



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: August 18, 2009
Item Number: F-10
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Cheryl Friedling, Deputy City Manager for Public Affairs
Subject: REVISION OF CITY'S 2009 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM
Attachments: 1. Proposed Revised 2009 State and Federal Legislative Platform

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the revised 2009 State and Federal Legislative Platform as approved by the Legislative Committee.

INTRODUCTION

The City's Legislative Platform contains broad policy statements and serves as the foundation for City action on a wide variety of issues that impact the City of Beverly Hills.

This document is used by City staff and lobbyists as a framework for responding to legislative issues in a timely manner.

Revisions to the Legislative Platform are proposed as new developments occur on the local, state or national levels, with the approval of the City's Legislative Committee. Once approved by the Legislative Committee, the entire City Council is required to ratify any revisions to the Legislative Platform.

DISCUSSION

The City's Legislative Committee approved a new policy statement for the 2009 Legislative Platform regarding the electoral process. Previously, the City's Legislative Platform did not contain any policy statement on this topic. The

language approved by the Legislative Committee is as follows:

Electoral Process

Monitor legislative or other initiatives which may address the integrity of the electoral process. Encourage safeguards ensuring that all eligible voters are provided with the mechanisms to exercise the right to vote.

This language incorporates the City Council's direction to staff to monitor legislative bills or propositions that relate to voter identification and other related initiatives that address the electoral process.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

Cheryl Friedling
Approved By



Attachment 1

Proposed Revised 2009 State and
Federal Legislative Platform

City of Beverly Hills
2009 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Platform Overview

The Legislative Platform contains broad policy statements pertaining to a variety of issues that impact the City of Beverly Hills.

The City's primary legislative focus includes protecting local government control, maintaining local government revenue, pursuing homeland security funding, obtaining funding for environmental sustainability, transportation and infrastructure improvements.

The Legislative Platform provides a policy framework for the City to respond to legislative issues in a timely manner.

Local Control

Advocate legislation that maintains and enhances local control of resources and tools that allow cities to address the needs of constituents locally and within a framework of regional cooperation. Encourage the use of federal and state incentives for local government action rather than mandates (funded or unfunded). Oppose preemption of local authority whether by state or federal legislation or ballot propositions.

Fiscal Initiatives

Maintain the protections provided by Proposition 1A (November 2004 State election), promote stable revenue for local governments to plan for future growth and oppose unfunded State mandates. Pursue funding opportunities for public facilities and services including capital improvement projects, public works projects, library, parks (construction and renovation), recreational and social service facilities.

Direct staff and advocacy resources toward identifying grant and financial resource opportunities, positioning the City to obtain resources for transportation, homeland security, water and sewer projects, and parks and recreation, among others.

Electoral Process

Monitor legislative or other initiatives which may address the integrity of the electoral process. Encourage safeguards ensuring that all eligible voters are provided with the mechanisms to exercise the right to vote.

Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security

Support efforts, strategies and legislation that promotes emergency preparedness and recovery efforts. Advocate for ICIS (Interagency Communications Interoperability System) participation among jurisdictions and funding for equipment and operations. Support funding opportunities for UNITE local homeland security programs including new technology and equipment (e.g., closed circuit television) that does not supplant other City funding, services or operations. Seek grants, and pilot project/demonstration project funding for City homeland security priorities.

Housing and Land Use

Pursue incentive-based housing legislation to encourage expanding the housing supply in our area including more flexibility for local jurisdictions to work together to provide housing that counts toward RHNA requirements. Prioritize funding for necessary infrastructure. Emphasize local control related to land use planning.

Transportation

Support state and federal legislation that enhances the safety of the City's streets for automobile and pedestrian traffic, including issues related to photo speed radar enforcement, traffic congestion reduction programs and regional transportation improvements. Initiatives also include funding for Beverly Hills, the extension of the Westside "Subway to the Sea" and the Westside Cities' regional priorities such as the Expo light rail and the Robertson/I-10 intersection.

Environmental Sustainability

Advocate for cost-effective, sustainable, and responsible environmental policy and programs in the areas of energy efficiency, greenhouse gases, climate change, potable water, wastewater, solid waste removal and storm water, among others.

Community Services

Support legislation related to the Internet and filtering in public facilities, funding for literacy and English-as-a-second language programs and protection against censorship and restriction of free speech. Support funding for ADA facility and park upgrades. Promote legislation that provides for increased services to or funding for at-risk populations such as the frail elderly, homeless, disabled and other challenged populations.

Public Health

Continue to promote legislation that enhances the health of the general population, with an emphasis on programs that focus on youth, the elderly and at-risk populations. Monitor opportunities to expand the City's 'Fresh Air Dining' ordinance to other communities or through state legislation.