or legislation that restricts the land use authority of cities.
- ⇒ Legislation that decreases assistance to local government fuel emission reduction programs.
- ⇒ Legislation that dictates the mix of electrical generating sources used by municipal utilities.
- ⇒ Mandates to phase-in fixed numbers of alternative fueled vehicles for fleets in the absence of federal funding.
- ⇒ Legislation that would increase exposure to or reduce immunities from governmental liability related to the ownership, construction, operation or maintenance of recreational facilities.
- ⇒ Mandates encouraging the urbanization of developed parkland or productive agricultural space.
- ⇒ Proposals or legislation that seeks to shift the cost burden for imported or local water resources without compelling justification.

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS

SUPPORT

- ⇒ Legislation to provide funding for crime prevention/intervention and enforcement
- ⇒ Initiatives to increase funding for multi-agency collaborative justice programs.
- ⇒ Initiatives to enact and strengthen laws imposing mandatory sentences for the use of firearms in the commission of any federal, state or local crime.
- ⇒ Policies urging greater roles for municipal elected officials in federal and state decision-making regarding the local use and expenditure of federal and state anti-crime and violence funds. Allowing flexibility to redirect financial resources from drug interdiction activities to prevention and treatment.
- ⇒ Legislation that enhances/maintains local control over issues pertaining to public safety personnel management and resolution of issues pertaining to scope of representation.
- ⇒ Policies that allow flexibility in the use of grant funded programs.
- ⇒ Legislation which would establish mitigation efforts to reduce damage and loss caused by catastrophic natural disasters and terrorist acts.
- ⇒ Measures which would adopt strict standards for the enforcement and transport of hazardous materials.
- ⇒ Initiatives which would resolve technical and practical barriers to communication such as public safety communications, interoperability communications and communication with the public.
- ⇒ Policies providing technical assistance and regional training devoted to disaster preparedness and response.
- ⇒ Legislation providing funding for replacement of equipment that was acquired for the first time through State Domestic Preparedness Equipment and Homeland Security Grants helping state and local governments prepare to respond to attacks and mass casualty incidents.
- ⇒ Protection of funding and advocating for additional funding for local agencies to recoup the costs for crime and increase community safety.
- ⇒ Policies to establish statewide standards for implementation and governance of 311 programs (non-emergency reporting and general government services) and 211 programs (community information and referral services).
- ⇒ Legislation for enhanced fire safety of the residential care facilities and private residences.
- ⇒ Legislation providing funding for fire stations and equipment to fire departments.
- ⇒ Legislation that protects and enhances local Emergency Medical Services and Fire revenues.

- ⇒ Legislation that protects and enhances local Fire agency's rights to dictate how Emergency Medical Services are delivered.
- ⇒ Policies that encourage new firefighting technology and equipment (for example, thermal imaging cameras).
- ⇒ Legislation providing local governments and their first responders with funding and resources to address and respond to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear events/emergencies (CBRNE).

OPPOSE

- ⇒ Legislation that would reduce incarceration terms for serious or habitual criminals.
- ⇒ Legislation which has the unintended consequence of expanding civil liability for agencies/officers.
- ⇒ Measures resulting in unfunded mandates.
- ⇒ Legislation and regulations which impose minimum staffing and response times for City Fire and EMS services.
- ⇒ Oppose legislation amending the Firefighters Bill of Rights, which while enhancing the rights of firefighters to representation, at the same time decreases management's ability to ask questions and track disciplinary issues.
- ⇒ Legislation that threatens or decreases local Fire agency's rights to dictate how Emergency Medical Services are delivered.