



## CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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## CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Meeting: June 18, 2019

### Subject

Adopt 2019 Legislative Platform

### Recommended Action

Adopt the City's proposed 2019 Legislative Platform.

### Background

Each year, the Council adopts a Legislative Platform that guides and informs official City positions on pending legislative issues during the year. The Legislative Review Committee (LRC), sometimes referred to as the Legislative Advocacy Committee, uses the Council-approved Platform to authorize City positions and position letters on legislation. Federal and state bills consistent with the City's legislative priorities would be supported by the City. Those policies or proposals in conflict with the Platform would be opposed. Items not clearly addressed in the City's Platform would require Council approval prior to any legislative advocacy efforts. Since the LRC is a smaller group comprised of two councilmembers, they can remain nimble and respond to time-sensitive legislative issues.

### Discussion

As part of the FY 2019-20 Work Program, Council requested that staff contract with a lobbying firm to analyze legislation, offer lobbying support, and develop a legislative program to support City priorities. While the FY 2019-20 Work Program does not begin until July, staff began work on this item early to enable the City to be more effectively engaged during the current legislative session. The City contracted with Townsend Public Affairs (TPA) and worked with them to develop the draft 2019 Legislative Platform.

On May 14, 2019, the LRC considered the initial draft of the 2019 Legislative Platform and provided input. City staff and TPA incorporated their feedback and brought back an updated draft on May 24<sup>th</sup>. The LRC unanimously recommended that Council adopt the 2019 Legislative platform after incorporating their modifications.

This year's draft Legislative Platform includes many of the same elements as the 2018 Legislative Platform. Due to having additional expertise from TPA and additional LRC

input, the draft Legislative Platform is more detailed than it has been in the past. A section on education was also included per the request of the LRC. While schools are beyond the purview of the City, it was felt that schools are still a priority to our community overall.

Sustainability Impact

No sustainability impact.

Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact.

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Prepared by: Katy Nomura, Assistant to the City Manager

Reviewed by: Timm Borden, Assistant City Manager

Approved for Submission by: Deborah Feng, City Manager

Attachments:

A – Proposed 2019 Legislative Platform