CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

2017 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

85TH LEGISLATURE

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ADOPTED
SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

Ivy R. Taylor, Mayor

Roberto C. Treviño, District 1
Alan E. Warrick, II, District 2
Rebecca J. Viagran*, District 3
Rey Saldaña District 4
Shirley Gonzales, District 5
Ray Lopez, District 6
Cris Medina, District 7
Ron Nirenberg*, District 8
Joe Krier+, District 9
Mike Gallagher, District 10

Sheryl Sculley, City Manager
Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager
Jeff Coyle, Government & Public Affairs Director

+ IGR Council Committee Chair
* IGR Council Committee Member

PRIORITIES

Revenue Caps

Cities receive virtually no funding from the State of Texas, yet are partners with the state to keep Texas' economy and quality of life vibrant by providing services that reflect the will of local taxpayers.

- ✓ **The City supports the continued ability of local officials to determine the amount of revenue necessary to provide critical services for the protection, safety and welfare of its residents.**

- ✓ **The City opposes legislation that would impose a stricter revenue cap, which would limit the City's ability to meet the needs of its rapidly growing population.**

Annexation Authority

Current state law allows local elected officials to decide when and where to annex within the parameters established by statute. With more than one million additional residents anticipated in the next 25 years, annexation authority allows for cohesive planning to ensure the effective and efficient allocation of city services and resources.

- ✓ **The City supports the continued ability of local elected officials to responsibly manage growth through annexation and protect the rights of city taxpayers, who bear the costs of providing services to the region's growing population.**

- ✓ **The City opposes legislation that would erode its annexation authority, without any financial assistance from the state.**

Local Control

Cities – the level of government closest to the people – are best equipped to respond to the unique needs and priorities of its citizens.

- ✓ **The City supports the continued ability of local elected officials to pass ordinances for the benefit and best interests of their constituents.**

- ✓ **The City supports the continued municipal ownership and local control of the San Antonio Water System and CPS Energy.**

Alamo Funding

The Alamo is the cradle of Texas liberty, a World Heritage Site and one of the top tourist destinations in Texas with more than one million visitors annually. The State of Texas General Land Office, the City of San Antonio, and the private Alamo Endowment entered into a Cooperative Agreement to Reimagine the Alamo by developing a new master plan for the Alamo and surrounding acres.

- ✓ **The City supports continued state investment in the Alamo to be leveraged with local and private funding.**

Military Protection

In addition to providing for our nation's defense, military installations in Texas contribute $150 billion annually to the Texas economy. Joint Base San Antonio alone is responsible for an estimated economic impact of $49 billion per year.

- ✓ **The City supports legislation that enhances military value and protects military installations from future base realignment and closure (BRAC) activities.**

- ✓ **The City opposes legislation that facilitates encroachment on military installations, including legislation that would undermine the City's tree ordinance.**

- ✓ **The City supports continued funding for the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG), Texas Military Value Revolving Loan Fund and other programs.**

- ✓ **The City seeks introduction and passage of legislation that would support our military community by allowing municipalities to exempt military bases from stormwater/drainage utility charges.**

- ✓ **The City supports legislation that facilitates the redevelopment of former military installations.**

Economic Competitiveness

San Antonio is an attractive location for major sporting events, conventions and corporate relocations. San Antonio was recently selected as the site for the NCAA Men's Final Four in 2018.

- ✓ **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 current structure of the Major Events Reimbursement Fund and Events Trust Fund as tools to attract and host major events and conventions.**

- ✓ **The City seeks introduction and passage of legislation that would add women's professional golf (LPGA) to the list of eligible events under the Major Events Reimbursement Fund.**

Transportation Funding

The City maintains more than 4,000 miles of streets and has an estimated $1.4 billion in needs in its street network and $1.0 billion in sidewalks. The City recently completed a comprehensive planning effort – *SA Tomorrow* – which includes multimodal investments to manage and accommodate the influx of more than 1 million new residents by 2040.

- ✓ **The City supports legislation that would allow local elected officials and/or voters to consider additional funding options for cities to address streets, sidewalks and other transportation needs that are not otherwise met by current funding sources.**

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.

Economic Development

- The City supports the continuation of state incentives to supplement local economic development strategies to recruit and retain employers.

- The City supports legislation to improve and restore funding to the Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program.

- The City supports legislation that directs the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs to provide tax credits for housing redevelopment in areas targeted for community revitalization in San Antonio.

Education & Workforce Development

- The City of San Antonio supports legislation that provides funding for programs that provide career pathway opportunities in targeted industries, such as dual credit courses.

- The City supports expanded state funding of Pre-K to provide high quality, full-day programs for Texas four-year-olds.

- The City of San Antonio supports legislation that provides mentoring and educational opportunities for underserved youth.

- The City supports legislation that enhances formula and non-formula funding for institutions of higher education.

Transportation & Infrastructure

- The City supports legislation that provides additional funding for transportation projects and initiatives in the San Antonio region dedicated to improved mobility and to maintain, expand and improve transportation infrastructure.

- The City supports funding and policies that facilitate complete streets development to encourage walking and bicycling, including transportation and safety enhancements near schools.

Public Health & Safety

- The City supports continued air quality funding through the Rider 7 grant program that helps the San Antonio region's ability to meet its air quality goals.

- The City supports legislation that strengthens the state's mental health system, by improving long-term treatment to severely addicted individuals and addressing the challenges of homelessness through solutions that combine public health and safety and social services.

- The City supports the continuation of funding of the Texas Anti-Gang (TAG) grant program.

- The City supports legislation that would enhance pedestrian safety and continue to support safety initiatives, such as Vision Zero.

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
- Brooks City-Base
- Port San Antonio
- Joint Base San Antonio
- San Antonio River Authority
- San Antonio Housing Authority
- San Antonio Water System
- Bexar County
- Texas A&M University – San Antonio
- University of Texas at San Antonio
- University of Texas Health Science Center
- VIA
- San Antonio area Independent School Districts

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DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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