



**87th**

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**STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

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**2021**



## **PRIORITIES**

*The City will actively support or oppose the following priorities through the drafting of legislation and amendments, finding bill sponsor(s), providing testimony, and/or actively pursuing legislative action.*

### **Increase Police Accountability and Transparency**

- The City supports legislation that increases transparency and accountability to improve trust among residents and better protect our community, to include:
  - Permitting the release of all disciplinary records, not just those resulting in suspension
  - Authorizing the Chief to discipline officers within 180 days of discovering misconduct, not 180 days from the date of the infraction.
  - Preventing reductions in discipline by third-party arbitrator if the facts of the misconduct are sustained on appeal.
  - Opportunities to encourage new officers to live in the City in which they serve.

### **Invest in Public Health for a more resilient San Antonio**

- The City supports an increase in state funding for core public health infrastructure and essential public health services to maintain a healthy workforce and community.
- The City supports Medicaid expansion to provide health insurance for up to 1.5 million low-income Texans.
- The City supports funding to complete the construction of the San Antonio State Hospital.
- The City supports the development of a state strategic plan, to include trauma informed practices, that addresses adverse childhood experiences.

### **Ensure Access to Information for all San Antonians**

- The City supports legislation to close the digital divide by ensuring availability, connectivity and affordability of broadband internet service for residents not currently receiving broadband internet service.
- The City supports legislation and funding to develop state broadband plan to qualify for matching federal funds.

### **Preserve the Voice of San Antonio Residents**

- The City supports the continued ability of local elected officials – the level of government closest to the people – to pass ordinances to meet the unique needs of the community and issue orders that address emergencies.
- The City opposes any restrictions or limitations on the ability of cities to advocate on behalf of the San Antonio community.

### **Prevent Domestic Violence and Support Victims**

- The City supports efforts, in partnership with the Collaborative Commission on Domestic Violence (CCDV), to prevent and eliminate domestic violence and enhance the protection of survivors/victims, such as:
  - Funding for intervention and prevention programs
  - Closing the gaps in certain notices to local law enforcement and victims regarding conditions of bonds
  - Facilitating the safe transfer of firearms from those charged with family violence offences.

### **Develop the Economy and Workforce of San Antonio**

- The City supports legislation that would promote economic recovery, including education and workforce development for residents and small businesses.
- The City supports investing in existing new funding models that will provide support for growing workforce programs including short-term training and micro-credentialing.
- 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.

### **Fund Education from Pre-K through College**

- The City supports education funding which at a minimum, should be adequate to protect/cover HB3 (86R), as well as creating sustainable revenue sources to ensure public education is fully funded.
- The City supports enhanced funding (formula and non-formula) for institutions of higher education (IHEs) and allowing Tuition Revenue Bonds to be utilized for capital projects at IHEs in San Antonio.
- The City supports expanded state funding of Pre-K to provide high quality, full-day programs for all Texas four-year-olds.

### **Improve the Quality and Equity of 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.
- The City supports legislation that encourages homeownership through targeted tax policy.

### **Eliminate Barriers for the Homeless**

- The City supports legislation that allows for a fee exception for all homeless individuals to obtain a certified birth certificate.

### **Protect the privacy of Vulnerable Residents**

- The City supports legislation protects residents' personal information that is given when receiving utility or other emergency assistance.

### **Protect the Municipal Utilities that serve and benefit San Antonians**

- The City supports protecting the municipal utility model and opposes legislation with any negative impact on municipally-owned CPS Energy and San Antonio Water System (SAWS).

### **Support and Grow Military City, USA**

- The City supports funding for the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG), Texas Military Value Revolving Loan Fund and other programs that add military value to missions in San Antonio.
- The City opposes legislation that threatens military missions, including legislation that undermines the City's ordinances that ensure compatible development.

### **Fair Representation for the San Antonio community**

- The City supports a data-driven redistricting process that provides fair and effective representation for all communities in San Antonio.

### **Enhance Government Efficiency**

- The City supports legislation that gives the San Antonio Municipal Court the flexibility to electronically record and preserve records, similar to the efficiencies enjoyed by many other municipal court systems in Texas.

### **Preserve Investments in Transportation**

- Supports the continued full funding and implementation of Propositions 1 and 7 and the protection of existing revenue streams by limiting diversions from the state highway fund to non-transportation programs.

### **Ensure the Safety of Pedestrians**

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

## **Maintain the health, viability and local control of the San Antonio Fire and Police Pension Fund**

- The City supports the San Antonio Fire & Police Pension Fund's proposed changes to Article 6243o, Revised Civil Statutes, which governs the operations of the Pension Fund, as approved by the Board of Trustees on September 20, 2020.
- The City opposes any proposed amendments that would negatively impact the actuarial performance of the fund, have a financial impact, increase board authority related to cost of living adjustments, limit transparency and/or impact the City's ability to manage its employees.

## **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
- Local Chambers of Commerce
- Local Institutions of Higher Education
- Joint Base San Antonio
- Local small businesses
- Local major employers
- Local nonprofit organizations
- Port San Antonio
- Local Independent School Districts
- San Antonio Housing Authority
- San Antonio Mobility Coalition
- San Antonio River Authority
- VIA
- Visit SA