

2021 Legislative Priorities

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Agenda



- Program operations
- Overview of the federal landscape
 - Council input - 2021 federal legislative priorities
- Overview of the state landscape
 - Council input - 2021 state legislative priorities
- Next steps

Intergovernmental Affairs Program

Operations

- Legislative priorities guide the work of staff and lobbyists
- Regular email updates
- Periodic discussions on legislation during Council meetings
- Virtual lobbying trips





Federal Landscape





Proposed Federal Legislative Priorities

Economy

Rio de Flag Flood Control Project	Utilizing the \$52 million in secured funding, support expedited award and completion of the project while working with the Army Corps, BNSF Railway and the Arizona Dept. of Transportation to ultimately remove more than half of the City's residents, as well as the downtown and NAU areas, from the flood plain and protect more than \$1 billion in property assets.
COVID-19 Relief	Support additional relief efforts, including direct payments to cities to address declining revenues, continued pandemic unemployment insurance, mortgage relief, eviction moratoriums, small business loans/grants and increased funding for testing, education and broadband.



Proposed Federal Legislative Priorities

Transportation & Infrastructure

Flagstaff Airport	Advocate for funding for projects included in the Flagstaff Airport five-year Capital Improvement Program that will enable recovery from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Surface Transportation Reauthorization	Advocate for a new, robust surface transportation reauthorization before it expires on September 30, 2021 that reflects Flagstaff's needs and values, with special regard to roads, highways, bridges, transit, and climate change.
Amtrak	Promote funding and infrastructure renewal for long-distance passenger train services as a generator of economic development for municipalities located in the I-40 corridor.
Infrastructure Funding	Pursue federal funding (BUILD, INFRA, and/or FLAP) for a high-priority infrastructure project in the City of Flagstaff. Potential projects could include the Milton corridor and overpass, the Lone Tree overpass traffic interchange, or the J.W. Powell connection.



Proposed Federal Legislative Priorities

Community/ Social Infrastructure

Affordable Housing	Support legislative action to ensure full funding of Public Housing, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and the Community Development Block Grant program.
Immigration Reform	Advocate for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and other federal immigration policies that help keep families together while supporting their higher education goals.
Veterans	Support legislation and funding that improves the lives of all veterans and their families.
Gun Violence	Support legislation that ensures the protection of all people from gun violence.



Proposed Federal Legislative Priorities

Environment

Grand Canyon Protection	Support Chairman Grijalva's legislation preventing uranium mining in areas surrounding Grand Canyon National Park and strengthen the laws, regulations and policies that govern uranium mining to ensure protection for public health and safety; support efforts to reinstitute the 20-year uranium mining moratorium for the nearly 1 million acres around the Grand Canyon.
Uranium Transport Standards	Urge the Arizona Dept. of Transportation and/or the US Dept. of Transportation to strengthen uranium transport standards to reduce the possibility of contamination.
Forest Health	Leverage City voter approved Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project (FWPP) funding with federal dollars to maximize investments in community and watershed protection and forest health; \$8.5 million is required to complete FWPP. Additionally, ensure that resources and funding continue to flow quickly and efficiently to important regional projects such as the Four Forests Restoration Initiative (4FRI), NAU's Ecological Restoration Institute (ERI), the Fire Learning Network (FLN) and collaborative Prescribed Fire efforts that support the development of a technically skilled workforce.
Carbon Fee & Dividend Legislation	Urge the federal government to pass carbon fee and dividend legislation in support of climate change mitigation.



HOTEL
MONTE VISIT

State Landscape





Proposed State Legislative Priorities

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.
State Shared Revenues	Support legislation that will protect (and recover) state shared revenues to municipalities and oppose new legislation seeking to divert shared revenues away from municipalities.
Transportation	Advocate for additional funding to the Arizona Department of Transportation to plan, build and maintain projects that affect Northern Arizona.
Forest Health	Advocate for investing in forest health treatments on state-owned land in Northern Arizona.



Proposed State Legislative Priorities

Short-Term Rentals	Work with stakeholders supporting legislation to allow for local regulations over investor-owned residential properties used as short-term rentals and ensure regulatory fairness between all aspects of the hotel industry.
Social Service Providers	Advocate for 100% funding from the state legislature to fully fund and reimburse all social service providers.
Aquifer Protection Permits	Urge the Arizona Dept. of Environmental Quality 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.



Proposed State Legislative Priorities

Arizona Corporation Commission	Urge the Arizona Corporation Commission to adopt an aggressive statewide clean energy standard that achieves 100% carbon-free clean energy in our state.
COVID-19 Relief	Advocate for timely and equitable funding for cities to address declining revenues, continued pandemic unemployment insurance, mortgage relief, eviction moratoriums, small business loans/grants and increased funding for testing, education and broadband.

Next Steps

- Final language to be approved at the January 19 Council meeting
- Council discussion in February on bills introduced in the State Legislature
- Virtual lobbying trips in the Spring

Questions?

