



88TH STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM 2023

City of San Antonio 88th State Legislative Program

The City of San Antonio's 88th State Legislative Program represents San Antonio's policy priorities and anticipated legislative opportunities to address the needs of our residents, drawn from Council input, City comprehensive plans, City Department recommendations, and local partner priorities.

Based on these policies, and the City Council's on-going guidance, the Government Affairs Department and its legislative consultants work with departments and our community partners to identify, analyze, and take advocacy positions on legislation. With City Council approval of this Program, the Government Affairs Department advocates on the City's behalf to ensure the City has the necessary authority and resources to successfully deliver quality services to our diverse, vibrant, and historic community.

The State of Texas is an integral partner to San Antonio as the City prepares for future growth and seeks to expand economic development, affordable housing, sustainable infrastructure, health and safety, and quality of life. The City of San Antonio's Legislative Priorities listed below can only be accomplished in collaboration and alignment with the Governor, Legislature, and State agencies.

PROTECTION OF COMMUNITY INTERESTS

The City of San Antonio – Military City USA – is home to 1.4 million people, who are served by a Mayor and 10 Council members elected to represent distinct single-member districts. The City Council is the level of government closest to the people, and decisions made at the local level have produced the kind of community where people want to live, work, and do business. The City's overarching legislative priority is to preserve the voice of the community and maintain a fiscally sound and well-managed organization to allow for continued high quality services to our residents and local businesses.

Local Governance

Support legislation that would benefit the City and the continued ability of local elected officials – the level of government closest to the people – to pass ordinances to meet the unique needs of the community.

Oppose legislation that would be detrimental to the City's interests and results in the loss of revenue or negatively impacts the authority to generate revenues, including mandates that increase costs to cities.

Oppose legislation that would erode municipal authority to enforce development-related regulations, such as land use, permitting, and inspections, as well as legislation that interferes with our cost-recovery model.

Oppose legislation that is discriminatory and/or undermines the City's Non-Discrimination Ordinance.

Propose legislation that gives the San Antonio Municipal Court the flexibility to electronically record and preserve records, efficiencies enjoyed by many other municipal court systems in Texas, as codified in state law.

Municipal Utilities

Support legislation that protects the municipal utility model and opposes legislation with any negative impact on municipally-owned CPS Energy and San Antonio Water System (SAWS).

Military City, U.S.A .

Support increased funding for the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG) and other programs that add military value to missions in San Antonio and Texas.

Oppose legislation that threatens military missions, including legislation that undermines the City's ordinances that ensure that current and future development is compatible with Joint Base San Antonio installations.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

By 2040, San Antonio's population is expected to increase by approximately 1 million people. We are planning now to ensure that the City of San Antonio is prepared for growth in a way that is compatible with the community's vision. This vision includes a strong local economy, an educated and trained workforce, and the availability of quality affordable housing.

San Antonio's Strategic Housing Implementation Plan's principles are affordability, quality, accessibility, and choice. This can be supported at the legislature through property tax relief, innovative solutions, and removing barriers to the development of affordable housing.

Affordable Housing and Property Tax Relief

Support legislation to provide meaningful property tax relief through increased state funding for public education, which reduces the burden on local taxpayers, and tax policies that target those most in need.

Support legislation that empowers local governments to remove barriers to housing for low-income families and increase the local affordable housing stock.

Economic Development

Support the continued viability of San Antonio to attract business and compete for major sporting events and conventions that grow the local and state economy.

Support the continuation of local and state incentives to supplement local economic development strategies to recruit and retain employers.

Support additional funding to the Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program (TMIIP) and the protection of the current TMIIP Guidelines.

Workforce & Education

Support legislation that invests in educational and job placement programs to provide support for our growing workforce to complement the City's voter-approved workforce initiative, SA Ready to Work, to include veterans and military spouses.

Support legislation that enhances an effective and sustainable education system from early childhood to higher education.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

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

Healthcare & Nutrition

Support legislation that improves access to reproductive healthcare, provides supportive services for the health and safety of mothers and children, and eliminates barriers to healthcare services for all San Antonians.

Support Medicaid expansion to provide health insurance to low-income Texans.

Support additional funding for services and programs that provide food assistance, increase access to nutritious foods, and promote food security.

Support improved state funding and access to comprehensive and timely mental health care in Texas.

Supports legislation that encourages responsible pet ownership and improves the health, safety and welfare of our residents and pets.

Violence Prevention

Support responsible firearm safety policies and additional resources to help mitigate gun violence in our community.

Support efforts to prevent and eliminate domestic violence and enhance the protection of survivors/victims.

INFRASTRUCTURE & RESILIENCY

Expanding infrastructure is needed to create a sustainable and resilient future for San Antonio. The Digital Equity Plan, SA Tomorrow Plan, and SA Climate Ready Plan, provide a framework to make smart, strategic investments that acknowledge the need for broadband 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 climate change.

Digital Inclusion

Support legislation, in coordination with stakeholders, that ensures and funds infrastructure, connectivity and affordability of broadband internet service for all San Antonians.

Transportation

Support legislation to address the San Antonio region's rapid population growth and reduce congestion; and ensures a continued and fair allocation of state transportation funding.

Support legislation that would enhance pedestrian safety and continue to support safety initiatives, such as Vision Zero.

Sustainability

Support legislation that provides for the development of resilient and sustainable utility and transportation infrastructure to prepare our community against climate change and natural disasters.

PARTNERSHIPS

The City of San Antonio coordinates with the following local partners in support of their legislative agendas that enhance the health, safety and vitality of the community, provided it does not conflict with the City's own legislative agenda.

- CPS Energy
- San Antonio Water System
- AACOG
- Bexar County
- Brooks
- Local Chambers of Commerce
- Local Institutions of Higher Education
- Joint Base San Antonio
- Local small businesses
- Local major employers
- Local nonprofit organizations
- Port San Antonio
- Local Independent School Districts
- Opportunity Home SA
- SA Digital Connects
- San Antonio Food Bank
- San Antonio Mobility Coalition
- San Antonio River Authority
- VIA
- Visit SA