

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee

FROM: Jeff Coyle, Director of Government & Public Affairs

SUBJECT: State Legislative Program Development

DATE: August 3, 2018

During the Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting, Government & Public Affairs (GPA) will provide an update on the development of the City's State Legislative Program for the 86th Texas Legislative Session. The briefing will include a preliminary discussion on proposed City policy priorities identified for the 2019 Legislative Session. Priorities are issues that will be the primary focus of the City's advocacy efforts and have a significant city-wide impact and/or promote or protect the interest of the community. Proposed priorities to be discussed include property tax relief, municipally-owned utilities, preserving the authority of local elected officials to meet the needs of their communities, military protection and economic growth and opportunity. Committee members will have an opportunity to provide feedback on these and other potential topics to be considered for the Legislative Program.

GPA is working with City departments and community partners on other potential legislative items that the City may support or oppose. These will be presented at the next IGR Committee meeting. Ultimately, the goal is to produce an agenda that is strategic and impactful, aligns with the priorities of San Antonio residents, preserves the authority of those elected to represent them to make decisions that are in the best interests of their constituents, protects the ability to generate revenues necessary to provide critical public safety, infrastructure and other services and/or promotes efficient governance and delivery of services.

In Texas, cities were created by the State to deliver services at the local level, and the authority of home rule cities, such as San Antonio, is spelled out in statute. Despite this, it is expected that there will be a continued effort during the 86th legislative session to undermine local government authority, so it is important for the City to remain active in the legislative process.

Following the August 7 IGR Committee meeting, GPA will continue working with City leadership, City departments and community partners to fine tune the final proposed legislative program. The Committee is scheduled to receive a presentation on the proposed State Legislative Program at the September IGR meeting, followed by a formal City Council "B" session briefing on October 3rd. After further refinement, City Council will consider final approval October 11th.