



TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH
2022 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

PURPOSE

The Legislative Platform confirms the City Council's position on current issues with the potential to directly or indirectly impact the Town. The legislative platform is a guiding document that the Town will continue to work with constituents, consultants, and elected representatives to promote and preserve the Town's interest at the State level.

Each year, the City Council will consider modifying its platform by taking into consideration emerging and ongoing legislative trends, issues emerging locally that may require state policy reforms, Council's annual strategic priorities, or other factors deemed appropriate by the Town to ensure its policy statements reflect the direction of the Council.

Below are the Guiding Principles and Policy Statements that will allow staff to address legislative and regulatory issues in a timely manner, without precluding the consideration of additional legislative and budget issues that may arise during the legislative session.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- I. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
Support measures that enhance the ability for Council to achieve its strategic priorities. Oppose legislation that seeks to undermine the ability for Council to enact its long-term mission and vision for the Town of Hillsborough.
- II. PRESERVE LOCAL CONTROL
Preserve and protect the Town's powers, duties, and prerogatives to enact local legislation and policy direction concerning local affairs, local land use and oppose legislation that preempts local authority. Local agencies should preserve authority and accountability for revenues raised and services provided.
- III. PROMOTE FISCAL STABILITY
Support measures that promote fiscal stability, predictability, financial independence, and preserve the Town's revenue base and maximum local control over local government budgeting. Oppose measures that shift local funds to the County, State or Federal Governments and/or make local agencies more dependent on the County, State or Federal Governments for financial stability, such as unfunded mandates or mandated costs with no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM STATEMENTS

Administration, Human Resources and Risk Management

- Support maximum flexibility for local government in contracting and contract negotiations.
- Support legislation that promotes efforts to advance workplace diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Support legislation that facilitates the ability of local government to share resources to increase efficiencies and decrease costs, including local efforts to address regional management of fire services.
- Monitor and evaluate Proposition 13 and Town and county tax apportionment proposals.
- Monitor and evaluate all proposals that include an unfunded mandate to local governments.
- Support long term statutory solutions to adequately reimburse cities from the Vehicle License Fee (VLF) Swap of 2004 as well as short term, temporary adjustments.
- Oppose measures that reduce local control over employee relations issues or mandate new or enhanced local government employer obligations.
- Oppose measures that impose compulsory and binding arbitration with respect to employees.
- Support efforts to maintain fiscal solvency with respect to unfunded pension and retiree healthcare liability. Support efforts that decrease local costs.

Governmental Transparency and Public Access

- Support legislation that balances increased public trust, confidence and access to public meetings while realizing the fiscal and operational constraints of local government.
- Support legislation that would increase civic participation and engagement including the continued allowance of legislative subcommittees, advisory committees, and commissions to participate virtually (post COVID-19 state of emergency) without physical location posting requirements under the Ralph M. Brown Act.
- Support legislation that would permit a minority amount of virtual council member participate without physical location posting, so long as a physical in-person quorum is present.
- Support state funding efforts to assist with enhanced public access for members of the community.
- Oppose legislation that would incentivize increased litigation by removing safe harbor provisions permitted in the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA).

- Oppose legislation that drives up the cost of municipal elections through unnecessary new requirements.
- Support legislation that would permit the Town to provide electronic copies of documents to satisfy requirements in the California Public Records Act.
- Monitor and evaluate proposals that create new mandates under the California Public Records Act without state reimbursement provisions.
- Monitor and evaluate proposals that requires a one-size-fits-all to local retention polices.
- Support modifications to Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Form 700 filing requirements that take into account the differences between a full-service municipality and a primarily residential community.

Environment

- Support legislation that provides funding opportunities focused on coordinating sustainable planning practices in the areas of environment, transportation, and housing.
- Support legislation that would improve air quality and reduce the negative impact of noise and toxic substances.
- Support polices that promote responsible use, collection and reduction in use of pesticides, herbicides and insecticides.
- Monitor state polices that further the federal government's evaluation and actions of flight paths as it relates to noise.

Solid Waste and Recycling

- Support measures that maintain and enhance local authority and economic flexibility to regulate solid waste and recyclables.
- Support legislation that facilitates development of local and regional recycling and composting facilities and collaborative solution to SB 1383 implementation.

Water Quality and Water Supply

- Support and monitor legislation that would increase the availability of, and funding for, water conservation, water reuse technologies, water recycling, local water storage and other water supply technologies.
- Support the enhancement of a reliable and sustainable water supply for California.
- Support measures to increase water supply and improve water quality in the region, including drought relief legislation.
- Support funding opportunities that are provided to local jurisdictions through past and future bond opportunities.
- Support legislation or regulatory efforts that reflects the realities of persistent drought conditions and impacts associated with reduced water supply including

meeting state mandated regional housing needs assessment (RHNA) targets and other housing mandates.

- Oppose new fees on water that would not benefit ratepayers.
- Support legislation that promotes water conservation while preserving the authority of local agencies.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

- Support all efforts to create efficiencies within CEQA and support local discretion and planning efforts to limit delays.
- Support legislation that prevents CEQA lawsuits from being filed for any reason other than a bonafide environmental impact.
- Support legislation that streamlines federal and state environmental review processes and limits court reviews of environmental documentation.

Land Use Planning and Housing

- Support efforts to strengthen the legal and fiscal capability of local agencies to prepare, adopt and implement plans for orderly growth, development, beautification, and conservation of local planning areas.
- Support housing measures that promote the preservation of existing affordable housing and the development and enhancement of safe and affordable housing and accessible housing within the Town. Provide housing for all economic segments of the population, while still preserving local control and the unique character of the community.
- Support legislation that permits regional collaborations to achieving housing production.
- Support funding for local jurisdictions when statewide bond efforts are proposed.
- Oppose measures that would withhold funding dedicated to transportation funding unless proposed housing goals are being met.
- Oppose measures which would undermine Town adopted and established general plan, zoning and housing policies and plans.
- Oppose measures which undermine the planning vision of local government and contradict the expectations of our community.
- Support measures which support meeting the State's planning goals while maintaining local control, ensuring communities evolve in a manner that reflects the will of the residents and protects the public's health, safety, and welfare.
- Oppose legislation that encourage increasing the housing density in High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Energy

- Support legislation that promotes the development and long-term sustainability of locally run Community Choice Aggregators (CCA).
- Support legislation that promotes ratepayer equity between CCA's and other public and private electrical utilities.
- Oppose legislative attempts that shift wildfire costs associated with investor-owned utility-caused events to the Town and its residents.

Open Space, Parks and Recreation

- Support legislation and funding opportunities (e.g., federal and state park grant funds, conservancy grant funds, project mitigation funds, etc.) that helps cities build better, stronger communities by providing funding to improve air, water, parks, open space, natural resources, historic preservation, the arts and cultural resources.
- Promote local agency control over policies that recognize the benefits of open space, parks and recreation facilities.
- Oppose efforts that erode funding for vital regional and community services that negatively impact Californian's access to parks, open space, bike lanes, after school programming, youth services, senior services, food programs, facilities that promote physical activity, protect natural resources, and strengthen safety and security.

Public Safety/Police

- Support legislation that strengthens community-oriented public safety policies.
- Support legislation that would increase accountability and transparency and law enforcement agencies and personnel.
- Support legislation that strengthens local law enforcement and encourages regional collaboration for deployment of resources and specialized taskforce operations.
- Support legislation that strengthens penalties for repeat property crime offenders.
- Monitor legislation on implementation of best practices regarding law enforcement procedures.
- Support measures that protect children and youth from exposure to tobacco and tobacco related products such as e-cigarettes.

Fire Services

- Support legislation that provides funding and resources for promoting defensible space within a Wildlife Urban Interface (WUI) area.
- Support legislation that encourages regional collaboration and deployment of resources to maximize firefighting efforts.

- Support local control of emergency medical services and ambulance services, including pre-hospital care and transport.

Transportation

- Support legislation that would increase funding for local transportation projects including road resurfacing projects, green infrastructure projects, adding bicycle lanes, sidewalks and trails throughout the Town where appropriate, programs that enhance pedestrian safety.
- Support increased State and Federal funding of transportation improvements with regional or sub-regional benefits for all modes of transportation.
- Support protection of dedicated transportation-related tax revenues and enhance the ability of local agencies to finance local transportation programs and facilities.
- Support joint planning efforts and projects with border cities on traffic congestion relief projects.

Public Works and Utilities

- Support funding for broadband middle and last mile expenditures.
- Oppose measure that undermine local decision making in installation of broadband services.