



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 5

Agenda Date: October 31, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Government Affairs

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Sally Basurto

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

The City of San Antonio's Legislative Program for the 89th State Legislative Session

SUMMARY:

Ordinance approving the City of San Antonio's State Legislative Program for the 89th Legislative Session.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Texas Legislature meets every two years in odd numbered years; the 89th Legislative Session is scheduled to begin on January 14, 2025. Prior to the start of each regular Session, the City of San Antonio identifies community priorities and the legislative initiatives that it will seek to have addressed by the Legislature. These priorities and initiatives are developed through work with the City Council, departments, state consultants, and community partners to consider recommendations for inclusion in the proposed State Legislative Program.

An initial draft of the State Legislative Program was presented to the IGR Committee on September 6, 2024, for input and feedback. The state program was further refined and presented to the IGR Committee on September 25, 2024, where it was approved for full Council consideration. The full City Council received a briefing on the state program on October 2, 2024.

ISSUE:

The goal of the Government Affairs Department is to develop a legislative program that is strategic and impactful, one that aligns with the priorities of San Antonio residents, protects revenue to the City and promotes enhanced delivery of services to the community. It is longstanding City Council policy to develop a legislative program that provides City Council direction to staff and consultants during legislative sessions. Program priorities will be used as the basis to support or oppose legislation through the registering of positions on behalf of the City, drafting bills and amendments, providing testimony, advocating with members of the legislature, and other appropriate legislative actions.

The proposed program for the 89th legislative session includes one funding initiative, four pillars, and 24 position statements that encompass the program's priorities. The initiative and four pillars are:

Initiative

East-West Business Corridor

Support development of an East-West roadway across the southern region of San Antonio providing access to major manufacturing employers.

Priority Pillars

Protection of Community Interests

The City's overarching legislative priority is to preserve the voice of the community – as expressed through the city charter and other voter approved amendments – and maintain a fiscally sound and well-managed organization to allow for continued high quality services to our residents and local businesses.

- Local Governance
- Military City USA
- Municipally Owned Utilities

Community Development

The City of San Antonio is prepared for growth in a way that is compatible with the community's vision. This vision includes investments in a strong local economy, increasing housing stability for residents, and an educated and trained workforce.

- Economic Development
- Housing Stability
- Workforce

Public Health & Safety

San Antonio's healthcare mission is to protect and improve the health of our community so that all people thrive in a healthy and safe environment. The strategic priority areas are access to care, nutrition and food insecurity, violence and crime prevention, health equity and social justice, and mental health.

- Healthcare & Nutrition
- Violence Prevention

Infrastructure & Resiliency

Expanding infrastructure is needed to create a resilient future for San Antonio. San Antonio's priorities are to make strategic investments that acknowledge the need for digital inclusion as a necessity in a rapidly changing society; create transportation infrastructure that incorporates safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists; and prepare for the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters.

- Digital Inclusion
- Transportation
- Resiliency

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council may choose to not adopt a state legislative program and address legislation as it is filed. This would be inconsistent with previous policy set by City Council and limit staff ability to address filed legislation in a timely manner. Alternatively, City Council may delay approval of the state legislative program. This action would delay staff efforts to engage with the legislature on the issues included in the program and impact the analysis of legislation filed in November.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance approves the City's State Legislative Program for the 89th Legislative Session which is scheduled to begin on January 14th, 2025. This ordinance has no fiscal impact to the City of San Antonio. Throughout the legislative session, City departments will analyze legislation filed to determine possible fiscal impact of specific bills.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the City's State Legislative Program for the 89th Legislative Session.