CITY OF INDIAN WELLS

ATTACHMENT #1

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

2025-2026

COUNCIL ADOPTED—MARCH 6, 2025



CITY LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

Christopher J. Freeland
City Manager
City of Indian Wells
44-950 Eldorado Drive
Indian Wells, CA 92210
(760) 346-2489
cfreeland@indianwells.com

Kristen Nelson
Administrative Services Manager
City of Indian Wells
44-950 Eldorado Drive
Indian Wells, CA 92210
(760) 346-2489
knelson@indianwells.com

Joe A. Gonsalves & Son
Professional State Legislative Representation
925 L Street, Suite 250
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 441-0597
www.gonsalvi.com

INDIAN WELLS
UNSURPASSED QUALITY

Located in the heart of Southern California's Desert Resort communities, the City of Indian Wells is recognized worldwide for its tranquil and luxurious resort environment. Then and now, astute planning and city leadership have helped Indian Wells achieve status as one of the premier residential resorts and vacation destinations in the United States. Guests and residents alike are continually drawn to the many amenities that Indian Wells offers including four world-class resorts, Indian Wells Golf Resort and Indian Wells Tennis Garden, a variety of cultural programs, impressive resident benefits, and much more. Indian Wells offers a peerless experience that truly elicits a state of overall well-being.

As a contract City, Indian Wells recognizes the need for active legislative engagement at the Local, State, and Federal levels to protect and enhance the interests of its residents and businesses. Accordingly, City officials maintain close relationships with Indian Wells' State and Federal representatives to advocate, influence, and monitor pertinent legislation.

The 2025 - 2026 Legislative Platform provides a framework for the City of Indian Wells' core legislative principles for the purpose of advocacy efforts at the regional, state and federal level. The legislative platform sets forth the City's position on a variety of topics and provides direction for the City's legislative advocates, City Council, and City staff as they work to secure clear and strategic initiatives in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

The Legislative Platform is developed and updated using the goals and objectives of the City Council, a review of Legislative Platforms from the League of California Cities, League's Riverside County Division, California Contract Cities Association, input from City Council and Staff, research of current law and pending legislation, as well as discussions with local legislative staff and the City's legislative advocates.

City of Indian Wells Legislative Priorities

1. Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Reforms: City will seek legislation that provides Indian Wells and other cities in the Coachella Valley opportunities to support and receive RHNA credit for the development of student and workforce housing to support local colleges (e.g., College of the Desert and California State University San Bernardino-Palm Desert Campus.)
2. Property Tax Equity: City will seek legislative support to revise the tax equity allocations from the 1980s for no/low property tax cities (e.g., Indian Wells) to get its fair share of property tax revenue.

Other Special Interest Legislative Priorities

1. Senate Bill 1 Transportation Bill Reforms: Provide incentives to cities that exceed the street maintenance goals of SB1 (e.g., high pavement condition index) with the reduction or elimination of the maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement to obtain the City's share of SB1 funds.
2. Unfunded Mandates: Seek legislation that forces the State of California to meet its legal obligations to fund states for various unfunded mandate programs. Annually, the State of California pushes the financial payments to cities and counties to the next year.
3. Regional Infrastructure Improvements: Investment into infrastructure improvements throughout California are necessary, especially in the Coachella Valley. This includes additional passenger rail service, improvements to the 911 System, funding for streets, highways, bridges, flood control, expanded utility capacity to meet the growing needs of the region, and much more.
4. Redevelopment 2.0: Seek legislation that provides a dedicated revenue source to encourage economic development and housing throughout the State.

Approval of the Legislative Platform streamlines the City's process and allows the City to effectively respond and take immediate action on pressing legislation. For proposed legislation, either consistent with the City's Legislative Platform or consistent with past City legislative positions; City staff shall be authorized to prepare position letters for signature. Items not addressed in the City's Legislative Platform may require further Council direction. The Legislative Platform may only address issues directly relevant to or impacting the provision of municipal services.

City departments are encouraged to monitor and be knowledgeable of any legislative issues related to their discipline. However, any requests for the City to take positions on a legislative matter must be directed to the City Manager's Office.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

I. Local Control

Support legislation to preserve the city's local authority as a charter city to enact policy pertaining to local affairs. Oppose legislation preempting local control without the concurrence of the City.

II. Fiscal Responsibility

Support legislation promoting fiscal stability, predictability, and financial independence at the local level. Support efforts to preserve and promote the City's ability to maintain and grow its revenue base. Oppose legislation to diminish the City's revenue sources required to maintain critical city services.

III. Economic Development

Support legislative efforts designed to provide local governments with the tools necessary to bolster economic development. Support legislation and regulatory streamlining initiatives to enhance the City's ability to attract and retain businesses as well as encourage business expansion and job retention.

IV. Public Safety

Support legislation for local governments to access resources to provide quality police, fire, emergency management, emergency medical services, violence prevention initiatives, and community efforts.

V. Funding Opportunities

Support legislation allowing the City to compete for its fair share of regional, state, and federal funding. Support efforts promoting dedicated funding streams to cities for critical service areas.

VI. Regional Partnerships

Support opportunities to work collaboratively with local and regional partners on areas of mutual interest. Maintain strong relationships with other municipalities, local transportation agencies, special districts, regional government agencies, local elected officials, college boards, and school districts.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



GENERAL AREA OF REVIEW:

Elections, Ralph M. Brown Act, Public Records Act, Political Reform Act, conflicts of interest, insurance tort reform, and open and transparent government.

WE SUPPORT:

- Efforts consistent with the doctrine of local control especially in the areas of city revenues, police powers, land use planning, housing, community development, telecommunications, public safety, local public meeting procedures, and other municipal activities.
- Applying the Ralph M. Brown Act to the state legislature to the same extent that it applies to local government.
- Preserving the integrity and fundamentals of the Ralph M. Brown Act while opposing legislation constraining communication among staff, local officials and the public.
- Amending rules limiting and restricting local government's ability to achieve greater transparency of governmental business by improving the platform in which agencies can publish and advertise notices, ordinances, or other matters required by law.
- Measures to lower the voter approval threshold for local special taxes to either 55% (same as school districts) or to a simple majority, especially for the purposes of economic and local development, and public safety needs.
- Reducing and providing for recovery of costs, maintaining privacy, and eliminating attorney's fees for public records laws.
- Efforts to recognize or broaden immunities for public agencies and oppose any attempts to limit or restrict existing immunities.
- Limitations on the joint and separate liability of governmental agencies to a liability equal to their percentage of their wrongdoing. Require plaintiffs to make a good faith showing of liability prior to filing a lawsuit against a public entity.
- Reforming California's tort system to curtail unreasonable liability exposure for public agencies, including tort immunities for public entities for unauthorized use of public property, and restore the ability of public agencies to obtain affordable insurance.

WE OPPOSE:

- Efforts to prohibit or limit the ability of local government to conduct closed session consistent with the Ralph M. Brown Act.
- Mandated district-based elections without analyzing the specific needs of a community.
- Legislative efforts to impose binding arbitration that would remove local government authority on matters of local interest. Specifically, support all legislative and legal efforts to overturn any legislation that implements binding arbitration on local government.
- Creating or granting powers to sub-regional or regional bodies, which may result in infringement on clearly local concerns, unless all affected local entities agree to do so.
- Efforts to limit local government's ability to hold contractors accountable for their work product.
- Efforts to retroactively and prospectively hold Joint Powers Authority (JPA) agencies jointly and severally liable for economic damages.

CITY-SPECIFIC POLICY STATEMENTS:

RESOLUTION NO 1990-91 - STATING OPPOSITION TO STATE LEGISLATION CONCERNING THE CREATION OR EXPANSION OF REGIONAL GOVERNING BODIES

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS



GENERAL AREA OF REVIEW:

Labor relations, employee relations, worker's compensation, retirement system, medical insurance, and risk management.

WE SUPPORT:

- Reforming workers' compensation formulas to rely on more evidence of work-related causation to determine compensability, to reduce employers' costs through the reduction of system abuse, while still protecting workers.
- Limiting the ability of employees to receive workers' compensation benefits for occupational injuries/illnesses resulting from stress, disciplinary action, or performance evaluations/consultations.
- Efforts to achieve and/or maintain sustainable California Public Employee's Retirement System employer rates, lessen the impact of CalPERS investment losses on employer rates, and provide local control flexibility in defining current employee benefits.
- Improving access to and reducing the cost of healthcare, and expands ability to offer health, welfare and wellness services for public employees.

WE OPPOSE:

- Mandates upon local governments for any additional employee benefits as such benefits impose financial costs and administrative burdens on local governments.
- Increases to employee benefits without system reforms to offset increased employer costs.
- Unreasonable increases to employer medical costs for workers' compensation.
- Efforts to increase employer liability for unemployment compensation, or reduction of local discretion to manage this risk.
- Federal or state mandates on the collective bargaining process.
- Undermining good faith negotiations between employee organizations and local agencies.
- Reducing local control over public employee disputes and/or imposed regulations from an outside agency.

COMMUNITY & HUMAN SERVICES



GENERAL AREA OF REVIEW:

Parks, recreation, cultural arts, senior programs, community and human services programs.

WE SUPPORT:

- Federal and state funding opportunities for senior citizen nutrition programs, prescription drug benefits, transportation, adult care, technology improvements, education, and emergency education for seniors.
- Efforts to protect society against identity theft, senior citizens from criminal exploitation, and juveniles from sexual predators on the internet.
- Federal and state funding opportunities that promote the ability to provide public access to technology at community facilities.
- Federal and state funding opportunities for cultural arts programs, parks, and recreation and human services in the community.
- Funding for transportation services, especially for those homebound and elderly.
- Funding and resources for local governments to implement Healthy Cities programs and policies aimed at reducing obesity, high rates of diabetes, heart disease, and other health conditions.
- Reinstatement of funding for community-based programs serving seniors.
- Increasing opportunities for community-wide citizen volunteer programs.
- Supportive services for special populations such as people with health and mental health conditions, impairments, and/or disabilities.
- Efforts to promote and fund programs to combat pet overpopulation, increase pet adoptions and spay/neuter programs and educate citizens on the dangers and nuisance of roaming, uncontrolled animals and other animal control issues that risk public health and safety and quality of life.

CITY-SPECIFIC POLICY STATEMENTS:

RESOLUTION NO 1986-84 - SEEKING THE SUPPORT OF THE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES FOR LEGISLATION LIMITING LIABILITY EXPOSURE FOR PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

RESOLUTION NO 1974-09 – ADOPTING OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION ELEMENTS TO THE GENERAL PLAN

RESOLUTION NO 2009-05 – UPDATING THE CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT OF THE GENERAL PLAN

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY



GENERAL AREA OF REVIEW:

Air and water quality, energy and water efficiency, sustainability, CEQA, integrated waste management, hazardous materials.

WE SUPPORT:

- Encouraging legislation and federal and state funding to address the revitalization and restoration of the Salton Sea, including the North Lake and Perimeter Lake concepts.
- Salton Sea Authority requests for more accurate accounting of costs for producing energy eligible for consideration in the state Renewable Energy Portfolio.
- Resources and funding to local governments for the implementation of climate action plan for the reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through coordinated transportation and land use planning with the goal of more sustainable communities.
- Streamlining environmental processing for state and federal regulatory permits issued by various agencies for the purpose of expediting public infrastructure developments.
- Reforming the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to streamline the approval of development and infrastructure projects, reduce the prevalence of frivolous lawsuits resulting from inadequate safeguards written into CEQA regulations while ensuring the environment is adequately protected, and promote affordable housing and job creation.
- Flexibility for local government in determining how best to notify the public of projects requiring CEQA review to take advantage of technology and social media trends.
- Continuation of California Integrated Waste Management Act (AB 939) waste diversion requirement, the state goal of 75% diversion by 2020 (AB 341), organic waste regulations (SB 1383) and programs assisting cities to go beyond the 75% diversion goal. This includes diversion measurement and reporting improvements that do not adversely impact the assessment of compliance efforts made by cities.
- Efforts for the safe and cost-effective disposal of solid, hazardous and medical waste.
- Financial incentives for water reuse and legislation that encourages the treatment of municipal wastewater for non-potable reuse and promote the development of reasonable regulations to encourage and maximize the responsible use of reclaimed water as an alternative to California's fresh water supply.
- Encouraging legislation for critical water infrastructure maintenance and construction projects and local financing tools.
- Energy and water efficiency programs such as California's Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) which provides incentives including tax deduction for

installation of solar systems, equipment such as energy storage systems, and efficiency programs that reduce demand and improve water efficiency.
- Funding and resources for retrofitting municipal buildings to increase energy efficiency.
- Resources and funding to expand the use of purple pipe for the distribution and use of recycled water and prevention of cross connection between water and recycled water.
- The use of drought-tolerant plant material and wastewater conservation techniques.
- Maintaining and enhancing local decision-making authority in the development and implementation of air quality attainment strategies.
- Local government discretion on adopting a Green Building policy that offers property tax relief for certified green homes or buildings.
- Funding and resources for alternative fuel vehicles for replacement of municipal fleet equipment, adequate charging station infrastructure for emerging electric vehicle technology, and retrofitting municipal buildings to increase energy efficiency.
- Requiring Department of Transportation and CALTRANS to increase the use of rubberized asphalt and crumb rubber made from recycled tires.
- Resources and funding to local governments for implementation of SB 375 – California's Sustainable Communities Strategy and Climate Protection Act.

WE OPPOSE:

- Actions to weaken local government's ability to enforce environmental impact report (EIR) mitigation measures now defined as "takings."
- Imposing of undue hardship on local agencies to implement environmental regulations.
- Air quality and water use legislation that restricts the land use authority of cities.
- Efforts to circumvent local government's ability to regulate, approve and/or deny "green technology" projects.
- Expansion of the state listing of endangered or threatened species without economic impact analyses and valid scientific data.
- Preemption of local planning decisions regarding solid waste facility sites, and local solid waste and AB 939 fee setting authority or imposes taxes or fees on local solid waste programs to fund State programs not directly related to solid waste management.
- Actions by Regional Water Quality Control Boards to impose mandates on local government that exceeds state or federal regulations and/or are outside the Boards jurisdictional authority to impose or enforce.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM



GENERAL AREA OF REVIEW:

Economic development, tourism, transient occupancy tax, vacation rentals, business retention and attraction.

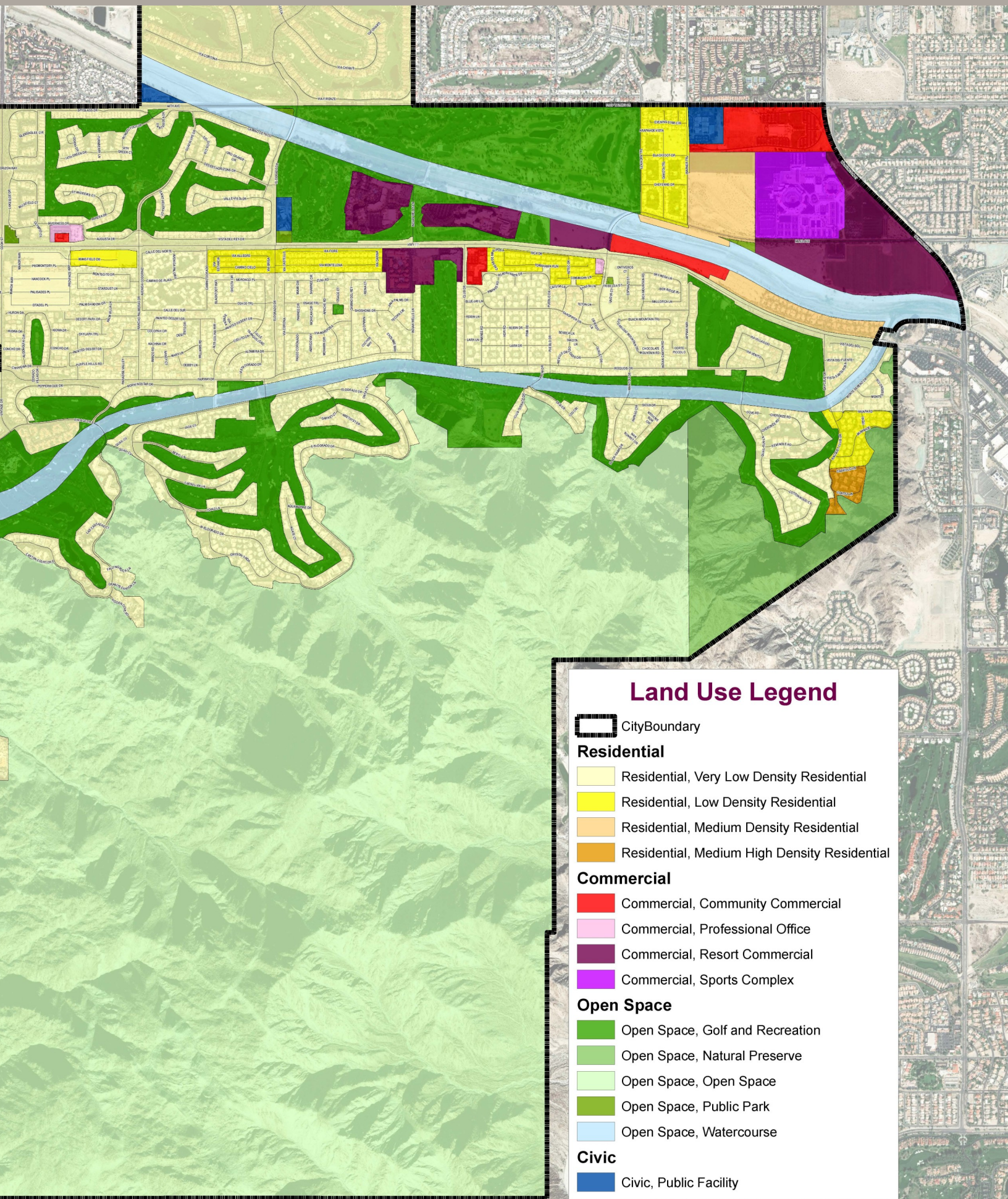
WE SUPPORT:

- Protecting cities' right to levy and collect full share of Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) from hotels, vacation rentals, including any online hotel intermediaries, short-term housing rental agencies, and home sharing platforms such as Airbnb. This includes opposing any federal or state legislation providing immunity to online hotel intermediaries and/or prohibiting cities from collecting (retroactively or otherwise) their fair share of TOT.
- Efforts to require online home sharing platforms to provide information to local governments, including property address, length of stay, emergency contact, and other pertinent information regarding properties used as vacation rentals within the cities' boundaries.
- Preserving funding mechanisms to promote continued economic development, including initiatives to provide financing for infrastructure and affordable housing.
- Efforts to implement and expand economic development tools and reduced regulations, including advocating for meaningful and useful tax increment financing, economic finance improvement districts, and other economic development tools (sometimes referred to in aggregate as Redevelopment 2.0).
- Efforts to support reductions in burdensome state regulations.
- Federal and state efforts to fund economic stimulus programs and jobs.
- Enhancing the City's efforts to retain existing businesses and attract new businesses.
- Extending sales tax to e-commerce as a means of fairness to "main street" retailers.
- Incentives (tax benefits, grants, loans, credits for affordable units) to local government to rehabilitate residential and commercial properties.
- Exemptions to the application of Labor Code Section 1720 for economic development projects.
- Restoring "safe harbor" for affordable housing projects exempting them from state prevailing wages.

WE OPPOSE:

- Legislative or administrative efforts by online travel companies to circumvent remittance of transient occupancy taxes to local government from hotel reservations purchased using the internet or short-term housing rental platforms.
- Attempts to eliminate or limit the traditional tax exemption for municipal bonds, and to cap the investor tax deduction on municipal securities investments.
- Erosion of the ability of cities to condition and deny projects with inadequately mitigated impacts to the community.
- Imposition of unwarranted restrictions on local businesses.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



GENERAL AREA OF REVIEW:

Land use, development, building standards, affordable housing, medical and recreational marijuana, homelessness, and massage establishments.

WE SUPPORT:

- Housing Element reform providing flexibility for local government to achieve realistic goals and support funding of mandated General Plan Housing Element updates and flexibility in meeting the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) requirements including partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions.
- A consistent and objective Housing Element review process.
- A smart housing solution consistent with state law.
- Including student housing as qualified affordable housing units for RHNA credit.
- New financing tools for local government to support, build and preserve affordable housing, and the creation of a long-term funding source dedicated to financing affordable housing. Tax incentives to promote investment in the production of multi-family rental housing including expansion of Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program to create mixed-income developments.
- Legislation and grants increasing funding for housing programs within the City, including incentives from private sector investment in housing projects.
- Consolidating and streamlining the administration and reporting requirements for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.
- Efforts to repeal or modify the Davis-Bacon Wage Act, as it relates to charter cities, that set a prevailing wage scale for public projects, substantially increasing the cost of publicly assisted housing developments.
- Maintaining or strengthening local control over medical marijuana dispensaries and uphold cities' ability to regulate and ban dispensaries.
- Preserving and protecting local regulatory authority over medical and recreational marijuana.
- Strengthening the concept of local control/local home rule for local decision making on land use and zoning matters.
- Preserving municipal authority over the public right-of-way including fair and reasonable compensation for use of the right-of-way and streamline the acquisition process.
- Local control over the establishment and placement of group, sober living, sex offender, and parolee homes within the city limits.
- Increasing the City's ability to reasonably oversee the location of community care facilities.
- Funding for the identification, acquisition, maintenance and restoration of historic sites and structures.
- Funding for community-based local efforts to address the homelessness problem.

WE OPPOSE:

- Restrictions of California cities use of eminent domain for public purpose projects.
- Efforts to erode the ability of local government to condition and deny projects that inadequately mitigate impacts to the community.
- Weakening local government's ability to regulate massage establishments through zoning code provisions.
- Legislative and regulatory efforts to weaken the authority of cities to zone and plan for the development of telecommunications infrastructure, including the siting of cellular communications towers, antenna or transmission sites.
- Mandatory caps on local parking standards in transit intensive areas.
- Efforts by any regulatory commission from promulgating rules and regulations that infringe on local land use decisions and management of the public right-of-way.
- Additional affordable housing production mandates without necessary funding to support said housing mandate.
- Efforts that prohibit local government's ability to prohibit and/or regulate the act of sleeping in an unlawful location (i.e. vehicle).
- Limiting local government's ability to address homelessness issues.

CITY-SPECIFIC POLICY STATEMENTS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-07 - DESIGNATING THE CITY OF INDIAN WELLS AS THE SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE INDIAN WELLS REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY PURSUANT TO PROPOSED STATE LEGISLATION TERMINATING REDEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

PUBLIC SAFETY



GENERAL AREA OF REVIEW:

Law enforcement, fire safety, emergency services, disaster preparedness, nuisance abatement.

WE SUPPORT:

- A robust and reliable 9-1-1 System.
- Legislation and funding for the Urban Area Security Initiative and other funding initiatives administered by the Department of Homeland Security to enhance the City's ability to respond to regional or national threats.
- Requiring the transfer of information to local officials regarding threats to local safety as threats occur.
- Efforts to secure Federal funding sources for Dignitary (Presidential) visits
- Increased frontline funding for police services associated with the early release of prisoners as a result of state-mandated criminal justice realignment provisions.
- Funding and integration of video recording system between police officers (body cameras) and in-vehicle (dash cams), and the development of policies related to public records, discovery, privacy, and storage.
- Efforts to equally allocate State Local Assistance Funding approved by voters with Proposition 30 to all city police departments, including cities that contract for police services.
- Funding support for disaster preparedness, earthquake preparedness, Homeland Security, hazardous material response, State COPS program, booking fee reimbursement and other local law enforcement activities.
- Statewide efforts to coordinate disaster preparedness programs in local jurisdictions and support guidelines to identify the strengths and weaknesses of local preparedness efforts.
- Efforts to strengthen local law enforcement's ability to prevent and reduce crimes, and specifically relating to illicit drugs, burglary, assault, domestic violence, and sobriety.
- Programs that enhance the benefits of mutual aid agreements between local governments.
- Funding for interoperability initiatives to better facilitate coordinated and effective emergency response by police, fire, EMS, and non-public safety departments in cities and across regional jurisdictions.
- Increases home rule in adopting Fire and Life Safety Codes.
- Efforts which strengthen and provide additional funding for local fire and life safety services. Resource and funding opportunities related to wildfire prevention and wildfire response.
- Reimbursement of local government for overtime costs, training, and equipment, paid to and for fire suppression personnel who are fighting statewide wildland fires, attending regional trainings, and promoting interoperability through the upgrade and replacement of outdated equipment.

- Legislation that provides local law enforcement agencies authority to recover costs associated with complying with any federal, state or court-ordered licensing, registration and testing requirements.

WE OPPOSE:

- Limiting or restricting local government's ability to collect fees for the expense of an emergency response (e.g., non-resident medical aid fee)
- Attempts to expand "early release" for low-risk, serious and violent offenders without an increase in sustained funding to ensure responsible supervision by parole agents.
- Legislation that alters distribution of revenues from traffic and parking violations, resulting in lower revenue for local governments.
- Legislation impeding local law enforcement from addressing crime problems and recovering costs resulting from a crime committed by the guilty party.
- Legislation that restricts local authority jurisdiction over the enforcement of fire and life safety regulations.
- Legislation or other administrative actions seeking to limit the police departments' ability to collect and utilize asset forfeiture funds for a wide variety of police services.

REVENUE & TAXATION



GENERAL AREA OF REVIEW:

Finance administration, taxation reform, general and special revenue.

WE SUPPORT:

- Efforts to allow states and cities to require remote sellers to collect state and local sales and use taxes already owned from online sales with sales taxes shared between cities at destination and from location of warehouse.
- Efforts to maintain and expand the types of municipal investment-grade revenue bonds.
- Facilitating and enabling the timely collection of delinquent assessments and strengthens or maintains the lien position of those assessments.
- Efforts to protect local government revenue sources and the provisions of Proposition 1A.
- Legislation and initiatives that ensure that all local funding sources remain a dedicated revenue source for local governments.
- Full cost reimbursement to the City for all federal, state and county-mandated programs.
- Legislation supporting property tax equity for no/low cities.

WE OPPOSE:

- Decreasing, restricting or eliminating local government revenue sources, any efforts by the state to retain additional revenues currently dedicated to local government for state purposes, and shifting of revenues from local government to the state for any purpose.
- Any effort by federal or state government to preempt cities' right to levy and collect taxes, fees, and assessments.
- Change in revenue allocations (current or future) that negatively affect local government, including the redistribution of sales tax, property tax, COPS grants, Proposition 172 funds, gas tax (HUTA), transient occupancy tax (TOT), and vehicle in-lieu fee (VLF).
- Legislation to make local government more dependent on the State for financial stability and policy direction.
- Imposition of State mandated costs for which there is no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits.

CITY-SPECIFIC POLICY STATEMENTS:

RESOLUTION NO. 1998-19 - SUPPORTING STATE LEGISLATION TO EXPAND LAWFUL FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 1999-61 - IN SUPPORT OF "THE FAIR COMPETITION AND TAXPAYER SAVINGS ACT" INITIATIVE AND LEGISLATION

PUBLIC WORKS



GENERAL AREA OF REVIEW:

Transportation, construction, and general public works related areas.

WE SUPPORT:

- Funding directly to cities for the preservation, maintenance, rehabilitation, and development of local street and road systems.
- The use of SB1 funds on other projects once cities meet the "maintenance of effort" (MOE) requirement.
- Long-term federal and state transportation authorization providing a stable and reliable funding stream for critical roads, bridges, channel improvements, freight, and transit. Federal, state, and local partnerships to fund regional transportation projects.
- Streamlining environmental processing for federal regulatory permits issued by Caltrans and various other State and Federal agencies for the purpose of expediting public infrastructure development
- Enhancing the ability of local government to finance local transportation and other infrastructure and provide greater flexibility in the use of transportation and other infrastructure-related funds.
- Efforts to lift the minimum requirement of payment of prevailing wages on municipal Public Works projects.
- Funding to local governments for local transportation, water, sewer, and storm sewer system projects.
- Legislation that provides clarification and improvements to Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD) Law that will enable local agencies to use this tool for a variety of infrastructure financing needs.
- Legislation from the PUC that increases the access and reliability of the service and reduces overall cost to the end users.
- Efforts to provide passenger rail service between Los Angeles and the Coachella Valley.
- State involvement in ensuring effective utility infrastructure that supports regional development.

WE OPPOSE:

- Efforts to repeal SB1 (2017) funding for transportation and roadways.
- Efforts to redirect, eliminate, or reduce amount of Highway User Tax Account (HUTA) that cities receive for street maintenance and improvements.
- Any legislation that diminishes or does not assure local franchise fees for all utilities' use of City right-of-way.
- Efforts to lessen the City's ability to enforce contractual language agreed to and contained within existing franchise documents.
- Efforts to place the burden and liability of replacing all sidewalks solely on cities.
- The forced elimination of natural gas appliances.

CITY-SPECIFIC POLICY STATEMENTS:

RESOLTION NO. 1977-19 - REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO AMEND LEGISLATION ENACTED UNDER ASSEMBLY BILL 167, MILLER-WARREN ENERGY LIFE-LINE ACT

RESOLUTION NO. 1981-16 - IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS ON THE ON THE USE OF NATURAL GAS IN UTILITY POWERPLANTS

RESOLUTION NO 1987-21 - SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE SMALL CITIES EXEMPTION TO THE ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES REQUIRED BY ARTICLE 3, OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES CONTRACT CODE

FEDERAL



WE SUPPORT:

- Legislation to address the revitalization and restoration of the Salton Sea.
- The continued reauthorization of MAP-21 surface transportation bill in order to provide ongoing critical funding for highways, highway safety and public transportation.
- Funding from Department of Justice for resources critical to enable local law enforcement to adequately provide public safety services, including updating safety equipment, training and education, and fully funding the Byrne/JAG and COPS programs.
- Streamlined environmental processing for federal regulatory permits issued by the US Army Corp of Engineers, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Federal Highway Administration and various other state and federal agencies for the purpose of expediting public infrastructure projects.
- Continued funding for the Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program in order to provide resources directly to local governments for programs that improve energy efficiency, develop and implement energy conservation programs, and promote and develop alternative and renewable energy sources.
- Efforts to streamline or eliminate the Medicare Secondary Payer process.
- Legislation to include consideration of the economic impacts of proposed species listings, as well as, support the delisting of species no longer threatened or endangered.
- Collecting and remitting state and local sales taxes to the state and city in which the purchaser is residing, (e.g., purchases made over the Internet; by mail order; by catalog, etc.).
- Local/regional control and administration of federal programs and strategic placement of federal personnel to ensure expedited decision-making.
- Legislation to modify inappropriate sections of the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) as it relates to regulating public sector employment.
- Efforts to ensure protection of sufficient radio spectrum to meet public safety's current and future needs. Public safety needs should have priority over private, or for-profit communication systems.

WE OPPOSE:

- Efforts to erode local control over installation of telecommunication infrastructure including environmental and design review and the ability to negotiate reasonable leases or public benefits.
- Legislative or administrative actions that prohibit or hinder local government's ability to implement Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs.
- Legislation and the promulgation of rules and regulations that allow any regulatory agency to encroach on, or supersede, local authority, including, but not limited to, the City's right to franchise for the right to operate in the public right-of-way.
- Funding cuts to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME program and Section 8 Housing funds. Advocate for a more streamlined application process and for greater flexibility of local appropriation and use of monies.

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

League of California Cities 2025 Advocacy Priorities

1. **Protect local revenues and expand economic development tools.** Safeguard and modernize revenue streams for local priorities. Pursue new economic development opportunities that bolster local economies and cultivate a strong local workforce, including expanded workforce recruitment and retention tools.

2. **Strengthen climate change resiliency and disaster preparedness.** Support city efforts to prepare, prevent, and adapt to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change, including wildfires, drought, sea level rise, and other extreme weather events. Increase transparency and access to insurance policies, especially following a natural disaster.

3. **Strengthen and modernize critical infrastructure**. Dedicate new resources and protect existing funding to maintain and improve essential infrastructure, including bridges, roads, broadband, and the state's water supply and energy grid.

4. **Secure investments to prevent and reduce homelessness and increase the supply of affordable housing.** Secure dedicated funding to bolster cities' long-term planning efforts to support unhoused residents and accelerate the construction of affordable housing. Strengthen state and regional partnerships to expand access to wraparound services and improve the housing element planning process. Ensure cities have the flexibility and decision-making authority to meet their community and state housing goals and reduce homelessness.

Legislative Platform

The California Contract Cities Association (CCCA) represents 80 cities throughout California. For more than 65 years, CCCA's mission has been to advance the benefits of Lakewood Plan's contracting model and strengthen *local control*.

> What is local control? A governance system in which local governments manage their affairs without excessive interference from higher levels of government, allowing them to develop and implement policies specific to the needs of their communities.

With collaborative governance as a focal point, CCCA has advanced its mission through education, advocacy, networking, and legislative access to protect and enhance the quality of life for more than 7.5 million residents.

Advocacy in support of local control is more critical than ever in California. CCCA reaches out to all cities that contract for some or all legally permitted municipal services to join us. CCCA will work tirelessly to preserve local control to serve our communities.

2025 CCCA Legislative Platform

Local Control

- Cities have the ability and authority to fashion policies that best fit the needs of their communities.
- Cities are accountable to their communities, with local representatives acting as direct conduits for addressing constituents' needs and interests. As a matter of policy, CCCA supports and defends the rights of cities to protect their ability to contract for critical services.
- CCCA advocates on policy issues pertinent to cities, including issues related to housing/land use development, homelessness, economic development, public safety, mental health/addiction, energy/utility, and the environment.
- CCCA opposes unfunded state mandates and by-right legislation that limits cities' discretionary review processes for local development projects.

Public Safety

- CCCA supports practical measures to address public safety concerns related to criminal offenses of retail, catalytic converter, copper wire or petty theft, illegal fireworks, gang violence, human trafficking, and street racing.
- CCCA opposes efforts to reprioritize public safety funding and programs without proper procedural or stakeholder engagement.

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- CCCA encourages policies that create incentives for recruitment and retention of peace officers in local law enforcement agencies while also strengthening community relations.
- CCCA supports measures providing funding for emergency communications systems and to mitigate identity theft, cybersecurity, and AI threats in local jurisdictions.
- CCCA calls for increased oversight and regulation of e-bike and e-scooter activities in local jurisdictions.
- CCCA supports state policy solutions that advance traffic safety using camera technology.

Economic Development

- CCCA supports action that aims to increase workforce development and supports new opportunities in budding industries in an effort to eradicate poverty.
- CCCA calls for assistance from the State to standardize sales tax collection requirements for cash-based businesses.
- CCCA encourages the State to address and mitigate rising insurance costs for California residents.

Housing/Land Use Development

- CCCA supports the restoration of redevelopment and CEQA reform as ways to revitalize existing community infrastructure and fasttrack housing development.
- CCCA supports legislation that allows cities to exercise local control to best address the needs of their communities while expanding opportunities to build affordable housing and transit-oriented development.
- CCCA supports legislation and other innovative, collaborative solutions that reduce costs and spur development in affordable and workforce housing.
- CCCA encourages action that provides relief, funding, and assistance to local governments navigating new state-mandated requirements for housing.

Homelessness

- CCCA supports legislation that creates streamlined protocols, transparency and accountability measures, and metrics to be used by homeless service providers and local agencies.
- CCCA supports regional and city-driven solutions to address homelessness through crisis response, mental health evaluation and treatment, housing, homeless outreach teams, and state and regional funding for mental health crisis units.
- CCCA calls for direct, ongoing funding and resources to cities to support local homelessness services and the implementation of CARE Courts.

- CCCA seeks more accurate statistics of individuals experiencing homelessness, including in-flow and out-flow information, cost-reporting of services rendered, mental and health condition, individuals successfully housed, and follow-up data that measures the effectiveness of homeless services rendered.

Mental Health & Addiction

- CCCA calls for the enhancement of mental health services and addiction treatments as wrap-around care essential to supporting individuals experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable communities.
- CCCA supports measures that aim to improve training and recruitment of metal health specialists that can provide prevention, early intervention, and educational services to those in need.
- CCCA supports the expansion and safeguarding of conservatorship laws allowing for increased guardianship control and health supervision of those with mental illness and recognizes mental illness and addiction as a contributor to chronic homelessness.
- CCCA opposes legislation that limits local government's ability to restrict or regulate the sale, manufacture, use and distribution of alcohol and cannabis.
- CCCA supports reasonable preventive and punitive measures to combat the fentanyl crisis.

Energy/Utility

- CCCA supports Community Choice Aggregation efforts to purchase renewable energy at competitive rates and create benefits and savings for cities, small businesses, and residents. CCCA also supports equal treatment of bundled and unbundled utility customers.
- CCCA supports ongoing efforts to mitigate wildfire disasters by increasing multi-year funding and managing responsible brush and forestry management in coordination with local and state governments, fire departments, and utility providers.
- CCCA supports efforts to expand consumer access to reliable renewable energy, such as incentives and grants for solar and storage, particularly for low-income and environmentally burdened communities, reducing reliance on non-renewable sources and improving public health.
- CCCA supports federal, state and regional efforts to restructure the EV tax program and expand EV infrastructure.
- CCCA supports policy that improves utility infrastructure by investing in regular upgrades to utility systems statewide.

Environment

- CCCA supports practical and affordable solutions to meet mandatory compliance of water quality and treatment standards, notwithstanding prior agreements that otherwise limit city's ability to undertake such activities.
- CCCA supports funding to address growing statewide concerns of "forever chemicals", specifically as it relates to PFAS (per and poly-fluoroalkyl substances) and microplastics.
- CCCA supports state and regional efforts to increase recycling of water and the associated development or renovation of water treatment facilities.
- CCCA supports the establishment of a state program that funds discounted water rates for low income customers of publicly owned retail water suppliers in an effort to make the state's recognition of a Human Right to Water meaningful.

17315 Studebaker Road · Suite 210 · Cerritos, CA · 90703
Phone: (562) 622-5533 · Fax (562) 222-8135

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT

Hon. Donald Trump — *Vice President JD Vance*
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
P: (202) 456-1111

UNITED STATES SENATORS—CALIFORNIA

Hon. Adam Schiff
DC Office
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
P: (202) 224-3841
F: (202) 228-3954

Hon. Alex Padilla

DC Office
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
P: (202) 224 - 3553
F: (202) 224 - 2200

Local Office
11845 West Olympic Blvd.
Suite 1250W
Los Angeles, CA 90064
P: COMING SOON
F: COMING SOON

UNITED STATES CONGRESS—CALIFORNIA

Hon. Ken Calvert—41st District

DC Office
2205 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
P: (202) 225-1986
F: (202) 225-2004

District Office
400 S. Vicentia Street
Suite 125
Corona, CA 92882
P: (951) 227-0042
F: (951) 227-0420



LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR—STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Hon. Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814
P: (916) 445-2841
F: (916) 558-3160

Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR

Hon. Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh—19th District

Capitol Office, Room 7220
Sacramento, CA 95814
P: (916) 651-4019

District Office
1758 Orange Tree Lane, #B
Redlands, CA 92374
P: (909) 335-0271

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY

Hon. Greg Wallis —47th District

Capitol Office
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
P: (916) 319-2042

District Office
41608 Indian Trail Road
Suite D-1
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
P: (760) 346-6342

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS—RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Hon. V. Manuel Perez—4th District

County Office
4080 Lemon Street - 5th Floor
Riverside, California 92501
P: (951) 955-1040

District Office
73-710 Fred Waring Drive
Suite 222
Palm Desert, CA 92260
P: (760) 863-8211




INDIAN WELLS
CALIFORNIA
CITY OF INDIAN WELLS | 44-950 ELDORADO DRIVE | INDIAN WELLS, CA 92210
WWW.CITYOFINDIANWELLS.ORG
@INDIANWELLS
@INDIANWELLSCA
CITYOFINDIANWELLS