



Legislative Program

Federal and State Policy Priorities

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Office of the City Manager
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Introduction

The Hayward Legislative Program outlines the legislative priorities and stances of the City of Hayward with the intent to inform residents, representatives, and policymakers of the City's stances on the myriad of public policies that intersect with City priorities, programs, and services. These priorities are applicable to legislation, state-wide referenda, grant funding opportunities, and local ballot initiatives.

The City Council Priorities of Safe, Clean, Green, Thriving, Fiscal Sustainability, and Organizational Health serve as the guiding principles for Hayward's legislative priorities. Moreover, the City supports any and all policies that will preserve or enhance the ability of the City to promote these guiding principles at the local level.

The City has two major legislative priorities: Enhancing Revenue Sources and Maintaining Home Rule Authority. City support of legislation will be contingent upon that legislation adhering to these priorities as well as the City Council priorities.

This document provides direction to the City's legislative advocates in Washington D.C and Sacramento. Additionally, this document serves as the foundation for any City Council action regarding Federal or State legislation or funding opportunity. Staff may draft letters, direct our legislative advocates, or speak on behalf of the City regarding the legislative priorities this document outlines.

Any correspondence signifying the City's support or opposition of a given bill must be signed by the Mayor and/or City Manager with notification to the City Council.

Any questions regarding this Legislative Program can be directed to John Stefanski, Management Analyst at 510-583-3904 or John.Stefanski@Hayward-CA.gov.

Sincerely,

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General Legislative Principles

The City Council has four general guiding priorities: Safe, Clean, Green, and Thriving. These priorities serve as the foundation for all actions the City will take, including the lobbying for policies that promote those same guiding priorities.

Public policy encompasses a myriad of subject and topic areas. However, as these policies intersect at the local level, they have the ability to impact municipal revenues and/or administrative discretion and control. In addition to the aforementioned Council Priorities the City will support policies that either preserve revenue sources, maintain home rule authority, or both. If a given policy does not meet these criteria, the City will oppose, support with amendments, or in some cases take no stance on that policy or legislation.

The General Legislative Principles for the City of Hayward are:

Enhancing Revenue Sources

- Support the protection or expansion of federal, state, and local funding sources that provide revenue to the City.
- Oppose any Federal or State legislation, policies, programs, referenda, unfunded mandates and budgets that would have an adverse impact on the City's ability to provide adequate programs, projects and services.

Maintaining Home Rule Authority

- Support any legislation, policies, referenda, and budgets that maintain or improve local regulatory control and authority.
- Oppose any legislation, policies, referenda, and budgets that undermine or circumvent the City Charter.

City Public Policy Positions

The General Legislative Priorities help identify which public policy positions the City will take. The list of policy positions below is by no means exhaustive. In addition to the general legislative priorities, the City takes the following more specific public policy positions:

1.1 Public Safety

- A. Oppose legislation that would eliminate the City's ability to engage in cooperative service agreements
- B. Oppose any legislation that restricts or limits the City's ability to regulate legal marijuana at the local level.
- C. Support legislation that protects the public from dangerous or improper use of weapons
- D. Support legislation that develop and expand programs to encourage and support the City's emergency preparedness initiatives.
- E. Support legislation that develop and expand programs that aid the city in its local hazard mitigation activities as prescribed in the 2016 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

1.2 Transportation and Infrastructure

- A. Support legislation and initiatives that boost funding for infrastructure projects within the city and surrounding region.
- B. Support legislation and initiatives that increase access and funding for regional public transportation.
- C. Support legislation and initiatives that would reduce traffic congestion and boost public transportation ridership.
- D. Support legislation and initiatives that promote the use of design-build methods for faster project delivery.

1.3 Environmental Sustainability

- A. Support legislation and initiatives that increase funding for the creation of sustainable and stable water supply infrastructure.
- B. Support legislation and initiatives that encourage the conservation of water resources as well as the development of water recycling capabilities.
- C. Support legislation and funding for renewable and advanced energy technology that increase efficient consumption.
- D. Support legislation and funding for City energy and resource efficiency programs.
- E. Support legislation and initiatives with the goal of reducing and mitigating the effects of climate change and sea level rise.

1.4 Finance/Human Resources

- A. Oppose Federal or State unfunded mandates.
- B. Support legislation that expands municipal tax increment financing power.
- C. Oppose legislation that reduces or removes the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.
- D. Support legislation that reduces the costs of healthcare and other post-employment benefits.
- E. Oppose any legislation that would divert local revenues to the State or other governmental entities.
- F. Support broadening the base of the Sales Tax to include services and e-commerce as well as through decreasing Sales Tax exemptions.

1.5 Community and Economic Development

- A. Support any legislation, policies, referenda, and budgets that maintain or increase economic development resources and flexibility at the local level.
- B. Support legislation that provides tools for cities to improve business development and retention.
- C. Oppose any legislation that strips the benefit provisions of AB1484 associated with the wind down of redevelopment agencies.
- D. Oppose legislation that reduces or erodes local land use control and decision making.
- E. Support legislation that develops and expands programs to encourage and support sustainable affordable housing development.
- F. Support legislation to streamline and increase efficiency of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) while ensuring environmental stewardship is retained.

1.6 Educational, Neighborhood and Social Services

- A. Support legislation that aids or helps to fund the City and/or non-profit entities that provide support services and housing for the homeless, seniors, veterans, and people with special needs.
- B. Support legislation and initiatives that increase funding for library programs and literacy services.
- C. Support legislation and initiatives that sustain or increase funding for the development and maintenance of public parks and open spaces
- D. Support legislation and initiatives that boost funding for local school districts, public institutions of higher education and for low income students.

Legislative Program Coordination

Legislation can be brought to the attention of the City through a variety of channels:

- State and Federal Legislative Advocates
- Elected Representatives
- League of California Cities
- City Council Members
- City Staff
- City Residents
- Other Governmental Associations

All legislative requests for support or opposition will be directed toward the Office of the City Manager. City staff will then review the legislation in coordination with any relevant departments to analyze whether or not the legislation aligns with the City's general legislative priorities. Staff will then monitor and track the legislation, providing updates when necessary.

Concurrent with this evaluation, the City Manager's department will recommend a position and course of action. There are five main levels of action all of which are coordinated by the City Manager.

- 1. Direction to lobbyists to advocate in support, support with changes, or opposition to legislation**
 - City staff will notify lobbyists of the City's stance and direct them to take appropriate action with legislators.
 - The City reserves the right to remain neutral on a given piece of legislation
- 2. Mayoral correspondence with relevant legislators**
 - City staff will draft a support or opposition letter for the City Manager and/or Mayor to review and sign. This letter will be distributed to the appropriate legislators.
- 3. Council approved resolution**
 - City staff will draft a staff report and resolution for consideration by the full City Council. Approved resolutions will be forwarded along with a letter signed by the Mayor to the appropriate legislators.
- 4. Council outreach**
 - City staff will draft talking points and other relevant information for individual Council Members to personally contact appropriate legislators to advocate on behalf of the City.
- 5. Travel to Sacramento or Washington, D.C.**
 - City staff and/or Council Members may decide to advocate in person. Staff will coordinate with the appropriate lobbyists to organize meetings or attendance at other lobbying events.
- 6. Draft or Sponsor Specific Legislation**
 - City staff and legislative advocates will work with the City's legislative representatives to articulate the City's stance on a policy and to ensure said stance is codified in statute.