

CITY OF LAKE FOREST 2016 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The Legislative Platform (“Platform”) defines the City’s policy guidelines and provides the foundation for advocacy efforts at the federal, state, and local levels. Staff uses this Platform to identify relevant topic areas and subject matter, and makes recommendations to the City Council on specific legislation consistent with the policy guidelines. Additionally, in the event it is necessary for the City to respond to a legislative proposal in a timeframe that does not allow the City Council to take formal action, staff would express positions on bills in accordance with these guidelines, and then seek City Council direction at the appropriate time.

Policy Guidelines:

1. The City supports legislation that leads to greater financial independence from federal, state and/or county government, and protects local resources from seizure by federal, state and/or county agencies.
2. The City supports legislation maintaining maximum local flexibility in all areas of its responsibility and operations and opposes legislation that imposes intrusive, unnecessary or unfunded state-imposed mandates or preempts local authority.
3. The City supports legislation that advocates fair and proportionate representation on countywide and regional boards.
4. The City will take into consideration the strategic goals adopted by the League of California Cities and those of the Association of California Cities – Orange County.
5. The City opposes legislation that makes the City more dependent on federal, state and/or county government or agencies for policy direction.
6. The City opposes any legislation that is inconsistent with the doctrine of home rule, interferes with the local exercise of police powers over local land use, or requires a federal, state and/or county entity to develop model planning practices and policies.
7. The City supports modifications to CEQA to eliminate duplicative and unnecessary provisions of the existing law.

8. The City opposes legislation to create new financial burdens or erode public safety through realignment implementation.
9. The City opposes legislation to limit the City's ability to contract for municipal services.
10. The City supports efforts to clarify the redevelopment dissolution process and limit the power of the Department of Finance to make unilateral decisions regarding enforceable obligations of successor agencies.
11. The City supports efforts to reestablish the authority and financing capability previously afforded to local governments by redevelopment through legislation designed to support businesses through economic development.
12. The City supports efforts to facilitate economic development efforts that enhance opportunities for local businesses.
13. The City supports legislative efforts that would amend existing law to ensure that prevailing wage rates do not impede its ability to pursue small-dollar projects and lower operating costs associated with routine maintenance services.
14. The City opposes legislation that seeks to impede the construction of the Foothill-South, the proposed extension of the 241 Toll Road south to the I-5 near San Clemente, and Portola Parkway.
15. The City supports efforts to amend the current occupancy calculation in the Uniform Housing Code ("UHC") to achieve a more reasonable standard, thereby, improving the health, safety, and residential character of our community.
16. The City Council opposes efforts by the State Legislature to assess taxes on public goods.
17. Staff is authorized to continue to advocate a position for a bill which has been amended into a new bill number as long as the language and intent remain substantially unchanged.