

GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT

The City of La Habra's Legislative Platform confirms the City Council's position on current issues that directly or indirectly affect City operations. It establishes guiding principles that City staff shall adhere to when monitoring pending legislation.

The City believes in local control and the ability of locally elected bodies to make policy decisions that address the needs of residents and businesses within its jurisdiction. It supports the use of appropriate tools and resources to carry out Council-approved policies without the threat of preemption, proscription, or unnecessary regulation by the State, Federal Government, or other governmental/regulatory bodies. In general, the City will oppose legislation that erodes local control and will support legislation that affirms local control.

While the City believes in the practice of fiscal responsibility by municipal bodies, it also requires flexibility in order to meet its fiduciary responsibility to the community. Therefore, the City will oppose legislation that hinders its ability to create sound fiscal policy and support legislation that encourages that conduct.

The issues contained within the Legislative Platform are divided into the following seven broad areas:

1. Administration
2. Finance
3. Human Resources
4. Community Development
5. Public Works
6. Community Services
7. Public Safety

1) *Administration*

A. Support maximum flexibility for local government in contracting and contract negotiations.

B. Support local authority to zone and plan for the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure, as well as maintain and manage public right-of-way, receiving compensation for such use.

C. Oppose legislation that could limit the ability of the City to generate new revenue to fund public services.

D. Oppose costly mandates and unnecessary procedures related to the election process and public records requests.

E. Oppose federal or state efforts that seek to limit or control local fiscal and/or contractual relationships.

2) Finance

A. Support measures that seek to protect local government revenues from takings by the State and oppose legislation that reduces general or special local revenues in any way, whether through a shift, borrowing, diversion, or some other financial mechanism.

B. Support full cost reimbursement to local government agencies for state mandated programs. The City also supports the elimination of unfunded mandates and advocates for no new mandates, funded or unfunded.

C. Support local government finance reform efforts that seek to more equitably distribute sales and property taxes and ensure that Orange County receives its fair share of resources.

D. The supports legislation that could help to potentially ease the burden of employee pension obligations.

E. The City opposes any legislation that would restrict a city's ability to restructure or declare bankruptcy.

3) Human Resources

A. The City supports transparency in government, including the release of information concerning public employee salaries, benefits, and other compensation, provided employee personal information remains confidential.

B. The City opposes legislation that removes, circumvents, or diminishes the Council's authority to negotiate in good faith and to set employee salary and benefits, including any requirements that place this authority with any non-elected person or quasi-governmental board.

C. The City opposes legislation that would require mandatory mediation with respect to public employees.

D. The City opposes legislation that mandates the membership composition of local personnel hearing boards.

E. The City supports workers' compensation reform that appropriately balances injured worker compensation and employer liability concerns.

4) Community Development

A. The City opposes legislation that impedes or hinders economic development, including, but not limited to, increased taxes and/or new requirements/regulations for companies conducting business in California.

B. The City supports legislation that enhances the City's efforts to retain existing businesses and attract new businesses, and legislation that provides tangible and productive tools/incentives to support job creation and retention.

C. The City supports legislation that preserves or increases funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, as well as supports legislation that would expand the eligibility and allowable use of CDBG funds on municipal projects and/or programs.

D. The City supports legislation that would place additional regulation and oversight over group homes and transitional living facilities that locate in residential neighborhoods, including legislation that allows cities to place conditions of approval of such facilities.

E. The City opposes legislation that includes punitive impacts related to the RHNA or Housing Element requirements.

F. The City strongly supports the concept of local control for local decision-making on land use and zoning matters and opposes any legislation or proposal to reduce local control.

G. The City opposes legislation and/or regulatory efforts to diminish or eliminate the authority of cities to zone and plan for the development of telecommunications infrastructure, such as cellular communications towers, small cell sites, and transmission sites.

H. The City supports legislation and programs that employ evidence-based best practice strategies to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness.

I. The City supports measures that demonstrate regional, collaborative approaches to the issue of homelessness and provide funding for emergency and transitional housing, expanding affordable permanent housing opportunities, and promoting greater self-empowerment for those at risk through counseling, drug/alcohol rehabilitation programs, job training, and other supportive services.

5) Public Works

A. The City supports legislation that enhances overall quality of life issues related to parks, water and sewer facilities, streets, and transportation facilities. For grant-funded programs proposed by the legislature, the City supports a per capita allocation formula.

B. The City supports improvements to the California Department of Transportation's maintenance of State highways.

C. The City supports legislation that encourages energy efficiency of buildings and facilities, both public and private.

D. The City supports legislation that provides funding opportunities to maintain, improve, or replace storm water infrastructure and systems.

E. The City supports efforts to expand funding opportunities to be used for various transportation improvements, including bikeways, sidewalks, and alleyways.

F. The City supports efforts to preserve or enhance local control of the public right-of-way, including full control over the manner, place, and time of use.

G. The City supports legislation to expand funding opportunities to be used for the acquisition and/or enhancement of recreational space, including parks, trails, community facilities, and other open spaces.

6) Community Services

- A. The City supports legislation and funding that enhances the quality, affordability, capacity, accessibility, and safety of child development programs.
- B. The City supports continued State and/or Federal funding for arts and cultural resources.
- C. The City supports policies and programs that provide funding for State-mandated renovations to public facilities and public resources.

7) Public Safety

- A. The City supports legislation that protects local control over community policing efforts and decisions related to staffing, schedules, equipment, and budgetary matters. Legislative or regulatory efforts to diminish or adversely affect control over these matters by the local governing body will be opposed.
- B. The City opposes legislation restricting or regulating a city's ability to contract for municipal services of any type, including public safety services. This includes mandatory reviews or audits, as well as any measure that hinders a city's ability to change service providers or bring services in-house.
- C. The City supports legislation that enhances local control over the regulation of public nuisances including, but not limited to, adult entertainment operations, alcohol-serving establishments, and properties where legal and/or illegal drugs are sold.
- D. The City supports increased funding for local law enforcement to address the negative effects of AB 109 and realignment and opposes legislation that diverts or reduces funding meant to enhance public safety.