

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2019-2020

The legislative priorities for the City of Riverside are as follows:

1. **Riverside and the Region:** Riverside will advocate for Inland Southern California's equitable share of scarce public and philanthropic resources and support opportunities that uplift the capacity of our regional partners.
2. **Transportation and Infrastructure:** Riverside seeks funding to mitigate the disproportionate share of negative impacts on the City related to national goods movement as well as to implement Complete Streets design principles to safely accommodate all users, including cars, buses, bicyclists and pedestrians.
3. **Safe and Resilient Riverside:** Riverside seeks funding and tools to promote the safety of City residents, elevate the community's preparedness for natural and human-caused conditions and events, and improve cybersecurity defenses.
4. **Smart and Sustainable Riverside:** Riverside seeks funding and tools to develop and implement technologies that improve efficiencies, and supports opportunities to maximize sustainability initiatives including local resource recovery and renewable energy production.
5. **Housing, Neighborhoods and Quality of Life:** Riverside seeks resources and tools to provide diverse and affordable housing opportunities and further the City's revitalization efforts and protect and enhance the City's quality of life.
6. **Economic and Workforce Development:** Riverside supports activities and opportunities that will help develop a skilled workforce and grow the local economy.
7. **Fiscal Stability:** Riverside supports opportunities that will help ensure the financial health of the City and leverage public tax dollars for maximum local benefit.

The City of Riverside strongly promotes local control and home rule for cities and will support or oppose legislation based on whether it impacts local control over City revenues, land use, community development and other municipal activities.

Areas of focus are described in this document, but due to the dynamic nature of the policy making process, additional issues are likely to arise during the upcoming year. The overarching principles will serve as guidance to direct staff as these additional issues require attention.

Riverside and the Region

Riverside will advocate for the Inland Southern California's equitable share of scarce public and philanthropic resources and support opportunities that uplift the capacity of our local and regional partner agencies.

- Support continued funding and development of the School of Medicine at the University of California Riverside.
- Provide continued support for the March Joint Powers Authority as it endeavors to promote regional economic development through the reuse of surplus lands.
- Support opportunities that promote the Ontario International Airport.
- Support the Riverside Transit Authority and Riverside County Transportation Commission's efforts to promote further investment in bus and passenger rail service.
- Support increases in funding for county healthcare expansion programs that provide greater assistance to local hospitals to cover the costs associated with treating uninsured patients.
- Support continued efforts to fund additional judgeships, staff and necessary resources to address the current and future needs of the region.
- Support efforts to expand federal court facilities in Riverside.
- Support the March Air Reserve Base and the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Corona to maintain and expand its current missions including through the deployment or assignment of additional assets and resources.
- Support legislation that fully funds contract towers to enhance safety and general aviation operations at local and regional airports, including the Riverside Municipal Airport.
- Support ongoing efforts to protect the California Citrus State Historic Park and to make the park viable and sustainable.
- Support efforts that fund and expand Career Technical Education (CTE) and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) offerings and programs for school districts and community colleges.
- Support efforts that facilitate and fund the relocation of the National Guard Armory from Fairmount Park.
- **Support the efforts of our partner agencies in the California WaterFix project.**
- **Support efforts to restore the Trujillo Adobe.**
- **Support regional collaboration on the Riverside Transmission Reliability Project (RTRP) to improve Riverside's reliability by providing a second connection to the statewide grid system.**

Transportation and Infrastructure

Riverside seeks funding to mitigate the negative impacts on the City related to national goods movement as well as to implement Complete Streets design principles to safely accommodate all users, including cars, buses, bicyclists and pedestrians.

- Support programs that provide dedicated funding for grade separations and quiet zones to mitigate the impact on City residents and actively pursue funding for these projects.
- Support the ongoing implementation of the State's transportation funding plan to maintain and refurbish California's aging transportation infrastructure.
- Support efforts that pursue the City's and the regions fair share of discretionary funding made available through transportation grants or programs.
- Support efforts that give priority to self-help counties such as Riverside and regions that utilize matching transportation dollars (i.e. Riverside County's Measure A sales tax dedicated to transportation and the Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee) when allocating bond and other transportation funding.
- Increase local flexibility in the allocation of transportation capital funds and encourage the use and development of innovative and cost-saving mechanisms (i.e. design-build) in construction projects.
- Support legislation that provides regionally-balanced funding allocations for transportation projects submitted to the California Transportation Commission.
- Support public-private partnerships that protect the public interest while leveraging private investments in infrastructure.
- Support efforts and programs that provide funding for City vehicle and equipment maintenance and replacement.
- Support the expansion of passenger rail services to Inland Southern California.
- Support legislative reform and funding for the planning and implementation of pedestrian, bike and streetcar infrastructure as well as the development of multi-modal facilities that facilitate the last mile of travel.
- Support Federal Aviation Administration programs that provide funding to facilitate improvements at the Riverside Municipal Airport.
- Support reform efforts to streamline the California Environmental Quality Act and National Environmental Policy Act to facilitate development of public infrastructure projects.
- **Support funding opportunities for alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure, including electric vehicle charging stations.**
- **Support the development of programs and funding to address deferred maintenance and minor capital improvement projects.**
- **Support funding opportunities for the City's top priority Capital Improvement Projects.**

Safe and Resilient Riverside

Riverside seeks funding and tools to promote the safety of the City's residents and public safety employees, elevate the community's preparedness for natural and human-caused conditions and events, and improve cybersecurity defenses.

- Support efforts and legislation to ensure full local government funding and protection in implementation of all services resulting from the passage of Assembly Bill 109 (2011) and Proposition 47 (2014).
- Support the expansion and development of tools and increased criminal sanctions to deter vandalism crimes, including more stringent graffiti laws to stiffen penalties and hold parents accountable for acts committed by juveniles.
- Seek funding for gang prevention, intervention and enforcement.
- Support resources and legislation to reduce the threat of fire and respond to and recover from natural disasters and terrorism, including efforts to increase funding allocated through the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI).
- Seek funding for life safety enforcement, community risk reduction and public education programs.
- Seek funding for personal protective equipment for fire personnel and TEMS (tactical emergency medicine support) training.
- Seek funding for cybersecurity, continuity of operations and the physical hardening of data centers.
- Work collaboratively with other partner agencies and organizations to develop viable alternatives to address public safety issues.
- Expand funding and resources for emergency response to include technology infrastructure.
- Support funding and legislation to help local jurisdictions implement Senate Bill 1421 (Peace Officers: Release of Records).
- Support ongoing funding mechanisms for resiliency and response programs for building safety, including developing inventories of at-risk buildings.
- Support funding for the development and implementation of an earthquake early warning system.
- Support funding opportunities for public safety preparedness training.
- Seek funding opportunities to support public safety employees with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) obtained from on-the-job experiences.

Smart and Sustainable Riverside

Riverside seeks funding and tools to develop and implement technologies that improve efficiencies, and supports opportunities to maximize sustainability initiatives including local resource recovery and renewable energy production.

- Promote policies that advocate net neutrality for an equitable and open internet.
- Seek funding for open data initiatives and dashboarding tools.
- Seek realistic uniform standards for data retention requirements for video.
- Seek funding for video systems including backup, archiving, hardware and software.
- Seek funding for broadband initiatives including fiber and high-speed WiFi.
- Support efforts that recognize the innovative and adaptable nature of library facilities, including the need to provide for high-speed, high-capacity broadband services.
- Support the development of programs that empower low-income families and at-risk youth by giving them access to mobile technology and technical education to expand their employment opportunities.
- Advocate for non-punitive incentives at the State level to assist municipalities in creating more sustainable communities.
- Support green initiatives which reward innovation, conservation and sound practices.
- Support efforts that promote the growth of sustainable local food and agricultural systems to the benefit of the economy.
- **Support funding opportunities to help implement solid waste and green waste mandates.**
- Seek funding to implement Air Resources Board mandates, including air quality regulations for equipment and elimination of bio methane combustion flares.
- Support efforts to allow stormwater programs to be funded under the Sewer Fund.
- Support resources and tools to help cities implement State Water Quality Control Board regulations in a reasonable manner.
- Support the expansion of CENIC and E-Rate grant programs to include cities as eligible grant recipients.

Housing, Neighborhoods and Quality of Life

Riverside seeks resources and tools to provide diverse and affordable housing opportunities to further the City's revitalization efforts and protect and enhance the City's quality of life.

- Support policies and legislation that increase quality housing, expand homeownership and reduce foreclosures.
- Support increased tools for local governments to help stabilize neighborhoods in crisis and assist local residents.

- Pursue affordable housing financing and homeownership grant programs.
- Support continued and expanded funding for homeless and mental health supportive services.
- Support efforts to aggressively seek funding for local and regional park projects, including the development and improvement of trail systems.
- Support full funding for the California Libraries Services Act (CLSA) which provides for California Cooperative Library Systems and resource sharing through a regional delivery system.
- Support efforts to improve literacy through continued funding for literacy programs and by exploring the feasibility of a library card for every child as well as a universal library card.
- Support efforts that assist the Museum to fulfill its mission as an educational and research institution that interprets and preserves its collection for public benefit.
- Support legislation that provides funding to local museums to develop educational programs and special cultural events.
- Support efforts that enable the Museum's stewardship of the historic sites held in public trust, including the Harada and Heritage Houses, through appropriate historic preservation practices.
- Support funding for research and/or programs to improve health and behaviors related to obesity and heart disease, two of our community's major health issues.
- Support policies to promote a strong, well-funded, local healthcare system, including wellness initiatives and programs.
- **Support efforts to provide increased funding opportunities for California public libraries.**
- **Support legislation that provides flexibility for implementing cell tower mandates in order to preserve the character of historic districts.**
- **Support funding opportunities to assist cities with homeless cleanups.**
- **Support funding opportunities for the development and operation of the Arlington Youth Innovation Center.**
- **Support continued funding for Summer Reading Programs.**
- **Support legislation that provides realistic timeframes for implementing housing regulations and eliminates conflicting requirements and unfunded mandates.**
- **Support efforts to allow student housing to count toward the City's Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA) requirements.**
- **Support legislation that maintains local control over cities ability to enforce their municipal code and expands opportunities to collect fines and penalties for code violations.**
- **Support ongoing and secure funding for CDBG, HOME and Housing for People with AIDS programs.**
- **Support funding and legislation to improve affordable housing supply for homeless and low-income individuals, Veterans, and those with mental illness.**

Economic and Workforce Development

Riverside supports activities and opportunities that will help develop a skilled workforce and grow the local economy.

- Support efforts to encourage program flexibility and fiscal assistance to create local jobs.
- Support funding or tax relief programs for business recruitment and retention.
- Support efforts to restore a Tax Increment Financing structure that provides flexibility to address local conditions.
- Create a funding stream and provide the tools necessary for economic development programs that allow for local control and decision-making authority.
- Support the creation and expansion of economic development financing tools and entities that provide access to capital for new and existing small businesses and start-ups.
- Support regulatory and permitting reforms that improve California's business climate and competitiveness.
- Support additional funding and investment in workforce development, vocation education and youth programs.
- Support the development of accelerated learning programs for identified high-need job sectors.
- Support funding and resources to expand workforce development programs at the Youth Opportunity Center, as well as summer apprenticeships for at-risk youth.
- Support the reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to provide the necessary support for the operations of workforce development centers in Riverside and throughout the region.
- Support robust federal and state funding for scientific research in order to grow Riverside's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem and support scientific breakthroughs that will improve the quality of life throughout the region.

Fiscal Stability

Riverside supports opportunities that will help ensure the financial health of the City and leverage public tax dollars for maximum local benefit.

- Support legislation that promotes and protects retention of local point of sale revenues.
- Protect local government revenues from State takings or borrowings.
- Promote predictable funding levels for all local programs to allow cities to plan for program administration and staffing.
- Protect local governments from new regulations which increase the cost of providing municipal services without a proportionate benefit to local communities.

- Discourage any legislation that would promote regulatory approaches or mandates that transfer state responsibilities to local agencies without requisite funding sources.
- Support increased local control over funding received from the state and efforts that allow the City to be a direct recipient of state funding.
- Promote efforts to ensure local jurisdictions receive their full allocation of state and federal funding.
- Discourage any legislation that would provide retroactive CalPERS benefits or reduce any of the Public Employee Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) regulations.
- Support efforts to assist CalPERS with innovative investment strategies aimed at generating a higher than 7% rate of return.
- Support legislative remedies that provide additional fiscal sustainability for agencies to fund CalPERS costs.