



2016 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The Legislative Platform serves as the basis to proactively engage in policy and legislative initiatives that will enable the City of Covina to deliver projects and programs that meet the needs of our community. The platform also guides staff recommendations to the City Council on state and federal legislative, regulatory, and administrative matters that are anticipated to be addressed in the up-coming legislative sessions.

The foundation of the Legislative Platform is local control. The City opposes any actions that interfere with the City's authority to make decisions related to local matters and opposes any preemption of local control. In the coming legislative session, the City anticipates a number of key issues to be considered.

Public Safety

The City is committed to providing a safe and secure community for all. The City will support federal and state legislation that enhances local assistance to police and fire and any measures that will help contribute to local public safety, emergency response and emergency preparedness. The City will support legislation that strengthens law enforcements efforts to prevent crime and prosecute those committing a crime. The City will oppose legislation that will negatively impact our ability to carry out our commitment to this adopted core strategy.

Quality of Life

Creating and maintaining a high of quality of life for Covina residents is a top priority. In these efforts, the City will support legislation that creates additional funding opportunities for parks and recreation programming, library and literacy services, senior services, and human and social services programming. Additionally, the City will support legislation that increases funding for capital projects related to parks, library and senior services. Furthermore, the City will support legislation that helps our community partners in funding for arts and culture including supporting community theatre activities. The City will oppose legislation that removes or reduces existing funding opportunities for the above services as well as oppose legislation that creates new mandates for services without providing full funding.

Economy

The City is committed to providing a strong, diverse local economy. The City will support federal and state legislation that provides cities additional tools for business development, business retention, workforce development, and job creation. The City will support legislative actions that create new tools to encourage redevelopment and fill the void left with the dissolution of Redevelopment Agencies. The City will oppose any measures viewed as restricting the City's ability to fulfill our goal of economic development.

Participatory and Transparent City Government

Public participation and government transparency are key principles for an effective government. The City practices and encourages these ideals and in these efforts will support legislation that recognizes the importance and intent of the Brown Act to conduct the public's business in public and will support legislation that requires all elected and appointed officials to be subject to the same disclosure and transparency laws that they require of local municipalities. In addition, the City will support legislation that strengthens Home Rule and local control. The City will oppose legislation that seeks to preempt local authority. Additionally, the City will oppose legislation that requires the City to change election dates and legislation that requires the City to change to districted elections.

Finance

Developing a sound and sustainable financial strategy is paramount for the future of the City. In these efforts, the City will support legislation that secures local government funding sources such as property taxes, sales tax, transient occupancy taxes and Community Development Block Grants. Additionally, the City will support legislation that produces new funding for cities to use for infrastructure projects, parks, and delivery of core services. The City will oppose legislation that impacts our ability to continue to collect on our current funding sources, legislation that creates unfunded mandates and legislation that attempts to eliminate or divert local revenues for state and or federal purposes or to another entity.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure impacts both businesses and residents and reflects on the community's desirability. Improving Covina's infrastructure has many benefits including the growth of the economy and improving quality of life. The City will support legislation that increases funding opportunities for new local infrastructure projects including roads, highways, bridges and public transportation as well as maintenance of existing infrastructure. Also, the City will support legislation that provides additional funding for water delivery, water storage, and water quality projects. Additionally, the City will support legislation that incentivizes transit oriented development and affordable housing. The City will oppose legislation that seeks to remove or reduce any current source of funding that would impact infrastructure projects or public transportation. Also, the City will oppose anything that preempts local zoning control or requires development of a particular type. Additionally, the City will oppose any legislation that creates new mandates without complete funding.

