



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 27

Agenda Date: January 26, 2023

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Government Affairs

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Sally Basurto

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Federal Legislative Program for the 118th U.S. Congress.

SUMMARY:

An ordinance to approve the City of San Antonio's Federal Legislative Program for the 118th Congress.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Congress' 118th Session began on January 3, 2023 and ends on January 3, 2025. 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 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 for the 118th Congress began in July 2022 in collaboration with City Departments and the City's federal consultant team. The selected priorities are drawn from the City's various strategic plans previously approved by City Council, such as the SA Forward Plan, Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, and Digital Equity Plan, 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 proposed Federal Legislative Program includes the priorities and issues developed with input from the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Committee. The IGR committee was briefed on the proposed program on November 28, 2022 and the full City Council received a briefing on January 11, 2023.

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 infrastructure.

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

- Infrastructure, Resiliency & Transportation – Support for programs and additional funding to enhance and improve San Antonio infrastructure, including the San Antonio International Airport and programs included within the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.
- Housing – Support for tax credits and programs to improve the availability of affordable housing, including programs to support the homeless population.
- Workforce & Training – Supporting the reauthorization and funding of workforce, education, and training programs.
- Public Health & Human Services – Supporting the reauthorization and funding of programs that reduce food insecurity, increase access to healthcare, provide humanitarian relief to migrants, and addresses domestic violence.
- Economic & Community Development – Support for funding to invest in technology, manufacturing, historic buildings, and legislative initiatives to expand air service at SAT.
- Military Protection – Enhance retention and military readiness in San Antonio, and support to 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.

ISSUE:

The Federal Legislative Program establishes the City's federal priorities for the 118th Congress. It is City Council policy to develop a legislative program for each congress that aligns with Council priorities to guide the City's advocacy efforts. As issues develop further during the 118th Congress, City staff will advise Council accordingly and obtain direction as needed.

ALTERNATIVES:

City Council could choose not to adopt a Federal Legislative Program for the 118th U.S. Congress and address legislation as it is filed and provide direction on an issue by issue basis. This would be inconsistent with previous policy set by City Council, limit staff ability to effectively address filed legislation, and fail to provide timely guidance to staff.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the approval of this item.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the City's 118th Congress Federal Legislative Program.