



Draft - 2026 State Legislative Priorities

GUIDING PRIORITIES

Preserve 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.

State Shared Revenues - Protect (and recover) state shared revenues to municipalities and oppose new legislation seeking to divert shared revenues away from municipalities.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation - Advocate for additional funding to plan, build, preserve, modernize, and expand transportation and infrastructure projects that impact northern Arizona and our tribal partners. Advocate for projects, policies and legislation that strengthen transformative transportation planning approaches, in line with complete street infrastructure.

Resilience and Preparedness - Advocate for assistance to upgrade infrastructure to withstand catastrophic events such as flooding, storms, and forest fires.

Flagstaff Pulliam Airport – Protect the State Aviation Fund (similar to HURF) and emphasize the need to use funds for airport maintenance and operations. Discourage transfers out of the fund for non-aviation expenditures.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Housing - Support legislation and seek funding in support of affordable housing, including the renewal of the Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH), renewal of the State Affordable Housing Tax Credit program, funding for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program, and funding for the Arizona Housing Trust Fund. Join cities across the state in prioritizing the creation of housing units while retaining local control in areas related to housing development.

Short-Term Rentals - Work with stakeholders supporting legislation to allow for local regulations over residential properties used as short-term rentals and ensure equity with the hotel industry.

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.



CITY OF FLAGSTAFF

Wildfire risk reduction – Support state funding and partnership opportunities for private property owners to reduce their wildfire risk through the creation of defensible space and home hardening initiatives, thereby making properties more attractive for insurance providers.

ENVIRONMENT

Forest Health & Emerging Technologies - Advocate for robust state investments in forest management strategies that reduce wildfire risk and enhance regional resilience across all land types in northern Arizona. Support policies that expand mechanical thinning, beneficial fire, and biomass utilization to protect communities and infrastructure. Promote the development of technologies, such as biochar production, as tools for forest restoration, economic diversification, and long-term benefits for energy and soil health. Encourage workforce development programs that build technical capacity in forest operations and technological innovation.

Energy Independence - Support legislation and funding to advance Arizona's energy independence through investment in energy storage and emerging technologies. Prioritize workforce development and education programs that prepare communities for careers in energy technology.

Arizona Corporation Commission - Encourage the Arizona Corporation Commission to maintain and enhance programming that supports new technologies, efficiencies, distributed generation, and renewable energy credits, with a focus on their role in strengthening Arizona's energy independence and economic competitiveness. Advocate for policies that protect ratepayers from excessive energy costs while ensuring continued investment in reliable and modern energy infrastructure. Build strategic relationships with Commissioners to highlight the economic, reliability, and workforce development benefits of these programs, particularly in rural and forested regions.

Environmental Funding and Partnership - Support state funding and partnership opportunities to expand open space, parks, natural areas, trails, and wildlife corridor initiatives across northern Arizona. Support the restoration of funding to the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund grant program for historic preservation. Promote the City's dark skies program and strengthen relationships with regional partners such as the Arizona Department of Transportation to increase understanding of the City's dark skies goals.