

City of Garden Grove Legislative Advocacy Program

The City Manager's Office coordinates an active legislative advocacy program focused on protecting the interests of our community and identifying resources available to enhance City services and programs. Our legislative efforts include researching and monitoring federal and state bills, preparing letters and related communications in response to proposed legislation, and working with our legislative representatives and their staffs to promote the interests of our community. The City Council and City Manager's Office works closely with our elected representatives as well as with the League of California Cities (LOCC) and Association of California Cities Orange County (ACCOC), to influence policy decisions that affect cities and support and preserve local control and local funding.

Legislative Platform

The 2025-26 Legislative Platform provides a framework for the City of Garden Grove's Legislative Program. Adopted biennially or as changes are needed, the City's Legislative Platform is the foundation of a focused advocacy strategy and serves as a reference guide for legislative positions and objectives that provide direction for the City Council and staff throughout the year. (*See attached Legislative Platform.*)

The primary objective of the Legislative Platform is for the City Council to adopt official City positions on clearly stated legislative issues at the start of the legislative session. By doing this, the legislative approval process is streamlined by receiving clear direction at the beginning of the legislative session from the City Council on pertinent legislative issues.

The Legislative Platform is developed and maintained using the goals and objectives of the City Council, a review of legislative priorities from the League of California Cities, the Association of California Cities Orange County, input from City Council and Staff, research of current law and pending legislation, as well as discussions with local legislative staff and the City's legislative advocates.

Federal and state legislative proposals and policies consistent with the Legislative Platform may be supported by the City. Those policies or proposals inconsistent with this agenda may be opposed by the City. For proposed legislation, either consistent with the City's Legislative Platform or consistent with legislative positions the City has taken in the past, City staff shall be authorized to prepare position letters for the Mayor's signature. Items not addressed in the City's Legislative Platform may require further Council direction.

Legislative priorities may only address issues directly relevant to or impacting the provision of municipal services. Generally, the City will not address matters that are not pertinent to the City's local government services such as social or international issues. City departments are encouraged to monitor and be knowledgeable of any

legislative issues related to their discipline. Any requests for the City to take a position on a legislative matter must be directed to the City Manager's Office. City departments may not take positions on legislative issues without City Manager's Office review and approval.

Program Goals and Strategies/Actions

The Legislative Advocacy Program Goals and Strategies/Actions are outlined below.

Program Goals:

- Advocate the City's legislative interests at the Federal, State and County levels.
- Inform and provide information to our Legislators, City Council, and Staff on the legislative process and key issues and legislation that could have a potential impact on the City.
- Serve as an active participant with other local governments, the League of California Cities, Association of California Cities Orange County, regional agencies such as Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD), Orange County Water District (OCWD) and local professional organizations on legislative/regulatory issues that are important to the City and our Region.
- Seek grant and funding assistance for City projects, services, and programs to enhance services for our community.

Strategies/Actions:

- I. Communicate legislative positions on proposed Federal, State, and County legislation, measures, initiatives, and governmental regulations.
 - A. Work with city departments and our legislative advocates to develop positions on proposed Federal and State legislative measures.
 - B. Staff will review the positions and analysis done by the League of California Cities, Association of California Cities Orange County, our legislative advocates' feedback, and other local government/professional associations in formulating our positions.
 - C. The City will take positions only on proposals that clearly impact our City or are a threat to local control.
 - D. Actively track key bills through the legislative process, utilizing the City's advocacy services, various Legislative websites, and government/professional associations.
 - E. Communicate the City's position to our Federal, State, and County Legislators, bill author(s), committees, and Legislature, through correspondence, testimony, and in-person meetings.
 - F. Work cooperatively with other cities, associations, and the League of California Cities and the Association of California Cities Orange County on advocating our legislative positions.

- G. As necessary, participate in the drafting and amending of proposed Federal and State measures that have the potential to significantly impact the City.
 - H. Meet with Legislators and their representatives, as well as other Federal, State and County government officials on a regular basis, to discuss local government issues, proposed legislation, requests for funding assistance, and City programs and services.
- II. Seek Federal, State, and County funding through appropriations, grants, and other discretionary funding for City projects, services, and programs.
- A. Identify City projects for potential submittal for Federal appropriations consideration. Develop a submittal packet for Legislators that provides information and need for the projects.
 - B. Provide information to City departments on potential grant funding opportunities and recognition programs.
 - C. Advocate and request letters of support for City projects and grant applications or other resources that are being considered for Federal, State, and County funding.
- III. Work closely with the League of California Cities, the Association of California Cities Orange County, our legislative advocates, and other cities and organizations in advocating for the City's Federal, State, and County legislative interests.
- A. Actively participate in the League of California Cities' Orange County Division and Association of California Cities Orange County activities.
 - B. Participate in League of California Cities and Association of California Cities Orange County policy committees and other organization briefings and activities in order to stay updated on trends, upcoming initiatives, and pending legislation.
 - C. Support the League of California Cities Multi-Year Strategic Initiatives and Advocacy Strategies.
 - D. Interact with other cities on issues of mutual concern or impact.
 - E. Interact with regional groups that are involved with legislative programs (e.g., Chamber of Commerce, OCTA, SCAG, CalTrans, OCSD, OCWD, SCAQMD, etc.)
 - F. Review requests from other governmental and regional organizations to consider supporting their legislative positions and/or funding requests.
- IV. Share information with the City Council, City staff, and the community on legislative issues.
- A. Work closely with department heads and staff to determine their legislative priorities and funding needs for the upcoming legislative session.
 - B. Provide updates on legislative issues to the Council and departments throughout the year.
 - C. Educate and involve the community in the City's advocacy efforts on legislative issues and State/Federal funding requests.

CITY OF GARDEN GROVE
LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM
2025-26 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FINANCE

1. Oppose new unfunded state and federal mandates, and support full cost reimbursement of existing mandates.
2. Oppose legislation that shifts tax revenues away from local governments without the adequate provision of a constitutionally guaranteed backfill to offset the lost revenues.
3. Support generation, protection and timely allocation of local funding distributed by the state.
4. Support legislative efforts that protect locally generated revenues or tax revenues allocated to cities.
5. Support the retention of internet sales tax revenues in the jurisdiction where the purchase was made.

PUBLIC SAFETY

1. Support measures that encourage community safety and well-being.
2. Support legislative efforts to grant state and federal funding to supplement local law enforcement and fire suppression to facilitate the efficient delivery of public safety services and to provide equipment to maintain the safety, security and quality of life for Garden Grove residents.
3. Support legislation that protects Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) funding and provides for additional funding for local agencies to recoup the costs of crime and increase community safety.

4. Oppose any legislation that would limit or restrict the City's ability to collect fees for the expense of an emergency response (e.g., non-resident medical aid fee).
5. Support legislation that preserves the City's rights to deliver emergency medical services pursuant to Health and Safety Code 1797.201.
6. Support legislation and grants that provide funding for equipment upgrades, training and capital improvements, including funding to enhance Emergency Operation Centers.
7. Support increased funding for law enforcement training costs related to homelessness and mental health.
8. Support legislative efforts to improve fire suppression and prevention, hazardous materials mitigation, emergency medical services, and disaster preparedness initiatives.
9. Support legislation that seeks to reimburse the City for overtime costs, training, and equipment, paid to and for fire suppression personnel who are fighting statewide wildland fires, attending regional trainings, and promoting interoperability through the upgrade and replacement of outdated equipment.
10. Oppose attempts to eliminate local control of alcohol beverage establishments.
11. Support funding for community-based gang diversion programs.
12. Oppose any further legislative attempts at early release of incarcerated prisoners and further de-criminalization of "non-violent" offenses.
13. Support legislation that provides tools and resources cities need to respond to changes in statewide criminal sentencing policies (i.e., AB 109, Proposition 47, and Proposition 57).
14. Support legislation to provide for local regulation and control of massage establishments.
15. Support legislation that protects local priorities and control pertaining to implementation of the Adult Use of Marijuana Act.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. Support legislation and grants to fund parks, recreation and capital improvements, and programs to increase the quality of life for Garden Grove residents.
2. Support funding for community-based efforts to address the social, recreational and developmental needs of youth and seniors.
3. Support funding for local art programs and installations.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

1. Oppose any reduction in local control over public employee disputes, or imposition of regulations of an outside agency.
2. Oppose any measure expanding public employees' ability to strike.
3. Support continued workers compensation reforms to prevent fraud and abuse of the workers' compensation system.
4. Support workers' compensation reforms that protect the ability of employers to challenge the work-relatedness of illnesses claimed by public employees in workers' compensation cases, and to overcome presumptions that illnesses are work related.
5. Oppose imposition of new or enhanced mandated employee benefits, including the mandatory expansion of benefits to part-time employees or retirees.
6. Oppose any efforts to expand the length of "4850" time for safety employees on industrial injury leave.
7. Oppose any measures designed to insert state control or influence over the municipal bankruptcy process as a way to prevent the renegotiation of financially unsustainable labor agreements.
8. Oppose any state legislation that would mandate interest arbitration in labor disputes.
9. Support legislation that helps cities address pension liability issues.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1. Support measures which provide for cooperative efforts to reduce air pollution through the reduction of actual emissions, rather than vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled.
2. Support measures that maintain and enhance local decision making authority, where appropriate, in the development and implementation of air quality attainment strategies.
3. Support measures that maintain and enhance local authority and flexibility to regulate solid waste and recyclables.
4. Support measures to increase water supply, encourage conservation of water resources and improve drinking water quality in the region.
5. Support state, federal or other funding for water reuse technologies and drought and other water related infrastructure improvements.
6. Support measures to provide for and promote the use of reclaimed water.
7. Oppose efforts to make all National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits the same. Requirements of Los Angeles or San Diego permits may be too onerous or not applicable. Orange County's permit should be tailored to our region/watershed.
8. Support State General funding for local and regional efforts that educate the public on urban runoff, provide for long-term capital improvements, and encourage municipalities to implement Urban Runoff Best Management Practices.
9. Oppose actions by Regional Water Quality Control Boards that impose mandates on cities that exceed State or Federal Regulations and/or are outside their jurisdictional authority to impose or enforce.
10. Oppose environmental regulations for which the costs of regulation, both direct and indirect, significantly exceed the benefits or provide only minimal protections.

HOUSING

1. Oppose any reduction in the housing or community development authority of municipalities.
2. Support the legislative authority of local governments to implement reasonable housing occupancy standards.
3. Support legislation that protects and expands investments (i.e. capital improvements, services, etc.) to prevent and reduce homelessness and the ability to enforce quality of life ordinances and policies (i.e. anti-camping, loitering, etc.).
4. Support legislation that protects and expands financing tools for affordable housing.
5. Oppose any reductions to HUD funded programs (i.e. Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, Community Development Block Grant, and the Home Investment Partnerships Program) and support full program funding.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Support efforts to preserve, strengthen, and protect local control over land use, planning and zoning, and the public right-of-way.
2. Support efforts to expand economic development tools and reduce regulation, including advocating for new tax increment financing and other economic development tools and supporting reductions in burdensome state regulations, to support job creation and a stronger economy.
3. Support targeted CEQA reform, including; 1) better defining "standing" or who are interested parties entitled to bring legal actions to challenge local environmental findings, 2) eliminating last minute "data dumps", 3) creating a broad, simplified exemption for infill housing, 4) providing additional judicial training, 5) encouraging courts to show greater deference to the CEQA statute and regulations, and 6) providing clearer parameters and guidance for significance thresholds and mitigation measures.

4. Support legislation that provides local agencies with regulatory tools related to short-term rentals, recovery homes, and other uses in residential areas that have the ability to affect quality of life.
5. Oppose legislation that further erodes cities' ability to leverage real estate assets to directly, or indirectly, further public goals and policies.

REGIONAL ISSUES

1. Oppose new authority for sub-regional or regional bodies that infringe on municipal authority.
2. Oppose the creation of new levels of regional government.
3. Support measures to achieve fair and proportionate representation on countywide and regional boards.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Support legislation that expands infrastructure and transportation investment.
2. Support protection of dedicated transportation-related tax revenues and enhance the ability of local agencies to finance local transportation programs and facilities (e.g., Gas Tax, M2, State bond funds).
3. Support increased local discretionary authority to expend transportation funds.
4. Support measures that ensure Orange County cities receive their fair share of transportation revenues.
5. Support implementing legislation that enables faster, more efficient delivery of transportation projects.
6. Support efforts to secure funding for expansion of the OC Street Car project.

7. Support new and innovative revenue options and resources to finance critical infrastructure maintenance and construction needs for our transportation, water supply, wastewater, stormwater and other critical infrastructure systems.

LIABILITY EXPOSURE

1. Support reform of California tort law to curtail unreasonable liability exposure for cities.
2. Support reform of the California tort law system to facilitate the ability of cities to obtain affordable insurance.