



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 27

Agenda Date: November 3, 2022

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 88th State Legislative Session.

SUMMARY:

Ordinance approving the City of San Antonio's State Legislative Program for the 88th Legislative Session.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Texas Legislature meets every two years in odd numbered years. The 88th Legislative Session is scheduled to begin on January 10, 2023. Prior to the start of each regular Session, the City of San Antonio identifies policy priorities and the legislative initiatives that it will seek to have addressed by the Legislature. These priorities and initiatives are codified in a City of San Antonio State Legislative Program.

In May 2022, the Government Affairs (GA) Department began the process of identifying the issues for the upcoming session. These priorities and initiatives are drawn from the City's comprehensive plans and developed in consultation with City departments, state consultants, and community partners. The Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Committee then provides guidance and input on the proposed program. An initial draft of the State Legislative Program was presented to the IGR

Committee on September 14, 2022, for input and feedback. The State Program was further refined and presented to the IGR Committee on October 17, 2022, where it was approved for full Council consideration. The full City Council received a briefing on the state program on October 19, 2022.

ISSUE:

The goal of the Government Affairs Department is to develop a Legislative Program that is strategic and impactful, one that aligns with City Council priorities, protects or increases revenue to the City and promotes enhanced delivery of services. It is longstanding City Council policy to develop a Legislative Program that provides City Council direction to staff and its 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 of bills and amendments, providing testimony, advocating with members of the legislature, and other appropriate legislative actions.

The proposed Legislative Program for the 88th Legislative Session includes four pillars and 26 position statements that encompass the program's priorities. The four pillars are:

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
- Municipal Utilities
- Military City, USA

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 & Property Tax Relief
- Economic Development
- Workforce & 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
- Violence Prevention

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
- Transportation
- Sustainability

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 effectively 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 file legislation supported in the program and impact analysis of legislation filed in November.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Ordinance approving the City of San Antonio's State Legislative Program for the 88th Legislative Session.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the City's State Legislative Program for the 88th Legislative Session.