



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: November 5, 2024

In Control: Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Government Affairs

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Sally Basurto

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Federal Legislative Program for the 119th U.S. Congress.

SUMMARY:

Briefing on the City of San Antonio's proposed Federal Legislative Program for the 119th Congress.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Congress' 119th Session begins on January 3, 2025, and ends on January 3, 2027. Prior to each congressional session, Government Affairs (GA) develops a legislative program with City Council input and approval. The program provides direction and guides the City's advocacy on behalf of the San Antonio community with members of the San Antonio Congressional Delegation, key members of Congress, federal agencies, and the administration.

Development of the City of San Antonio's new Federal Legislative Program began in July 2024

in collaboration with City Departments. The selected priorities are drawn from the City's various strategic plans previously approved by City Council and developed in consultation with City departments, federal consultants, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the San Antonio Congressional Delegation, and community partners. The final proposed Federal Legislative Program presented to full City Council will include the priorities and issues developed with input from the Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

The federal program is designed to be strategic and impactful, align with the priorities of the San Antonio community and help advance a resilient and sustainable city organization.

The proposed Federal Legislative Program is comprised of the following pillars:

- **Infrastructure & Resilience** – Support for programs and additional funding to enhance and improve San Antonio's infrastructure.
- **Housing** – Support for tax credits and programs to improve the availability and sustainability of housing, including programs to support the homeless population.
- **Workforce & Education** – Support programs and funding of workforce, education, and support programs to facilitate individuals' ability to obtain well-paying jobs and careers.
- **Public Health & Human Services** – Supporting the reauthorization and funding of programs that reduce food insecurity, increase access to healthcare, and mental health services.
- **Military Protection** – Support mission readiness and the long-term protection of the region's military bases and ease access to care at military medical installations.
- **Public Safety** – Support for programs and additional funding for programs to help reduce crime and prepare San Antonio against natural and man-made disasters.
- **Immigration** – Support legislation and funding to improve the federal immigration system and provide humanitarian assistance to lessen the burden on local communities.

GA staff seeks input from the IGR Committee. Once approved by the IGR Committee, GA will present the proposed Federal Legislative Program to the full City Council at a future B Session meeting.

ISSUE:

The 119th Congress begins on January 3, 2024. It is City Council policy to develop a legislative program for each congress that aligns with the community's priorities to guide the City's advocacy efforts.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Development of the Federal Legislative Program has no immediate fiscal impact to the City.

ALTERNATIVES:

The IGR Committee could decide to postpone City Council consideration of the Federal Legislative Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends advancing the proposed Federal Legislative Program for full Council consideration.