

# **CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PLATFORM**



**2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

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# **City of Beverly Hills**

## **STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

### **Platform Overview**

The purpose of the legislative platform is to provide a means for summarizing the City's core legislative principles for the purpose of advocacy efforts at the regional, state and federal level. The Legislative Platform contains broad policy statements pertaining to a variety of issues that impact the City of Beverly Hills.

The legislative platform sets forth the City's legislative objectives for the 2022 legislative session and provides direction for our legislative advocates as they work to secure clear and strategic initiatives in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. Approval of the legislative platform also streamlines the City's process and allows the City's Executive team to effectively respond and take immediate action on pressing legislation under City Council direction.

The policies established within the platform do not preclude City Council consideration of additional legislative matters arising throughout the year that may be brought forward for City Council action as presented to the City Council Legislative/Lobby Liaison Committee.

The City's primary legislative focus includes:

- Supporting legislation in regards to local control with community self determination
- Supporting legislation which focuses on addressing mental health issues
- Supporting sustainability in the community including:
  - Reduce, reuse, recycle;
  - Minimizing food waste; and
  - Supporting state funding for the development of solar power, a solar grid, and solar batteries.

### **Local Control**

- Support legislation that preserves local control.
- Support legislation that protects local control over urban planning.
- Oppose state legislation that supersedes a jurisdiction's adopted zoning ordinances.
- Support a state constitutional amendment to protect local discretionary authority whereby legislative oversight remains at the lowest level of the appropriate governing body while encouraging regional cooperation. For example, zoning authority would remain with a city whereas air quality, etc. would remain at the regional or state level.

- Support legislation that enhances local control of resources and that allows the City of Beverly Hills to address the needs of local constituents within a framework of regional cooperation.
- Support legislation that encourages the use of federal and state incentives for local government action rather than mandates.
- Oppose preemption of the City of Beverly Hills' local authority whether by state or federal legislation or ballot propositions.
- In general, oppose any county, state or federal mandates without the direct or indirect reimbursement for the costs associated with complying with new and/or modified laws, regulations, policies, procedures, permits and/or programs.
- Support measures increasing local autonomy, protecting privacy and maintaining local authority over public records. This includes measures that provide for the recovery of costs with regard to public records requests.
- Support transparent government and the purpose of the California Public Records Act while simultaneously observing and protecting the current Rule of Law in California including better legislation in regards to protecting the privacy of public records and enhancing laws related to digital records.
- Support legislation that preserves local control of short term rentals and online hotel intermediaries such as Airbnb.
- Continue to oppose any legislation or regulation which would limit a local jurisdiction's ability to restrict the delivery of cannabis.
- Support legislation where the Regional Housing Needs Allocation ("RHNA") is reverted back to a planning tool rather than being used as punitive punishment for jurisdictions who are unable to meet their assigned RHNA numbers even when the adopted General Plan for the jurisdiction has been modified to accommodate the assigned RHNA number.
- Support legislation which mandates the state provides funding to jurisdictions where state legislation increases density such that infrastructure upgrades can be made at no cost to the jurisdiction or developer.
- Support legislation where the state provides funding to jurisdictions to construct affordable housing especially when the state passes new legislation increasing density regardless of local zoning codes.

### **Pension Reform**

- Monitor, encourage, and lobby for legislative initiatives designed to achieve public employee pension reform.
- Inform the City Council of future legislative bills, statewide initiatives or other options as they emerge in regards to pension reform.
- Continue to support, where necessary and applicable, any future efforts that may impact the City of Beverly Hills ability to achieve and/or maintain sustainable pensions.

### **Fiscal and Administrative Initiatives**

- Support fiscal sustainability and "best practices" administrative initiatives to ensure the delivery of superlative city services.

- Monitor initiatives which seek changes in fiscal relationships at the local, state and federal level.
- Support legislation that guarantees ongoing revenue sources for local government.
- Pursue funding opportunities for public facilities and services including capital improvement projects, public works projects, homeland security, library, parks and social service facilities.
- Oppose any legislation that would undermine voter-approved initiatives to guarantee ongoing revenue sources for the City of Beverly Hills.
- Oppose legislation that would preempt the City's authority over local taxes and fees.
- Oppose any efforts by the state or county to alter the fee structure established by cities to recover costs associated with developer impacts or other projects.
- Protect the City's right to levy and collect Transient Occupancy Taxes from hotels, including online hotel intermediaries.
- Oppose any federal or state legislation that would provide immunity to online hotel intermediaries and/or prohibit the City from collecting (retroactively or otherwise) Transient Occupancy Taxes.
- Support continued or expanded funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.
- Oppose the reduction to Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Grants.
- Oppose any attempt to eliminate or limit the traditional tax exemption for municipal bonds.
- Engage in and advocate for legislation or ballot measures to prevent the state from borrowing, raiding or otherwise redirecting local government funds (local taxes, property taxes, etc.).
- Continue to promote increased flexibility for the utilization of municipally generated revenues.
- Support California League of Cities legislative efforts for pension reform and other post-employment benefits (**OPEB**) unfunded liability.
- Oppose legislation that triggers cost implications pertaining to "public works" projects.
- Support legislation for long-term funding solutions for Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST).
- Support legislation which offers financial opportunities for reimbursement to local jurisdictions in order to supplement increased custodial and supervision costs resulting from prison realignment.
- Oppose legislation with mandates for local agency adherence to operations and programs that may not be reimbursable by State budget funds (e.g. unfunded state mandates).
- Support legislation, which authorizes tax incremental financing for affordable housing projects.
- Support legislation that provides funding to local government for COVID-19.

- Support funding for COVID-19 related infrastructure projects.

### **Electoral Process**

- Monitor legislative or other initiatives which may address the integrity of the electoral process.
- Encourage safeguards ensuring that all eligible voters are provided with the mechanisms to exercise the right to vote.
- Support initiatives which promote government transparency regarding the election process.
- Support legislation that provides a mechanism to ensure non-eligible voters are unable to vote in an election.
- Support legislation that ensures the voting process is fair and equitable to both the voters and the candidates on the ballot.
- Support legislation which strengthens and clarifies the current state Election Code in order to provide better protection for elections workers and election sites.
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### **Public Safety**

- Support the development and use of new firefighting technology in order to produce higher levels of health and safety for the Beverly Hills Fire Department.
- Support legislation that aids paramedics and other emergency medical service practitioners in their ability to be responsive to community needs.
- Support legislation that amends the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regulation *42 CFR 410.40 Coverage of Ambulance Services (e)* to allow Medicare reimbursement for beneficiaries not transported to the emergency department by the Beverly Hills Fire Department. This would include:
  - Allowing CMS to provide a benefit to local jurisdictions for 'dry runs'
  - Allowing CMS to provide a benefit for treatment in the field apart from transport, including reimbursement for mid-level practitioners, such as nurse practitioners, as many jurisdictions are moving towards a model of staffing Emergency Medical Services with a higher level of medical care.
- Support legislation, which prioritizes fighting hate crimes and domestic terrorism.
- Oppose legislation or other administrative actions, which seek to limit the Beverly Hills Police Department's ability to collect and utilize asset forfeiture funds for a wide variety of police services.
- Support legislation, which provides frontline funding to the Beverly Hills Police Department for costs associated with the early release of state prisoners as a result of state-mandated criminal justice realignment provisions.
  - Identify opportunities for reimbursement to Beverly Hills for increased custodial and supervision costs resulting from prison realignment.
- Support legislation to increase funding to ensure responsible supervision by parole agents and for local agencies that provide post-release community supervision.

- Advocate for legislation and/or funding to take advantage of current technology to prevent crime in Beverly Hills (e.g. - the ability to use surveillance cameras and automatic license plate recognition technology).
- Support the deployment of new and emerging investigation technology, including unmanned aircraft, and the development of local policies that provides the tools to save abducted children; collect DNA, prevent the exploitation of children and vulnerable adults; and prosecute those who violate the rights of any person.
- Support the deployment and research of new and emerging technologies, which will provide the Beverly Hills Police Department with tools to provide the highest level of service including:
  - Next Generation 911
  - Mobile and Body Worn Cameras
  - New Generation Investigative Technology - including unmanned aircraft
  - Digital Evidence - support funding for local jurisdictions to collect, store and retain digital evidence.
- Support the development and deployment of enhanced 911 services to allow first responders the ability to respond quickly to the needs of the people of California.
- Support legislation and seek funding to assist in preventing and reducing crimes in Beverly Hills, primarily related to property crimes, cyber-crime, drugs, gang violence, mental illness, and pedestrian safety.
- Support evidence-based studies that seek to improve law enforcement tactics and non-lethal force options that ensure both the safety of the public and peace officers.
- Support efforts to work collectively with the Office of the California Attorney General to maintain transparency concerning lethal force encounters while concurrently retaining local control of investigations of such incidents.
- Oppose legislation that would challenge the use of force standards which are enshrined by federal and state statute and case law (e.g. *Graham v. Connor*, *Tennessee v. Garner*, etc.).
- Oppose any efforts to further decriminalize existing crimes in California or lessen the sentences of any offenses that would result in the release of serious criminals who would further harm the safety of the public and law enforcement personnel.
- Oppose legislation that would expand the definition of early release, non-serious crimes, and non-violent crimes.
- Oppose legislation to expand “early release” for low-risk, serious and violent offenders.
- Support efforts to overturn Proposition 47 and Proposition 57 and continue to raise awareness regarding their deficiencies as it relates to crime.
- Support efforts to reverse all legislation, including AB 109, that created “early release” for low-risk, serious and violent offenders.
- Oppose legislation that decriminalizes repeated substance use as well as inform and engage the Legislature and Governor on the public safety impacts of medicinal and recreational cannabis legalization in California.

- Oppose legislation that would expunge or otherwise reduce sentences for the most dangerous cannabis crimes, including sales to minors, commercial drug trafficking and driving under the influence of drugs (DUID).
- Support rehabilitation, housing, and employment programs for local and state prisoners.
- Support legislation, which combats the growing crime of human trafficking and provide to the legislature details and figures to further understand the scope of human trafficking in California.
- Support funding initiatives for Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) and other law enforcement support organizations.
- Support and encourage legislation and budget negotiations, which retain funding for the Beverly Hills Police Department when the legislation and/or budget negotiations includes behavioral health treatment; drug and trafficking taskforces; crisis intervention teams; and adequate patrol staffing.
- Support funding for the increased demand placed on Beverly Hills to respond to societal issues including homelessness; substance abuse and dependency; and unpredictable and potentially harmful behavior towards the public and peace officers.
- Support effective and relevant reporting of local agency data and ensure that any disclosed data be fair as well as balanced and protects the safety of officers and the public they serve.
- Support efforts to engage with the Legislature and Governor on the extreme need for local funding to collect, store, and retain large amounts of digital evidence.
- Support legislation that allows local control on the deployment of body cameras and using facial recognition software.
- Support efforts for cannabis enforcement that encourages state licensing entities to streamline enforcement relationships between the state and local jurisdictions. This includes improving existing systems in order to share information, providing additional funding for local law enforcement, and strengthening enforcement capabilities within the Bureau of Cannabis Control.
- Support common sense gun safety regulations, including legislation that addresses issues caused by firearms made by an individual without a serial number or other identifying markings (known as “ghost guns”).
- Urge the state legislature to redefine recidivism to its original definition as the current definition only considers a person to be a recidivist if there is an arrest resulting in a charge within three years of the individual’s release from incarceration.

### **Emergency Management and Homeland Security**

- Support strategies, legislation and funding that promotes emergency preparedness, resiliency and recovery efforts.
- Support efforts to continue regional interoperability advocacy and expansion efforts through ongoing participation with the ICI System Authority.



- Support legislation that enhances and further develops the regional ICI System Authority's interoperable communications platform through the continued funding of strategic technical and operational improvements.
- Support interoperable communication solutions that meet radio spectrum needs of first responders.
- Support funding opportunities for local homeland security, public safety and emergency management programs including new technology and equipment (e.g., closed circuit television) that does not supplant other City funding, services or operations.
- Seek grants and pilot project/demonstration project funding for City homeland security, public safety and emergency management priorities.
- Support federal funding for the deployment and long-term sustainment of the Biowatch program and other monitoring programs in Beverly Hills.
- Support funding for a cost effective public seismic early warning system and other emergency notification systems.
- Support legislation that ensures funding for disaster relief for all types of natural and manmade disasters.
- Support federal or state legislation and funding that improves building resiliency and recovery efforts after a seismic event.

### **Housing and Land Use**

- Pursue incentive-based housing legislation to encourage expanding the housing supply in our area including more flexibility for local jurisdictions to work together to provide housing that counts toward Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) requirements.
- Support federal and state funding for affordable senior housing opportunities and projects.
- Monitor land use issues and support legislative and administrative efforts to maintain the integrity of local government's control over land use, planning and zoning matters.
- Emphasize local control related to land use planning.
- Support and pursue the repeal of state laws that affect local control on housing and land use.
- Continue to support new initiatives regarding rent control legislation at the state level.
- Support legislation to protect areas designated for single-family homes as the City recognizes the benefits of having single-family homes as an alternative for housing.

### **Mental Health Funding, Homelessness, and At-Risk Youth**

- Support additional funding for homeless and mental health outreach teams, as well as for programs targeting at-risk youth.

- Support legislation that expands the treatment of and response to mentally ill persons and inform the Legislature and Governor on the effective mental and behavioral health practices currently being used by law enforcement in California.
- Promote legislation that provides for increased services to or funding for at-risk populations such as elderly who require assistance, homeless, disabled and other challenged populations.
- Support funding and policy initiatives that support mental health care (e.g., access to psychiatric facilities, behavioral health care treatment, and street-based services).
- Support legislation that addresses the need for housing and supportive services, (e.g. health, mental health and social services) for the City's homeless population.
- Collaborate with local stakeholders on measures that work to maintain renter populations and prevent homelessness,

### **Transportation**

- Support local control over determining and setting speed limits
- Support legislation, which would allow local jurisdictions to install speed enforcement cameras.
- Support legislation, which would allow local jurisdictions to install cameras at stop sign intersections for enforcement of vehicle code violations when a vehicle does not come to a complete stop.
- Support state and federal legislation that enhances the safety of the City's streets for automobile and pedestrian traffic, including issues related to, traffic congestion reduction programs and regional transportation improvements.
- Promote funding, policy goals and visibility for the development of autonomous vehicles.
- Support regional, state and federal efforts for the development of compatible autonomous vehicle infrastructure.
- Support measures and discretionary grant programs that provide funding for critical transportation infrastructure projects that improve mobility for residents and visitors in and around Beverly Hills.
- Support legislation that expands transportation planning, funding, and voluntary incentives to include an increasingly multi-modal perspective focusing on transit, alternative fuel vehicles and fleets, pedestrian ways, bikeways, multi-use trails and parking.
- Support measures which provide the City's fair share of funding from the State's cap and trade funding sources.
- Support legislation to provide more tools to both the California Department of Motor Vehicles and local law enforcement to reduce disabled parking placard fraud and abuse.
- Work with other agencies in the region to support current state and federal funding levels and encourage increased funding and flexibility in both operating and capital funding for mass transit.

- In conjunction with the Westside Cities Council of Governments (WSCOG) and other agencies, support legislation that provides incentives for the development of local transportation corridors.
- Support local, regional, state and federal legislative, administrative, and regulatory efforts that will expand and/or supplement funding for maintaining and upgrading major thoroughfares in Beverly Hills to improve the safety for all forms of modality.
- Support increased state and federal resources to mitigate traffic congestion on the City of Beverly Hills' streets and rebuild and maintain roads.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

- Advocate for cost-effective, sustainable, and responsible environmental policy and programs in the areas of energy efficiency, greenhouse gases, climate change, potable water, wastewater, solid waste removal and storm water, among others.
- Support state funding opportunities to assist agencies in meeting sustainability objectives including energy and water efficiencies, active transportation enhancements, connectivity and mobility improvements and carbon sequestration through natural landscape management and protection.
- Support legislation for funding opportunities to expand local infrastructure, such as EV charging stations, to support Governor Executive Order N-79-20 on the phase-out of gasoline powered vehicles by Year 2035.
- Support legislation protecting, preserving and restoring the natural environment where it does not conflict with local control and land use designations.
- Support efforts to create partnerships among the City, Beverly Hills Unified School District, businesses, residents, and all other community stakeholders as necessary to achieve a sustainable community.
- Support legislation to combat climate change and improve air quality that results in turning back global warming to minimize drought and wildland fires.
- Support funding to foster an environmentally sustainable city as well as a walkable community that provides ample goods, services and benefits to all residents while respecting the local environment.
- Support legislation and funding for the Metropolitan Transportation Agency (MTA) and other regional transit authorities to continue to create multi-modal transportation systems that minimizes pollution and reduces motor vehicle congestion while ensuring access and mobility for all.
- Oppose legislation that will expand or create new opportunities for off shore oil drilling.
- Support legislation and funding for solar power infrastructure, including solar batteries, as a renewable energy resource.

### **Community Services**

- Support legislation related to the Internet and filtering in public facilities.
- Support funding for literacy and English-as-a-second language programs.

- Support protection against censorship and oppose restriction of free speech.
- Support funding for ADA facility and park upgrades.
- Support legislation that provides opportunities for healthy “aging in place” (aging in one’s own home) options.
- Where reasonable, support public investment in parks, open space and recreation.
- In general, support efforts to provide funding for the rehabilitation, development and capital improvements for local park improvements.

## **Public Health**

- Continue to promote legislation that enhances the health and safety of the general population, with an emphasis on programs that focus on youth, the elderly and at-risk populations.
- Monitor opportunities to expand the City’s ordinances to regulate smoking to other communities or through state legislation.
- Support legislation that will increase funding for mental health at the local level in order to address mental health issues and the impact those with mental health issues have on Beverly Hills.
- Support legislation that provides funding to expand the treatment of, and response to, mentally ill persons and the growing issues associated with the mentally ill.
- Support legislation that would provide direct funding and alternative avenues of healthcare to local first response agencies to adequately address behavioral and mental health issues.
- Support legislation to maintain or increase funding for the provision of mental health services and to establish programs to assist jurisdictions with helping those individuals who may have mental health issues.
- Support legislative efforts to regulate the smoking of any substance at multi-family complexes both regionally and statewide.
- Support efforts regionally and statewide to prohibit the sales of tobacco and tobacco related products.
- Oppose legislation that would reduce or eliminate funding allocations for the Prevention and Public Health Fund.
- Support access opportunities for all Californians for physical activity, proper nutrition and healthy lifestyle options through the promotion of active transportation, complete street implementation, healthy foods, youth programming and maximizing the usage of green space.
- Support legislation that will actively support and provide funding for vaccinations.

## **General Government**

- Support legislation that reinstates net neutrality.
- Support legislation that preserves the ability of local governments to provide broadband capability and services to its residents.

- Support legislation that would prohibit the flying of helicopters, unmanned aircraft or other aircraft at low altitudes over residential neighbors excluding police, fire or other public safety aircraft.
- Support efforts to increase state resources for local arts, cultural events and library programs, including performing and visual arts programs.
- Support legislation that encourages policies and programming that promote healthy lifestyles; e.g. physical activity, preventative screenings, healthful eating and core wellness for people of all ages and abilities.
- Support legislation that would establish statewide regulations prohibiting the use of unmanned aircraft to record or transmit any visual audio recording of any person or private real property in which the subject person or owner of property has a reasonable expectation of privacy.

### **Public Works – Solid Waste**

- Support funding for new infrastructure related to the passage of AB 1826 – Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling and SB 1383 – Short-Lived Climate Pollutants: Methane Emissions.
- Support legislation that incentivizes corporations to recycle in the United States rather than sending recyclables overseas.
- Support legislation that incentivizes manufacturers to produce recyclable products.
- Support legislation that requires manufactures to be responsible for the end of life of non-recyclable products.
- Support legislation that promotes sustainable practices related to waste reduction, increased reuse of materials, and then recycling.
- Support legislation that encourages the reduction diversion of commercial food waste.

### **Public Works - Stormwater**

- Support state and county efforts to develop avenues for agencies to collect revenue to support stormwater retention efforts.
- Support legislation that would classify stormwater as a utility similar to water, wastewater and solid waste services.
- Support legislation for funding stormwater infrastructure improvements, including building facilities to capture stormwater runoff and integrate with local, regional and statewide water resources.
- Support legislation that would provide pragmatic compliance goals in statewide and regional National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.
- Ensure the state continues to fund the California Department of Transportation (Cal Trans) capital construction budget for offsetting their requirements to limit their total maximum daily load (TMDL) for pollutant discharge. Encourage Cal Trans to continue to enter into Cooperative Implementation Agreements with local jurisdictions to fund stormwater capture and retention projects.

- Ensure that the State (State Water Resources Control Board) continues to provide Cal Trans Stormwater a Compliance Based Credit System that includes compliance based on using funds to support stormwater projects that would meet statewide TMDLs.

### **Public Works – Water & Utilities**

- Support California Water Fix as it will assist with protecting the water supply for Beverly Hills.
- Support projects and legislation that protect the City's ability to receive water from the Bay Delta and the State Water Project.
- Support measures that uphold the ability of the City of Beverly Hills City Council to regulate and manage their publicly owned water utility so that local authority is not eroded by state or federal agencies, authorities, or other regulatory bodies.
- Oppose legislation that adds requirements to provide services that customers do not value, want, or need.
- Support legislation that ensures local ratemaking authority is preserved and remains meaningful.
- Support policies that recognize, support, and credit the role of water conservation and water use efficiency in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Support local control of groundwater uses and groundwater rights unless otherwise contraindicated.
- Support local control for planning management and use of water supplies to address local needs and contribute to long-term sustainability, unless otherwise contraindicated.
- Support efforts that seek to bring federal sources of funding to California for water infrastructure development and renewable energy development through water management.
- Support cost effective water conservation programs and incentives that are funded by the state or federal government.
- Support flexible funding options that will help Beverly Hills upgrade and replace water and wastewater infrastructure.
- Support legislation for state funding for the development of local water supply and water conservation efforts.
- Support legislation that provides the City of Beverly Hills the flexibility to implement a community choice aggregation program for the purchase of renewable electricity and oppose legislation that would place overly strict requirements on the establishment of, and activities by, community choice aggregators.
- Oppose legislation that makes it more difficult for community-choice aggregators to implement a successful community choice aggregation program.
- Support legislation that ensures equitable cost-sharing between investor-owned utilities and community choice aggregation for stranded costs.
- Support funding and legislation for water recycling projects.

- Support legislation and funding aimed at strengthening cyber security and preventing cyber security threats to critical infrastructure, including water utilities.
- Support state funding and a statewide policy for broadband access for all, which would allow remote access for at home education and telework. This will reduce vehicle miles traveled and assist with reducing climate change.

Revised March 1, 2022