



Legislative Program

Federal and State Policy Priorities

777 B Street
Hayward, CA 94541

p. 510.583.4300
f. 510-583-3601

Office of the City Manager
Management Analyst

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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 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 Laurel James, Management Analyst at 510-583-4303 or Laurel.James@Hayward-CA.gov.

Sincerely,

Kelly McAdoo
City Manager
ICMA-CM

Mayor and City Council

Mailing Address

City of Hayward
4th Floor
777 B Street
Hayward, CA 94588

Mayor and City Council

Mayor Barbara Halliday
510-583-4340
Barbara.Halliday@Hayward-CA.gov

Council Member Angela Andrews
510-583-4353
Angela.Andrews@Hayward-CA.gov

Council Member Aisha Wahab
510-583-4357
Aisha.Wahab@hayward-ca.gov

Council Member Sara Lamnin
510-583-4358
Sara.Lamnin@Hayward-CA.gov

Council Member Elisa Márquez
510-583-4357
Elisa.Marquez@Hayward-CA.gov

Council Member Mark Salinas
510-583-4355
Mark.Salinas@Hayward-CA.gov

Council Member Francisco Zermeño
510-583-4352
Francisco.Zermeno@Hayward-CA.gov

Contact Information

Mailing Address

City of Hayward
4th Floor
777 B Street
Hayward, CA 94588

Program Staff

City Manager
Kelly McAdoo
510-583-4300
Kelly.McAdoo@Hayward-CA.gov

Legislative Advocates

Federal Legislative Advocate

Capitol Advocacy Partners

Dana DeBeaumont

600 Pennsylvania Avenue SE
#15048
Washington, DC 20003

202-532-6856

DDebeaumont@CapitolAdvocacyPartners.com

State Legislative Advocate

Townsend Public Affairs

Eric Thronson

925 L. Street
Suite 1404
Sacramento, CA 95814

916-447-4086

ethronson@TownsendPA.com

General Legislative Principles

As part of the 2020 Strategic Roadmap, the City Council adopted six general guiding priorities:

1. Preserve, Protect, and Produce Housing
2. Grow the Economy
3. Combat Climate Change
4. Improve Infrastructure
5. Support Quality of Life
6. Improve Organizational Health

These priorities serve as the foundation for all actions the City will take, including advocacy for policies that promote those same guiding priorities.

Public policy encompasses a variety 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 Community and Economic Development

- A. Support 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 legislation that strips the benefit provisions of AB 1484 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 to streamline and increase efficiency of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) while ensuring environmental stewardship is retained.
- F. Support legislation, policies and programs that are explicitly designed to address racial disparities by advancing racial equity and anti-racism.
- G. Support legislation that would provide economic relief for local businesses and commercial property owners affected by the COVID-19 shut-downs and stay-in-place orders.

1.2 Educational, Neighborhood and Social Services

- A. Support legislation that aims to advance racial equity by improving the standard of living for historically disenfranchised groups and low-income families.
- 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.

1.3 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 cannabis at the local level.
- C. Support legislation that protects the public from dangerous or improper use of weapons.
- D. Support legislation that develops and expands programs to encourage and support the City's emergency preparedness initiatives.
- E. Support legislation that develops and expands programs that aid the city in its local hazard mitigation activities as prescribed in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- F. Support legislation or programs that provide Federal and State funding or resources for effective non-violent emergency services alternatives to policing and violence prevention programs.
- G. Support legislation that provides funding for county and local mental health services.
- H. Support legislation and funding that allows the City to prepare and respond to emergency situations, natural disasters, and health pandemics, including its ability to continue to provide critical public services.

1.4 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, as well as complete streets and active transportation infrastructure.
- 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.
- E. Support legislation that gives local government more control over micro-mobility regulation and infrastructure.
- F. Support legislation that provides reliable funding for transportation system improvements and maintenance at the State and local level.
- G. Support legislation and funding that supports transportation electrification including electric vehicle charging infrastructure and electric bicycles.
- H. Support legislation and initiatives that improve the transportation system, specifically for vulnerable users of the system (children, pedestrians, cyclists, etc.), to improve safety, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote active transportation.

1.5 Environmental Sustainability

Waste

- A. Support legislation and initiatives that hold manufacturers accountable for proper disposal of non-recyclable products they produce to foster more environmentally sustainable product design.
- B. Support legislation and initiatives that limit production, distribution, or sale of nonrecyclable single-use items that negatively impact the environment.
- C. Support legislation and initiatives that encourage recycling and waste reduction efforts and incentivize efforts to improve markets for recycling.

Climate and Energy

- D. Support legislation and initiatives that address the impacts of climate change and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- E. Support legislation and initiatives that improve climate adaptation and resiliency – especially while reducing impacts to vulnerable populations and improving equity.
- F. Support legislation and initiatives that call for improved energy efficiency and building electrification.
- G. Support legislation and initiatives that support community choice energy programs and reduce unfair competition from investor-owned utilities.
- H. Support legislation that expands the development of renewable energy systems – especially within the City.
- I. Support legislation and funding intended to assist local agencies in adapting to sea level rise.

Stormwater

- J. Support legislation and funding for stormwater quality improvements.

1.6 Homelessness, Affordable Housing and Housing Development

- A. Support legislation that provides funding to the City and/or non-profit entities to build or support affordable housing projects.
- B. Support legislation and programs that fund homeless navigation and support facilities or provide homeless assistance, reduction, and prevention services.
- C. Support legislation that aids first time homebuyers.

- D. Support legislation that expedites and incentivizes housing development around transit and employment, including streamlining environmental approval processes for housing while maintaining local authority and maintaining environmental protections.
- E. 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 other people with special needs.

1.7 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. Oppose ballot initiatives or legislation to increase local government voter–approval requirements for general taxes.
- G. Support broadening the base of the Sales Tax to include services and e-commerce as well as through decreasing Sales Tax exemptions.

1.8 Immigration

- A. Support legislation that promotes the health and well-being, removes barriers to health services and economic success, fosters civic engagement, and streamlines integration for immigrants and immigrant families.
- B. Support Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival and any legislation that protects undocumented children.
- C. Support legislation that funds education and outreach efforts for hard to count populations, such as immigrants and limited English speakers, during the U.S. Census.
- D. Oppose federal regulations or proposals that would withhold funding as a penalty for noncompliance with federal immigration policies.

1.9 Voting Rights

- A. Support legislation that establishes or expands early voting opportunities and increases physical voting accessibility for elderly and disabled voters.
- B. Support legislation that expands voter registration opportunities by establishing or expanding automatic voter registration and same-day or Election Day registration.

- C. Oppose ballot initiatives that restrict mail-in voting ballot eligibility, accessibility to drop boxes, or ability to remain on an absentee voting ballot list.
- D. Oppose ballot initiatives that impose harsher in-person voting requirements or limit the number and accessibility of polling locations.
- E. Oppose ballot initiatives that restrict voter registration or expand voter roll purging.

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 office will recommend a position and course of action. There are six main levels of action all of which are coordinated by the City Manager:

1. Direction to Legislative Advocates to advocate in support, support with changes, or opposition to legislation.
 - City staff will notify Legislative Advocates 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 Legislative Advocates to organize meetings or attendance at other advocacy 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.