



88th Legislative Session & City State Legislative Agenda

October 25, 2022





Purpose

- Discuss one additional priority legislative initiative
- Discuss revisions to the support and oppose section of the City's State Legislative Agenda
- Adopt the City's State Legislative Agenda for the Texas 88th Legislative Session**



Priority

Issues identified as critical for the City of El Paso

Oppose

Any bill that contradicts or undermines positions adopted by City Council

Support

Not a City initiated ask, but does support based on positions adopted by City Council



Timeline

88th Legislative
Session begins
January 2023

August 2022

- ✓ Council approved priority legislative initiatives
- ✓ Council approved council recommended revisions to support and oppose section

October 2022

- Discussion on one additional priority & staff initiated revisions to support and oppose section of legislative agenda
- Council adopts final state legislative agenda

November 2022

- Bills can begin to be filed

January – July 2023

- Session begins, periodic updates to council
- Amendments to state legislative agenda as needed

Requested Action

- Approve the City of El Paso's State Legislative Agenda for the Texas 88th Legislative Session as presented by City Staff
 - One additional Priority for Transportation Riders
 - Revisions to staff initiated support/oppose section

Additional Priority Legislative Initiative

Transportation:

Seek riders for construction or improvements of the City's transportation infrastructure system

Examples Include:

- **Street Extensions**
- **Reconstruction of Obsolete Bridges**
- **Mesa Park Connector**
- **Arterial Corridor Reconstruction**
- **Northeast Rail Spur**
- **International Bridges**

Support & Oppose Sections

- Economic Development
- Property Tax & Debt Issuance
- Utilities
- Land Development
- Military & Veteran Affairs
- Transportation
- Parks
- Environmental
- Bridge Wait Times/Ports of Entry

- Development
- Access for People with Disabilities
- Payday Lending Reforms
- Code Enforcement
- Wage Theft
- Gaming
- Libraries
- Homelessness
- Higher Education

- Animal Control
- Public Notices
- Annexation
- Water and Wastewater
- Public Safety
- Mental Health
- Airport
- Telecommunications
- Eminent Domain
- Affordable Housing

Support/Oppose Items

Recommended Revisions from Staff or Stakeholders

Add Pension Section

- Support** legislation that enhances the city's ability to provide pension benefits to its retirees and employees
- Oppose** legislation
 - that restricts the city or the city's pension board's ability to manage the city's pension program or results in an unfunded mandate for either the city or the city's pension fund
 - that would have the effect of increasing the city's pension liability unless the city specifically adopts such legislation

Support/Oppose Items

Recommended Revisions from Staff or Stakeholders

Add to **Utilities** section:

- Support** Legislation that would increase the proportion of renewable energies in the state's renewable generation requirements

Support/Oppose Items

Recommended Revisions from Staff or Stakeholders

Amend Environmental Section to read “Sustainability and Environmental”

Add to **Sustainability and Environmental** Section

- Support** legislation that supports any State climate change goals
- Support** legislation that supports deployment of EVs and charging infrastructure
- Support** legislation that increases the net-metering cap for distributed energy systems as well as the \$/kWh value for electricity exported to the grid
- Support** legislation that supports Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) including Community Solar initiatives
- Support** legislation that would increase energy efficiency goals (standards) for utilities, resulting in more energy efficiency programs for customers

Support/Oppose Items

Recommended Revisions from Staff or Stakeholders

Amend Public Health and Safety to read “Public Health and Welfare”

Add to **Public Health and Welfare** Section

- Supports** the simplification of the process to apply for SNAP Program

Delete from **Public Health and Welfare** Section

- Support legislation that reduces the background check requirements for telecommunications

Delete from **Public Safety** Section

- Oppose legislation that will allow U.S. Border Patrol Agents to be carried as state peace officers

Support/Oppose Items

Recommended Revisions from Staff or Stakeholders

Add to **Airport** Section

- Oppose** legislation that will limit municipalities ability to regulate peer to peer car sharing companies

Add to **Animal Services** Section

- Support** legislation that allows shelter animals to be spayed or neutered by a veterinarian authorized to perform spays and neuters in veterinarian's respective state

Support/Oppose Items

Recommended Revisions from Staff or Stakeholders

Add Affordable Housing Section

- Support** Legislation that prioritizes viable transactions for 4% Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Applications
- Support** legislation that would repeal the two mile/same year rule for low income housing tax credits or allow municipalities to approve a waiver of the rule
- Support** legislation that would limit Housing Finance Corporations to operate only within the municipal city limits

Support/Oppose Items

Recommended Revisions from Staff or Stakeholders

Amend Higher Education Section to read “University of Texas at El Paso”

Support legislation that:

- Provide funding for capital improvement projects, such as the renovation, repair & completion of existing academic buildings and the Student Success Building
- Appropriates \$5 million for the biennium to match federal funds and strengthen innovation and commercialization of advanced manufacturing technologies in West Texas
- Appropriates \$2 million for the Teacher Paid Residency Program

Support/Oppose Items

Recommended Revisions from Staff or Stakeholders

University of Texas at El Paso Section, cont.

Support legislation that:

- Appropriates \$6 million for the UTEP Center for Hispanic Health Disparities Research
- Appropriates \$2 million for the Center for Legal Studies
- Appropriates \$2 million for the Pharmacy Program Expansion
- Appropriates \$500,000.00 for the Census Restricted Access Research Data Center
- Appropriates \$250,000.00 for a Law School Planning Study

Recommended Motion

- Motion to Approve the City of El Paso's State Legislative Agenda for the Texas 88th Legislative Session as presented by City Staff

Next Steps

- Bills can be filed starting November 14, 2022
- Session begins January 10, 2023
- Regular updates to Council during Session
- Come back with any needed modifications or revisions to approved agenda
- Resources Reminder



Mission

Deliver exceptional services to support a high quality of life and place for our community



Vision

Develop a vibrant regional economy, safe and beautiful neighborhoods and exceptional recreational, cultural and educational opportunities powered by a high performing government



Values

Integrity, Respect, Excellence, Accountability, People