



# 2024 Legislative Platform

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## **Mission Statement**

The City of Paramount's Legislative Platform establishes a framework for the City's collective principles on matters of legislation and regional issues similar in nature.

The Paramount City Council recognizes the need for an active legislative program to protect the City's interests in the region, Sacramento, and Washington, D.C. This document outlines the City's position on legislative matters.



## **Purpose**

On September 1, 2020, the City Council approved implementation of a Legislative Platform that streamlines a process for staff to follow when the City receives a request to take a position on legislative matters. Adopted annually by the City Council, the Legislative Platform is the foundation of a focused advocacy strategy and serves as a reference guide for legislative positions and objectives. The purpose of the Legislative Platform is to give clear direction to staff when determining the City's position on legislation. The Legislative Platform is developed and maintained by using the goals and objectives of the City Council, and incorporates the City's Vision, Mission, Values, and Strategic Outcomes. It is based on input from the City Council and staff, as well as local legislative staff and the City's legislative advocates.

*The Legislative Platform... [uses] the goals and objectives of the City Council, and incorporates the City's Vision, Mission, Values, and Strategic Outcomes.*



## **Implementation**

The City Council will review and adopt the Legislative platform at the start of each legislative session and revisit it mid-year. Federal and State legislation that is consistent with the Legislative Platform may be supported by the City. Federal and State legislation that is inconsistent with the Legislative Platform may be opposed by the City. When legislation is supported or opposed by the Legislative Platform, City staff will prepare position letters to be approved by the Mayor. Legislation that is not addressed in the Legislative Platform may require further direction from the City Council. Legislative priorities may only address issues directly related to or impacting the provision of municipal services.

## Partner Organizations

Generally, the City supports the legislative positions of the City's partner organizations. However, there may be some instances where the City does not support a certain legislative position by a partner organization. When this occurs, City staff will use the principles and values in this Legislative Platform to guide legislative position. The following are partner organizations the City generally supports:

### **Federal:**

American Planning Association  
American Public Works Association  
American Water Works Association  
National Recreation and Parks Association  
National League of Cities  
U.S. Conference of Mayors

### **State:**

Association of California Water Agencies  
California Association of Local Economic Development  
California Building Officials  
California Contract Cities Association  
California Joint Powers Insurance Authority  
California Municipal Revenue and Tax Association  
California Municipal Utilities Association  
California Society of Municipal Finance Officers  
California Stormwater Quality Association  
California Park & Recreation Society  
City Clerks Association of California  
League of California Cities

### **Regional:**

Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
Gateway Water Management Authority  
The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority  
Los Angeles County Sheriff's and Fire Departments  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
Southern California Chapter of National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors  
Southeast Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board  
Southeast Water Coalition  
Southern California Association of Governments  
Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District





# **Guiding Principles**

**The City of Paramount will take positions and advocate based on the following principles:**

## **1. Preserve Local Control**

- Support measures that preserve and protect the City's powers and duties to enact legislation and policy direction concerning local affairs, and oppose legislation that preempts local authority.
- Support measures that preserve and enhance authority and accountability for revenues raised and services provided.



## **2. Promote Fiscal Stability**

- Support measures that promote fiscal stability, predictability, and financial independence.
- Support measures that preserve the City's revenue base and local control over local government budgeting, recognizing that economic cost is a determinate in considering the merits and/or impacts of any proposed legislation or regulation.
- Support measures that make cities more independent from the County, State, and Federal Governments for financial stability, such as mandated costs with no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits. Oppose measures that shift local funds to the County, State or Federal Governments, without offsetting benefits.

## **3. Promote Economic Development**

- Support legislation and regulation reforms that provide the City with the necessary tools to continue to grow its economy and enhance economic development efforts.
- Support measures that provide the City with the capability to attract and retain businesses, as well as encourage current businesses to expand and retain jobs locally.

## **4. Funding Opportunities**

- Support opportunities that allow the City to compete for its fair share of regional, State, and Federal funding.
- Support funding for programs including, but not limited to, economic development, transportation projects, utility undergrounding, public works, water infrastructure, parks and recreation, and public safety.

# 2024 Legislative Platform

## GOALS

- Advocate for the City's best interest at the Federal, State and local level.
- Be analytical and transparent with Legislators, City Council, staff, and the community on legislative issues that can have potential impact on the City.
- Serve as an active participant with other local governments, the partner organizations listed, and other local professional organizations on legislative/regulatory issues that serve and protect the health and welfare of the City and our region.
- Seek grant and funding assistance for City projects, services and programs to enhance services for the community.



# 2024 Legislative Platform

## AREAS OF FOCUS

### **Finance**

- Oppose Federal or State efforts that raid local revenues and encourage the State to find other methods of balancing its budget.
- Support legislation that includes Federal, State, and regional funding formulas that ensure equitable distribution of funds at the local level.
- Oppose any initiatives that threaten local control of City budgets.
- Oppose unfunded mandates.
- Support initiatives that promote equitable and financially prudent efforts to protect utility rate payers in the City.

### **Human Resources**

- Oppose measures that reduce local control over employee relations issues.
- Oppose legislation mandating new or enhanced local government employee benefits that are proven to be costly or unaffordable.
- Support efforts to further reform pension benefits administered by California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) that would help protect the long-term solvency of local entities and CalPERS.
- Support changes in State law or judicial precedent to allow employers to negotiate plan changes with classic CalPERS members.

### **Regional Governance**

- Support proposals encouraging regional, sub-regional, or countywide cooperation in planning urban development strategies, especially those that provide funding for effective implementation of agreed-upon goals.
- Support measures to achieve fair and proportionate representation on countywide regional boards.



# 2024 Legislative Platform

## AREAS OF FOCUS (CONT'D)

### **Economic Development**

- Support efforts that are designed to provide local governments with the tools necessary to bolster economic development.
- Support legislation and regulatory initiatives that would enhance the City's ability to attract and retain businesses as well as encourage business expansion and job retention.

### **Housing and Land Use**

- Oppose regional growth, development, and land use legislation that overlooks the City's unique geographical and density challenges in a strategic manner taking each neighborhood into account.
- Oppose legislation that penalizes local governments for noncompliance with their housing element, or Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA).
- Support efforts to strengthen the legal and fiscal capability of local agencies to prepare, adopt, and implement plans for orderly growth, development, and conservation of local planning areas.
- Support Federal and State legislation that would provide resources for the City to meet its housing needs as described in the Housing Element of the General Plan.
- Support measures that provides municipalities with increased input in the development of the RHNA.

### **Broadband Infrastructure Development**

- Support legislation that advances efforts to bridge the digital divide through broadband accessibility and funding opportunities.
- Support legislation to enhance broadband infrastructure development to provide more affordable and efficient access to basic amenities such as education, health care, public safety, and City services.
- Support policies, legislation, and proposals to add funding to expand fiber capacity throughout the City to provide communities with high-speed Internet access.

# 2024 Legislative Platform

## AREAS OF FOCUS (CONT'D)

### **Cultural and Community Services**

- Support legislation and funding for youth and intervention programs, including after-school educational and recreational programs.
- Support efforts to provide an expedited process for the fair distribution of State funds and other grant opportunities.
- Support legislation that provides opportunities, either by grants or other means, that repurpose or renovate existing city and non-city facilities to maximize the City's limited open space.
- Support legislation that provides opportunities, either by grants or other means, for art and cultural programs.

### **Public Works & Transportation**

- Support legislation that would increase funding for local transportation projects like the West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor (WSAB) project.
- Support legislation that affords local agencies greater discretionary authority to expend available transportation funds and affords local jurisdictions greater flexibility over transportation-related issues.
- Support legislation that would require public utilities to underground power lines and support funding for undergrounding of utilities.

### **Solid Waste**

- Support measures that maintain and enhance local authority and economic flexibility to regulate solid waste and recyclables.
- Support legislation that provides funding for local governments to create capacity around the State's organics recycling mandate (SB 1383).
- Support legislation that supports local control and flexibility to regulate solid waste and recyclables.





# 2024 Legislative Platform

## AREAS OF FOCUS (CONT'D)


### **Environmental Sustainability**

- Support legislation that encourages strong water efficiency standards and increased water conservation strategies. Support measures to increase water supply and improve water quality in the region, including drought relief legislation.
- Support legislation that allocates cap and trade auction revenue to local governments.
- Advocate for cost-effective, sustainable, and responsible environmental legislation, policy, and programs that aim to improve the following areas: energy efficiency (solar), greenhouse gases, regional air quality, alternative/renewable energy sources, climate resiliency infrastructure, among others.
- Support legislation and funding that prioritizes the mitigation of extreme weather events in local communities.
- Support state funding opportunities to assist agencies in meeting sustainability objectives including energy and water efficiencies, active transportation enhancements, connectivity and mobility improvements and carbon sequestration through natural landscape management and protection.
- Support legislation protecting, preserving, and restoring the natural environment where it does not conflict with local control and land use designations.
- Support funding to foster an environmentally sustainable city as well as a walkable community that provides ample goods, services, and benefits to all residents while respecting the local environment.
- Support sensible and affordable state and county efforts to develop avenues for agencies to collect revenue to support stormwater retention efforts. Such avenues shall be analyzed to determine the level of impact to taxpayers.
- Support sensible and affordable legislation for funding stormwater infrastructure improvements, including building facilities to capture stormwater runoff and integrate with local, regional, and statewide water resources. Such legislation shall be analyzed to determine the level of impact to taxpayers.
- Support legislation that would provide pragmatic compliance goals in statewide and regional National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.
- Ensure the State continues to fund the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) capital construction budget for offsetting their requirements to limit their total maximum daily load (TMDL) for pollutant discharge. Encourage Caltrans to continue to enter into Cooperative Implementation Agreements with local jurisdictions to fund stormwater capture and retention projects.
- Support regional planning and investments in electric vehicle charging infrastructure (both public and private) and zero-emissions equipment through robust grants and financial incentives.

# 2024 Legislative Platform

## AREAS OF FOCUS (CONT'D)

### Public Health & Safety

- Support measures that encourage community safety, preparedness, and wellbeing, including disaster preparedness initiatives.
  - Support legislation and implementation of State programs and policies that promote pedestrian and bicycle safety.
  - Support legislation to provide a greater share of asset forfeiture funds and increased latitude for spending local funds.
  - Support legislation efforts to increase the amount of grant funding for local law enforcement operations, including school resource officers and disaster preparedness initiatives.
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- Support legislation that discourages drivers from reckless driving, street racing, and operating motor vehicles while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and maintain state funding to conduct sobriety checkpoints.
  - Support legislation that aligns with our values in keeping our neighborhoods safe, improves our community as a whole, enables voices in our community from all backgrounds and abilities, and promotes reasonable, long-term solutions designed to work harmoniously with our partners in law enforcement.
  - Oppose legislation that compromises public health and sanitation standards for establishments that make, prepare, package, or sell consumables.
  - Support legislation that allows for higher penalties for repeat offenders of property crimes such as purchase, sale or theft of precious metals such as copper and those found in catalytic converters.
  - Support the legislation and funding that enables innovative community incentive programs and the purchase of tools to combat violent and property crime trends involving firearms, stolen vehicles, theft of motor vehicle parts, package theft, and retail theft. Such programs and tools may include Neighborhood Watch, Crime Stoppers, Community Policing, Youth Crime Prevention Programs, Restorative Justice, rebate incentives, license plate readers, surveillance cameras, and enhancing law enforcement personnel.
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  - Support legislation, policy, and grants that support the implementation of family and community violence prevention programs.

### Homeless Outreach and Prevention

- Support Legislation and initiatives involving Federal, State and County governments to reduce and prevent homelessness.
- Support initiatives and measures that further strengthen City, County, and non-profit agencies coordination and partnerships to combat and prevent homelessness.



# 2024 Legislative Platform

## AREAS OF FOCUS (CONT'D)

### Community Preservation

- Support measures that encourage the maintenance of City neighborhoods and shared utility corridors.
- Support legislation that prioritizes partnerships with neighboring cities and partners, like Caltrans, to proactively maintain and beautify shared utility corridors.
- Support legislation, policy, and grants that support the implementation of family and community violence prevention programs.
- Support policies, legislation and grants to increase public park land.
- Support policies, legislation and grants to increase investment in the arts.
- Support policies, legislation, and funding to implement economic relief for working families and small businesses impacted by emergencies, pandemics, and natural disasters.
- Support funding for collaborative response and partnerships that will address quality-of-life issues in the community.

### Civic Engagement

- Support legislation that protects the transparency and intellectual property of City information.
- Support legislation that regulates indecency and obscenity in cyberspace.

