



115th UNITED STATES CONGRESS FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

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MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL



Ron Nirenberg
Mayor



Roberto C. Treviño
Councilmember
District 1



William Shaw
Councilmember
District 2



Rebecca J. Viagran
Councilmember
District 3



Rey Saldaña
Councilmember
District 4



Shirley Gonzales
Councilmember
District 5



Greg Brockhouse
Councilmember
District 6



Ana Sandoval
Councilmember
District 7



Manny Pelaez
Councilmember
District 8



John Courage
Councilmember
District 9

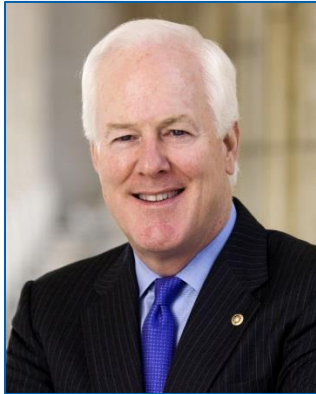


Clayton Perry
Councilmember
District 10



Sheryl Sculley
City Manager

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION



John Cornyn
Senator

Committee on Finance

- *CHAIRMAN, Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness*
- *Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Healthcare*
- *Subcommittee on Taxation, IRS Oversight, and Long-Term Growth*

Committee on the Judiciary

- *CHAIRMAN, Subcommittee on The Constitution*
- *Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and Border Security*
- *Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism*



Ted Cruz
Senator

Committee on Armed Services

- *Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities*
- *Subcommittee on Seapower*
- *Subcommittee on Strategic Forces*

Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation

- *CHAIRMAN, Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness*
- *Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security*
- *Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet*
- *Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security*
- *Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard*

Committee on the Judiciary

- *CHAIRMAN, Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts*
- *Subcommittee on The Constitution*
- *Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest*

Joint Economic Committee

Committee on Rules & Administration



Joaquin Castro
Representative
District 20

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
Committee on Foreign Affairs

- *Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade*



Lamar Smith
Representative
District 21

CHAIRMAN, Committee on Science, Space, Technology
Committee on the Judiciary

- *Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet*
- *Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security*

Committee on Homeland Security

- *Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security*



Will Hurd
Representative
District 23

Committee on Homeland Security

- *VICE-CHAIR, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security*
- *Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence*

Committee Oversight and Government Reform

- *CHAIRMAN, Subcommittee on Information Technology*
- *Subcommittee on National Security*

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence



Henry Cuellar
Representative
District 28

Committee on Appropriations

- *Subcommittee on Homeland Security*
- *Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies*

Committee on Steering and Policy



Lloyd Doggett
Representative
District 35

Committee on Ways and Means

- *Subcommittee on Social Security*
- *Subcommittee on Human Resources*
- *Subcommittee on Oversight*

FEDERAL PRIORITIES



FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION

The Federal Aviation Administration's reauthorization was temporarily extended through September 2017 by the 114th Congress. Many of the agency's programs dedicated to aviation safety and capacity of the national airspace system, the integration of new technology, provision of a stable funding system, and the implementation of the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) have not been updated since the last reauthorization in 2012 or longer.

- ❖ The City seeks action to permit nonstop flight service between San Antonio International Airport (SAT) and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA).
- ❖ The City supports increasing the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) cap to \$8.50 to provide the same purchasing power as in 2000 in order to adequately fund the Airport Improvement Program (AIP).
- ❖ The City supports increasing Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding and allow airports greater flexibility in the use of AIP funds.
- ❖ The City supports full and fair implementation of the FAA's noise mitigation program to assist homeowners affected by the flight paths of landing aircraft now and in consideration of the continued implementation of NextGen.



MILITARY PROTECTION

In preparation for a possible Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) during the next several years, the City supports actions that will increase Joint Base San Antonio's military value by promoting the strategic importance of its current, unique military missions that are indispensable to national defense, highlight San Antonio's military-friendly atmosphere and superb training environment and facilities, and place San Antonio in the best possible position to absorb additional military missions from other military

installations – all with the intent of furthering San Antonio’s and the country’s economic and national security interests.

Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) is comprised of four primary locations in the San Antonio region and is home to several high-priority missions. These include the 24th Air Force “Cyber Command,” basic training for all enlisted Air Force personnel, the Medical Education and Training Campus, and instructor pilot and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) training. San Antonio’s military supports 266 military service mission partners, more than 80,000 personnel, and the region is home to more than 250,000 veterans.

- ❖ The City seeks the preservation and improvement of military missions based in San Antonio and increase JBSA’s position as a strategic training platform essential to the nation’s defense.
- ❖ The City supports the candidacy of F-16 FTU basing at JBSA Lackland.
- ❖ The City supports the development of a self-sustaining Cybersecurity Cluster.
- ❖ The City supports federal funding for airport infrastructure and rehabilitation at Kelly Field through the Military Airports Program (MAP) or alternate project delivery methods.
- ❖ The City will work collaboratively with communities of interest to establish an “Industrial Airport” designation within the FAA.
- ❖ The City supports the selection of JBSA for the consolidation of Battlefield Airman Training (BAT) program.



TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

San Antonio will continue to experience significant population growth over the next 25 years. In anticipation of this growth the City developed a multimodal transportation plan which takes into account all modes of transportation including; auto, freight, rail transit, biking, and walking. The plan will serve as a tool to prioritize and meet the community’s transportation infrastructure goals.

- ❖ The City supports continued funding for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program.
- ❖ The City supports programs and funding dedicated to mass transit.
- ❖ The City supports funding that will help alleviate and eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries of cyclists and pedestrians on area roadways.

- ❖ The City supports programs and funding to utilize new technologies to facilitate the improvement of transit systems.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES



PUBLIC SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS

The City supports full and expanded funding dedicated to supporting state and local law enforcement and public safety.

The San Antonio Police Department is wholly committed to the philosophy of community policing and embraces its precepts and values in achieving safe neighborhoods and a thriving community. Federal support for additional officers, officer training, equipment, and technical assistance to combat crime and improve the criminal justice system is vitally important to local law enforcement.



MUNICIPAL BOND TAX EXEMPTION

The City opposes any changes to the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.

Municipal bonds provide a low-cost and efficient method for local governments to finance critical infrastructure needs including schools; hospitals; airports; water and sewer systems; and roads and bridges. A cap or elimination of the tax-free status of municipal bonds would reduce the favorability of these bonds and impact cities ability to finance infrastructure project and create jobs. Local governments save an average of 25 to 30 percent on interest costs with tax-exempt municipal bonds when compared to taxable bonds.



EMPLOYMENT TAX CREDITS

The City supports the extension and expansion of tax credits for businesses that hire in economically distressed areas.

Economic development in low income and economically distressed areas helps reduce the poverty level and improves the quality of life for the entire community. San Antonio is a fast growing city which is experiencing solid economic growth; however, like many cities across the United States, pockets of poverty remain. Tax credits for businesses that hire target groups or are located in disadvantaged areas has proven effective in encouraging those businesses to create jobs and increase economic activity.



HISTORIC TAX CREDITS & DOWNTOWN NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICT

The City of seeks a historic designation of San Antonio's urban core, leveraging of tax incentives to help preserve and protect this area, and federal grants and technical assistance for historic preservation.

The City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) initiated a survey and draft nomination of downtown properties to be included in a new National Register District. The survey revealed that a large portion of downtown was potentially eligible for designation, technical assistance, and State and Federal Historic Tax Credits (HTC). A nomination for the San Antonio Downtown and River Walk Historic District was prepared in consultation with the Texas Historical Commission and approved by the State Board of Review.



SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS / NATIONAL PARK FUNDING

The City supports a federal funding increase for operations and maintenance of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.

The San Antonio Missions National Historical Park was designated a World Heritage site in 2015. Due to this designation, visitation and activity within the park is forecasted to increase. While the Park has the highest amount of visitors among national parks in Texas, it has one of the lowest budgets per capita. The Park requires additional annual funding to adequately meet current demand and the expected growth in visitors.



MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS ACT

The City supports passage of the Marketplace Fairness Act.

The Marketplace Fairness Act would grant states the authority to collect sales tax from online ‘remote sellers’ regardless of where they are located. The Act is an effort to level the playing field between local business and online retailers who do not currently collect state sales taxes. Under the current structure, brick and mortar retailers are put at a 5-10 percent competitive disadvantage by collecting sales tax at the time of purchase. In 2013, the loss of sales tax revenue for San Antonio was estimated at approximately \$8.2 million. The Marketplace Fairness Act is not a new tax; it only allows states and local governments the option to enforce existing sales tax laws on remote sales. An estimated \$23 billion remain uncollected nationwide.



PUBLIC, EDUCATION & GOVERNMENT ACCESS

The City supports changes to the Telecommunications Act which would allow PEG funds for operations such as salary and overhead costs.

Public, educational, and government (PEG) channels permit schools, governments, individuals, and groups to provide and receive information about local events, emergencies, and issues. These channels encourage creation of local programming by civic groups and non-profits, cover government and school meetings, and promote localism and civic engagement. The City supports expanding the allowable uses of PEG funds to better maintain fair access to PEG channels.



TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION

The City supports restoring full funding for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program.

Preventing teen pregnancy is critical to ensuring that youth are able to reach their educational and life goals. Teen girls with babies are less likely to finish high school, more likely to be poor as adults, and more likely to rely on public assistance. The children born to teenage mothers generally have poorer educational, behavioral, and health outcomes. The San Antonio Teen Pregnancy Prevention Collaborative works to prevent teen pregnancy by supporting the replication of successful evidence-based programs. In FY 2015 \$3.6 million was awarded to San Antonio. Proposed cuts between 80-100% of funding would greatly impact San Antonio's ability to decrease the teen birth rate in the area.



Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

The City supports congressional action that enables undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children to earn lawful status.

This country is a nation of immigrants and San Antonio is a compassionate City. Rescinding the DACA program weakens our nation's economy and violates our core values. The program has provided nearly 800,000 hardworking young immigrants with the opportunity to contribute to our economy and build their lives here without the constant threat of deportation. San Antonio joins cities across Texas and the U.S. to call on bipartisan leaders in Congress to allow DACA participants to receive lawful status and continue their contributions to the United States.

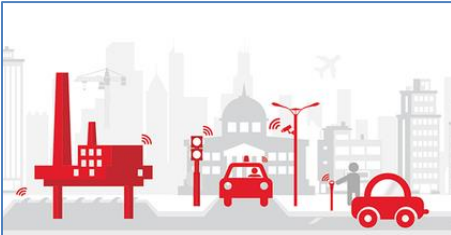
AGENCY INITIATIVES



WORKFORCE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The City supports funding for workforce, education and training programs that will build a highly skilled workforce in San Antonio and address income, racial, and ethnic equality.

The growth of regional economies in the years ahead will require that businesses have access to a pipeline of skilled workers. To accomplish this, San Antonio will aim to have robust workforce development capacity through an education and training system that: adapts quickly to businesses' changing needs; builds career pathways through this system into the targeted industries by combining and leveraging existing resources and efforts with future funding opportunities; and increased access to these career pathways for underrepresented youth and unemployed or underemployed adults in order to raise the quality of life for all people in San Antonio.



SMART CITIES IMPLEMENTATION

The City of supports funding for Smart Cities initiatives.

San Antonio is working toward building a smarter city around three major focus areas; Transportation, Sustainability, and Digital Connected Living. San Antonio's Smart City program will increase access to public Wi-Fi, enhancing transportation along congested corridors and give residents better options to interact with local government. Projects include community kiosks to access information on city services and act as Wi-Fi hotspots, free Wi-Fi within parks, solar benches, and installing advanced transportation technologies that will gather real-time traffic and flooding data for pedestrians and travelers.



SAN ANTONIO TRICENTENNIAL

The City of San Antonio supports engaging with national leaders to participate in events and activities to spotlight the San Antonio Tricentennial and pursue any available funds.

San Antonio will celebrate its 300th anniversary in 2018. The San Antonio Tricentennial Celebration is a once in a lifetime endeavor that will be commemorated over the course of 2018. This is a significant milestone in United States history, and is deserving of recognition by the United States Congress and the nation's leaders. Federal funds would be used to advance the goals and objectives of the San Antonio Tricentennial Celebration, such as infrastructure and transportation improvements, as well as historic preservation and economic development projects.



HOMELESS SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

The City supports programs and resources to develop an effective system for chronically homeless individuals who suffer from severe addiction and mental illness.

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) estimates the average chronically homeless individual costs taxpayers over \$40,000 annually in law enforcement, health, including mental health, and social services. A local consortium of healthcare providers funded a study which identified 2,600 individuals who are considered super utilizers of services and are inappropriately seen in emergency rooms, arrested and jailed and whose health and well-being is threatened by their addiction. Public resources are currently inadequate to support the continuum of treatment and services needed to ensure successful recovery for chronically homeless individuals suffering from addiction and/or mental health issues.



AIR QUALITY

The City supports policies, programs, and resources which allow the City and region to continue to make improvements to air quality, reduce air quality health impacts and continue to meet federal National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

San Antonio is currently the largest city in the United States in attainment of the Environmental Protection Agency's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Although local air quality is trending toward improvement, the region is at risk of falling into non-attainment of the 2015 Ozone NAAQS. In order to maintain the community's public health and economic wellbeing, the City supports federal action and funding support that assists the community in maintaining and improving its air quality.



NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The City supports the modernization and improvement of NAFTA to ensure it continues to strengthen the local and regional economy.

Analysis shows that NAFTA has had a sizeable positive economic impact on the San Antonio economy since its inception. A recent study on the economic impacts of NAFTA showed a total number of local direct jobs created because of the agreement totaled 63,204. The increase in trade due to NAFTA added \$10.6 billion in gross regional product and \$20.5 billion in output across the San Antonio economy. However, many issues did not exist or were not critical when the agreement was signed, such as Internet commerce and Mexico's energy reform, which need to be addressed in the agreement.



ANTI-TRAFFICKING

The City supports programs and funding for anti-trafficking and anti-smuggling programs.

San Antonio is committed to eliminating human trafficking and human smuggling, supporting the victims of these criminal enterprises, and educating the community on the identification and appropriate response to suspected trafficking and smuggling. Federal support and coordination to combat human trafficking and smuggling is needed to effectively address the problem.

PROTECTION OF COMMUNITY INTERESTS

The City supports federal regulations or legislation which would clearly benefit the City and opposes any regulations or legislation that would clearly be adverse to the City's interests.

In 1995 Congress created a mechanism that would place obstacles in the path of imposing new, unfunded federal mandates on the taxpayers of the nation's cities and towns. The law created a mechanism to force Congress and the White House to acknowledge the impact of proposed unfunded mandates on state and local governments. However, it left untouched federal authority to preempt traditional municipal rights, responsibilities, and revenue resources.

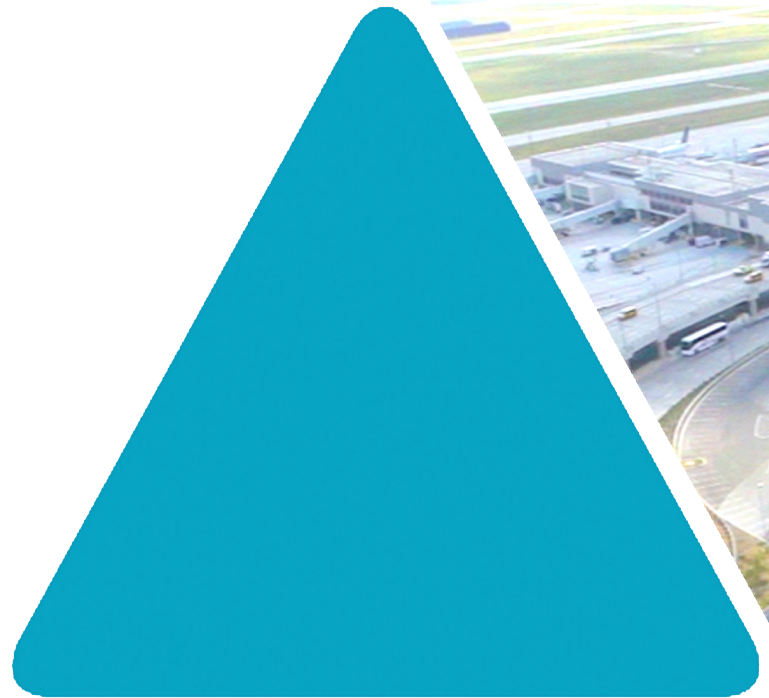
The City of San Antonio has historically endorsed legislation that would clearly benefit the City and opposed bills that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Undermines the principles of self-government;
- Mandates increased costs to cities, including environmental mandates;
- Results in the loss of revenue to cities or changes the authority of the City to generate revenues;
- Diminishes 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; and/or;
- Preempts municipal authority, municipal code development, and interferes with municipal control.

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.

- ❖ Bexar County
- ❖ VIA Metropolitan Transit
- ❖ San Antonio Mobility Coalition
- ❖ Joint Base San Antonio
- ❖ Port San Antonio
- ❖ Brooks City-Base
- ❖ San Antonio Housing Authority
- ❖ San Antonio River Authority
- ❖ San Antonio Water System
- ❖ CPS Energy
- ❖ Chambers of Commerce
- ❖ Higher Education Institutions
- ❖ Major Employers



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
**DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

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