



LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 87TH STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

July 6, 2020



GOAL 6

- SET THE STANDARD FOR SOUND GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL MANAGEMENT

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Purpose:

- To provide coordination and information to the city's legislative delegation on new legislative bills to propose.
- To give guidance and direction to the legislative team on what position to take on behalf of the City on proposed legislation.

EL PASO'S STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



Divided into Six Sections

- Strategic Policy Statements
- General Principles
- Priority Legislative Initiatives
- Statements of Support and Opposition
- General Legislative Principles
- Issues to Monitor

PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

The City will actively seek the passage of the following initiatives using City staff and authorized representatives to secure legislators to author a bill, provide testimony, and advocate for the bill's passage throughout the legislative process.

Statements of Support and Opposition

Legislation that the City will either support or oppose meaning that, if a bill is introduced, then City staff and authorized representatives will make known the City's position on these issues and will work to either pass or defeat the legislation accordingly. The important distinction between this category and the "priority" category is that the City will not work to seek introduction of any legislation but will engage if a bill is otherwise introduced.

Priority Legislative Initiatives

Based on discussions with other cities and some members of delegation the recommendation is to be judicious and focused on our priority legislative initiatives.

Session will be inundated with legislation dealing with:

- COVID issues, both financial, medical and emergency powers;
- Police training and reform;
- Mail in voting; and
- Redistricting.

Best use of delegation's time, efforts and political capital.

RECOMMENDED PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES



- Appropriate money for the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEEAG) program to fund military value projects that strengthen Texas military installations.
- Appropriate funding for the Wyler Aerial Tramway.
- Appropriate funding for the Moving Image Industry Incentive Program (MIIP) and create supplemental tools for local communities to attract moving image projects and related jobs.
- Seek legislation that will expand program eligibility under the Texas Economic Development Act to include back office and large scale warehouse distribution companies and extend the Act.

RECOMMENDED PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES cont.



- Seek legislation that will clearly allow municipalities to convey city owned property as part of a Chapter 380 economic development agreement.
- Seek legislation that will allow municipalities to submit for voter approval an increase in the sales tax of the amount of the sales tax increase, the sunset date of the increase, and how the additional revenue will be used.
- Seek legislation concerning police reform and training that will enhance and foster public trust in the police department, to include the appropriation of funding to municipalities for the acquisition of police body cameras and storage of data obtained by body cameras.

STAFF RECOMMENDED PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES cont.



- Seek legislation that will provide for more economic incentives and support for solar and renewable energy initiatives.
- Seek legislation that allows cities to publish certain notices via the internet.
- Seek legislation that will extend the Texas Board of Plumbing Examiners.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO SUPPORT AND OPPOSE SECTION



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SECTION

Delete: Reauthorizes ad-valorem tax abatements (Tax Code, Chapter 312).

Add:

- Support legislation that expands the ability of local workforce organizations to access funding through the Skills Development Fund program and increases program funding or flexibility for eligible training programs.
- Support legislation that allows for more transparency and clarity in the manner in which Texas Enterprise Funds are reviewed and awarded.
- Oppose legislation that would amend, abolish, or repeal Section 26.03 of the Texas Tax code related to the treatment of captured appraised value and tax increment in the calculation of ad valorem tax rates for a taxing unit.
- Oppose legislation that negatively affects the city's ability to use existing economic development tools, to include property tax abatement, reinvestment zones, and Chapter 380 Agreements.

EQUITABLE ZONING RULES

Delete section.

TRANSPORTATION SECTION

Add: Support legislation that will amend the formulas used by TXDOT to allocate funding to cities to ensure that El Paso gets additional and equitable funding from all TXDOT funding sources.

BRIDGE WAIT TIMES/PORTS OF ENTRY SECTION

Add: Support legislation that provides the city with additional funding, procedures, or opportunities to bridge/ports of entry wait time without increasing costs to the city.

HIGHER EDUCATION SECTION

Delete all items under University of Texas.

ANIMAL CONTROL SECTION

Add: Support legislation that would:

- allow flexibility for municipal owned shelters to provide veterinarian services; and
- suspend, reduce or allow more flexibility in the applicability of Chapter 828 of the Health and Safety Code to municipally owned shelters during federal, state or local state of emergencies.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Delete: allocates funding for Zika prevention and readiness.

WATER AND WASTEWATER

Delete all items in this section.

LAND DEVELOPMENT (New Section)



Support Legislation that:

- requires the General Land Office to comply with local zoning and other regulations governing development and land use when the state retains an ownership in a private company (i.e. – when the State leases state land to third parties for commercial enterprises).
- expands the City's zoning authority in the extraterritorial jurisdiction.
- provides for administrative approvals of 30 day subdivision approval waivers.
- Oppose legislation that would restrict the city's ability to enforce or adopt building code requirements or collection of registration, administrative or licensing fees

EMINENT DOMAIN (New Section)

- Oppose legislation that increases the cost to the city for acquiring property or restricts the city's ability to acquire property.

ISSUES TO MONITOR – Delete this section and any references to the section.

- Move items to Support and Oppose section. Add the following language under General Legislative Principles section.
- The Mayor, as representative of the city in intra-governmental and intergovernmental relationships, shall provide additional direction to the legislative team on the City's position on legislation, provided that such direction is not contrary with the general principles and general legislative principles stated in this document.



Any questions?