

City of San Antonio



**2019 STATE
LEGISLATIVE**

PROGRAM



86TH

Legislature

City of San Antonio

86th State Legislative Program

PRIORITIES

Meaningful Property Tax Relief

The City of San Antonio seeks meaningful property tax relief through a combination of more state funding for public education and more flexibility for local elected officials to provide targeted tax relief.

- ✓ The City supports an increase in the state's share of public education, therefore reducing the property tax burden of local taxpayers, and updates to the state's school funding system to include an increase in the basic allotment.
- ✓ The City supports more flexibility for local elected officials to offer targeted tax relief.
- ✓ The City opposes a reduced rollback rate which would provide minimal to no relief to taxpayers while limiting the City's ability to deliver public safety, enhanced infrastructure and other critical services.

Protecting Taxpayers' Investment in Public Utilities

- ✓ The City opposes legislation with any negative impact on municipally-owned CPS Energy and SAWS, including the erosion of the City's Return on Investment that benefits City residents.

Preserving Local Decision-Making

- ✓ The City supports the continued ability of local elected officials – the level of government closest to the people – to pass ordinances that address the priorities and unique needs of the community.

Support for Military City, USA

- ✓ The City supports legislation that enhances military value and protects military installations from future base realignment and closure (BRAC) activities.
- ✓ The City supports additional funding for the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG), Texas Military Value Revolving Loan Fund and other programs.
- ✓ The City opposes legislation that threatens military missions, including legislation that undermines the City's ordinances that ensure compatible development.

Keeping San Antonio Competitive

- ✓ The City supports the continued viability of San Antonio to attract business and compete for major sporting events and conventions that grow the local and state economy.
- ✓ The City supports the continuation of local and state incentives to supplement local economic development strategies to recruit and retain employers.
- ✓ The City opposes legislation that would limit or eliminate the current flexibility of the Major Events Reimbursement program as a tool for cities to attract and host major events and conventions.

Transportation Funding for Current and Future Growth

- ✓ The City supports legislation that would allow local elected officials and/or voters to consider additional funding options for cities to address streets, sidewalks, transit and other transportation needs that are not otherwise met by current funding sources.
- ✓ The City supports efforts to ensure the equitable distribution of state funding and the continued full funding of Propositions 1 & 7, as well as the extension of the Prop 1 sunset provision.

COSA INITIATIVES

The City will actively support through the drafting of legislation, finding a bill sponsor, filing, providing testimony and active pursuit of the bill's passage.

- ✓ Propose legislation to allow a code enforcement officer when performing official duties to possess or carry an instrument used for deterring the bite of an animal.

ENDORSEMENTS

An Endorsement is an issue in which the City will not be the primary advocate but will collaborate with other interested parties and communicate its support for legislation that has a direct impact on or benefit to the City.

Public Health and Safety

- ✓ The City supports legislation that would enhance pedestrian safety and continue to support safety initiatives, such as Vision Zero, by improving safety enhancements near schools and allowing cities more flexibility to reduce speed limits on local streets for the overall safety of all road users.

- ✓ The City supports state funding and programs to support the City’s efforts to improve air quality within the region, reduce negative health impacts associated with air quality, and continue to maintain the public’s health and safety that is the foundation to our economic wellbeing.
- ✓ The City supports increased funding for prevention and treatment of opioids and other substance use disorders.
- ✓ The City supports legislation that eliminates obstacles for local public health departments to advance public health efforts and to address local issues affecting jurisdictions.
- ✓ The City supports legislation that encourages responsible pet ownership and improves the health and welfare of animals.
- ✓ The City supports legislation that creates the offense of mail theft and establishes penalties necessary to discourage this type of criminal activity.
- ✓ The City supports the measures included in *Enhancing Firearms Safety* of Governor Abbott’s School & Firearm Safety Action Plan, to reduce the illegal and irresponsible use of firearms.
 - Closing gaps in information reporting for background checks by creating a case management system for Texas judges.
 - Encouraging the legislature to study the possibility of creating a “red flag” law to identify persons who are a danger to themselves or others and who have access to or own firearms.
 - Work to make sure that adjudications affecting the right to legally purchase and possess firearms are reported within 48 hours. This 48-hour requirement should also extend to protective orders and family violence convictions.
 - Strengthening the Safe Firearm Storage Law.
 - Mandatory reporting of lost or stolen guns.

Affordable Housing

- ✓ The City supports legislation that allows for flexible and innovative solutions to create local funding options to increase the supply of affordable housing for low and moderate income families.

Education

- ✓ The City supports increasing the availability and accessibility of high quality early care and education services for all eligible children from low-income families.
- ✓ The City supports expanded state funding of Pre-K to provide high quality, full-day programs for all Texas four-year-olds.

- ✓ The City supports legislation that would provide enhanced formula and non-formula funding for institutions of higher education (IHEs) and allow Tuition Revenue Bonds to be utilized for capital projects at IHEs in San Antonio.

Aviation

- ✓ The City supports legislation that would remove restrictions that constrain an airport operator's ability to generate necessary revenue to maintain and improve capital facilities, as well as monitor and enforce the safe and efficient operation of airport traffic.

PROTECTION OF COMMUNITY INTERESTS

The City of San Antonio supports legislation that would clearly benefit the City and opposes legislation that would be detrimental to the City's interests, including bills that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Undermine the principles of self-government;
- Mandate increased cost to cities, including environmental mandates;
- Result in the loss of revenue to cities or negatively impacts the authority of the City to generate revenues; and
- Result in diminishing the fundamental authority of cities to operate in a manner consistent with the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the general public.

PARTNERSHIPS

The City of San Antonio coordinates with the following local partners in support of their legislative agendas that enhance the health, safety and vitality of the community, provided it does not conflict with the City's own legislative agenda.

- ❖ CPS Energy
- ❖ San Antonio Water System
- ❖ AACOG
- ❖ Bexar County
- ❖ Brooks
- ❖ Chambers of Commerce
- ❖ Higher Education Institutions
- ❖ Joint Base San Antonio
- ❖ Port San Antonio
- ❖ San Antonio Area Independent School Districts
- ❖ San Antonio Housing Authority
- ❖ San Antonio Mobility Coalition
- ❖ San Antonio River Authority
- ❖ VISIT SA
- ❖ VIA