

2023 Legislative Priorities

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Agenda



- Program operations
- Overview of the federal landscape
 - Council input - 2023 federal legislative priorities
- Overview of the state landscape
 - Council input - 2023 state legislative priorities
- Next steps

Intergovernmental Affairs Program

Operations

- Legislative priorities guide the work of staff and lobbyists
- Regular email updates
- Discussions on legislation during Council meetings on an as-needed basis
- In-person lobbying trips





HOTEL
MONTE VISIT

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.
Workforce development	Support legislation and funding to improve childcare and early childhood education, as well as strengthen workforce development initiatives including job training, internships, reskilling and apprenticeship programs.



Proposed Federal Legislative Priorities

Transportation & Infrastructure

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)	Pursue competitive grants and formula funds from the IIJA to finance high-priority infrastructure projects within the City, including resilient stormwater infrastructure, multi-modal transportation, roads, bridges, and highways.
Water and stormwater infrastructure	Utilize funding dedicated by the IIJA and other legislation to complement and improve City water and stormwater infrastructure.



Proposed Federal Legislative Priorities



Transportation & Infrastructure

Forest health	Utilize funding from the United States Forest Service, the IJA, and other legislation to support important regional projects such as the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project, the Four Forests Restoration Initiative (4FRI), NAU's Ecological Restoration Institute (ERI), the Fire Learning Network (FLN) to thin and restore forests. Advocate for collaborative prescribed fire efforts that support the development of a technically skilled workforce.
Post-wildfire flood mitigation	Support legislation that provides local governments with the resources needed to effectively mitigate post-wildfire flooding, including flooding caused by the Museum and Pipeline Fires.



Proposed Federal Legislative Priorities

Transportation & Infrastructure

Rural broadband	Utilize funding dedicated by the IJA and other legislation for rural broadband access and capacity to encourage and develop economic activity, including allowing for remote education, business attraction, revenue creation and the attraction of remote workers.
Flagstaff Pulliam Airport	Advocate for funding for projects included in the Flagstaff Pulliam Airport five-year Capital Improvement Program, specifically the need for construction funding for the upcoming new Snow Removal Equipment (SRE) building.
Amtrak	Utilize funding dedicated by the IJA and other legislation to increase reliability and certainty along the Southwest Chief line for long-distance passenger train services as a generator of economic development for municipalities located in the I-40 corridor.



Proposed Federal Legislative Priorities



Community Infrastructure

Affordable housing	Promote additional funding of Public Housing, the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 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.



Proposed Federal Legislative Priorities

Environment

Grand Canyon protection	Support Ranking Member 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 instate a permanent ban on uranium mining for the nearly one million acres around the Grand Canyon. Protect the wilderness, wildlife and cultural resources throughout the Southwest region.
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.



Proposed Federal Legislative Priorities

Environment

Climate change	Support legislation and funding to address the impacts of climate change, increase resiliency, invest in alternative energies and achieve carbon neutrality. Advocate for carbon fee and dividend legislation, among other strategies, to effect lasting and equitable change.
Environmental funding and partnership	Support federal funding and partnership opportunities to expand open space, parks, natural areas, trails and “dark skies” initiatives across northern Arizona.
Endangered Species Act	Protect and strengthen the Endangered Species Act and encourage Congress to maintain its funding and enforcement while working to promote the restoration of threatened and endangered species in northern Arizona.



Proposed Federal Legislative Priorities



Council Feedback



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	Protect (and recover) state shared revenues to municipalities and oppose new legislation seeking to divert shared revenues away from municipalities.
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 equity in the hotel industry.



Proposed State Legislative Priorities

Forest health	Advocate for investments in forest health on state-owned land in northern Arizona, augmenting municipal efforts to protect our region. Support appropriate funding of local responses to flood mitigation efforts from wildfire burn scars.
Transportation	Advocate for additional funding to the Arizona Department of Transportation to plan, build, preserve, modernize, and expand transportation and infrastructure projects that impact northern Arizona and our tribal partners.
Affordable housing	Support legislation and seek funding in support of affordable housing. Join cities across the state in opposing preemptions of inclusionary zoning.



Proposed State Legislative Priorities

Elections	Support efforts to protect voter rights and access, and secure the integrity of the election process.
Rural broadband	Support and encourage continuing state efforts to increase rural broadband access and capacity to encourage and develop economic activity, including allowing for remote education, business attraction, revenue creation, and the attraction of remote workers.
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.



Proposed State Legislative Priorities

Environmental funding and partnership	Support state funding and partnership opportunities to expand open space, parks, natural areas, trails and “dark skies” initiatives across northern Arizona.
Tourism	Urge the State to continue to fund tourism and the Arizona Office of Tourism to support northern Arizona as a four-season destination.
Social investment	Support legislation and funding to improve childcare and early childhood education, as well as strengthen workforce development initiatives including job training, internships, reskilling and apprenticeship programs.



Proposed State Legislative Priorities



Council Feedback

Next Steps

- Final language to be approved at the January 10 Council meeting
- Lobbying trips in the Spring

Questions?

