

2020 CITY OF FLAGSTAFF STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

MUNICIPAL PRINCIPLES OVERVIEW

- **Preserve Local Decision-making** – Support legislation that preserves or enhances the City’s ability to govern locally and oppose legislation that reduces or restricts the City’s local authority.
- **Preserve Existing Revenue Sources** – Support legislation that preserves or enhances existing revenue sources and oppose proposals that reduce or restrict the use of existing revenues.
- **Maintain Flexibility in Service Delivery** – Support legislation that enables the City to provide services desired by residents and oppose legislative attempts to require additional services without providing the revenue necessary to fund the services.
- **Preserve Local Investments** – Support proposals that protect the City’s investment in infrastructure, capital, enterprises, proactive forest health and restoration, and partnerships for Rio De Flag funding.

PLANNING AND GROWTH

- **Economic Development** – Support legislation that will enhance the City’s economic development conditions; provide infrastructure to attract economic development, increase sustainable housing and strengthen the City’s workforce.
- **Colleges & Universities** – Advocate for state funding and legislation that supports colleges and universities.
- **Land Use Planning** – Preserve local decision-making to set land use and development policies, allowing the City to continue to provide opportunities for citizen-driven planning while monitoring any legislation that may impact local planning authority.
- **Local Water Decisions** – Support proposals that strengthen the City’s water management strategies and oppose those that lessen the ability of the City to proactively manage its water resources.
- **Statewide Water Management** – Support proposals that improve the state’s management of the Colorado River water and groundwater and protect local groundwater for municipal stakeholders and municipal water users. Support local and state control of waters unique to Arizona and advocate for a Waters of Arizona definition.

INFRASTRUCTURE/TRANSPORTATION

- **Highway User Revenue Fund** – Support legislation that strengthens funding to the City and oppose policies that deplete City resources for road maintenance and infrastructure.
- **Aviation** – Support legislation that maintains necessary funding for city airports. Secure and maintain a greater and more consistent fuel supply.
- **Regional Transportation Funding, Projects, and Planning** – Support efforts to further develop and maintain the Northern Arizona regional freeway system and City-endorsed transit projects.

PUBLIC SAFETY & WELFARE

- **Weapons** – Oppose legislation that limits local decision-making in regulating weapons in publicly accessible building.
- **Gun Sense** – Support legislation that ensures the protection of all people from gun violence, furthers gun reform laws, and ensures background check loopholes are closed.
- **Emergency Response** – Support legislation that preserves and enhances the ability of the City to strategically plan for and respond to emergencies.
- **Veterans** – Support Legislation that improves the lives of all veterans and their families.

FISCAL POLICY/REVENUES/TAXES

- **Revenues** – Protect and recover state shared revenues.
- **Unfunded Mandates** – Support legislation that limits state unfunded mandates and that will enhance further fiscal analysis, prior to imposing state mandates on local governments.
- **Taxes** – Monitor policies that would restructure sales, property and income taxes and be vigilant of shifting tax burdens that would result from proposed changes.
- **Senate Bill 1487** – Repeal SB 1487, which allows for State Legislatures to file complaints that would potentially withhold state shared revenues and diminish local authority by circumventing the constitutional protections of due process.

LOCAL OPERATIONS

- **Dark Sky Community** – Support legislation that preserves and protects dark sky communities.
- **Elections** – Support legislation that maintains local decision-making for elections administration and protecting voter rights.
- **Supporting Partnerships** – Monitor and consider support for policies that favorably affect and adequately fund the City’s municipal, educational and economic development partners.

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SPECIFIC AREAS OF FOCUS FOR 2020 SESSION

List order is not indicative of priority level:

- **Local Control:** Support legislation that preserves or enhances the City's ability to govern locally and oppose legislation that reduces or restricts the City's local authority.
- **Short- Term / Vacation Rentals:** Support legislation in conjunction with stakeholders to allow for local regulations over investor-owned residential properties used as short-term /vacation rentals. Ensure fairness between hotels, motels, and short-term /vacation rentals.
- **State Shared Revenues:** Oppose new legislation that would further divert shared revenues, especially due to citizen initiatives. Support legislation that will protect and recover state shared revenues to municipalities.
- **Forest Health:** Advocate for investing in forest health treatments on state-owned land in the Flagstaff region.
- **State Highway Funds:** Advocate for additional funding to the Arizona Department of Transportation to plan, build and maintain projects that affect Northern Arizona.
- **Social Service Providers:** Advocate for 100% funding from the state legislature to fully fund and reimburse all social service providers.
- **Aquifer Protection Permits:** Urge ADEQ to require mine specific aquifer protection permits rather than general aquifer protection permits.
- **Emergency Response:** Support legislation preserving and enhancing the ability of the City to strategically plan for and respond to emergencies protecting the citizens, visitors, assets and natural resources.