

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY OF EL PASO'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 80TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND ADOPTING A STATEMENT OF POLICY FOR THE CITY OF EL PASO REGARDING LEGISLATION IN THE 80TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND ACTIONS BEFORE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES.

WHEREAS, the 80th Texas Legislature convenes on January 9, 2007;

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature and its administrative agencies will consider many measures and actions that affect the City of El Paso; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide guidance to City representatives in conducting legislative and administrative efforts and relations with other levels of government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS, THAT THE ATTACHED LEGISLATIVE AGENDA IS ADOPTED AS THE CITY'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 80TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND THAT THE FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY BE ADOPTED:

1. The legislative or administrative positions herein approved shall be communicated to the El Paso legislative delegation, to the Texas Legislature, in general, and to the appropriate legislative committees and administrative agencies by the City's legislative lobbyist and state agency consultant, City of El Paso staff persons, members of City Council and others as coordinated through the Mayor's office.
2. City employees, members of City boards, commissions, and advisory groups may not represent in oral testimony or in writing the City's official position on proposed legislation or administrative action unless that position is approved and coordinated through the Mayor's office.

3. The City Council authorizes and directs the Mayor's office to coordinate its legislative program and the City Attorney's Office shall be authorized to interpret on behalf of the City this policy with the necessary broad policy concerns set forth in this policy.

ADOPTED this the 19th day of December 2006.

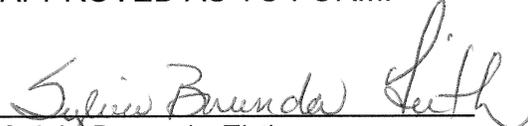
THE CITY OF EL PASO

John F. Cook
Mayor

ATTEST:

Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Sylvia Borunda Firth
Senior Assistant City Attorney

CITY OF EL PASO

2007 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

JOHN F. COOK
MAYOR

ANN MORGAN LILLY
JOSE ALEXANDRO LOZANO
PRESI ORTEGA
STEVE ORTEGA

SUSIE BYRD
MELINA CASTRO
EDDIE HOLGUIN
BETO O'ROURKE

JOYCE A. WILSON
CITY MANAGER

CITY OF EL PASO

2007 State Legislative Priorities

General Principles: The City of El Paso supports legislation that enhances the City's ability to solve problems and improve the quality of life for its citizens. The City of El Paso opposes legislation that reduces the City's authority or increases the City's costs. We will work with other Cities to enhance and protect the authority of municipalities and to ensure that City taxpayers are not burdened with additional unfunded mandates.

The City of El Paso will also support legislative initiatives of community partners that enhance the educational, cultural, and infrastructure resources in our region.

This document reflects the City's adopted legislative policy as approved by City Council. The City's legislative program is organized into three categories:

- I. Priority Legislative Initiatives** - The City will actively seek to secure legislators to author bills for these initiatives, unless otherwise noted. The City will support and provide positive testimony for these initiatives and actively pursue passage of the bill.
- II. Statement of Support or Opposition** – City staff and authorized representatives will make known the City's position on these issues. Depending on the issue, staff will work to either assist in the passage of the bill or work against passage to preserve the City's interests. The important distinction between this category and the earlier category is that the City will not seek introduction of any legislation, but will vocalize the City's position in support or opposition.
- III. Issues to Monitor** – City staff and authorized representatives will monitor and track the development of any related legislation. Staff will seek advice and direction from the Mayor before taking an official position or taking any action to influence an outcome.

For more information, please feel free to contact:

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I. PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

1. TEXAS TECH FOUR YEAR MEDICAL SCHOOL

Proposal: Support Texas Tech University's Legislative Appropriations Request for \$61,603,250.00 to hire faculty, staff and operational support for the four year medical school campus in El Paso.

2. COMPLETION OF INNER LOOP

Proposal: To secure funding in order to complete all three phases of the Inner Loop project in order to accommodate the growth in the area surrounding El Paso International Airport and Ft. Bliss.

3. FLOOD RELIEF

- a. Proposal:** To seek an appropriations request to pay for the cost of relocating residents in Mowad, Saipan and Fiesta neighborhoods whose homes were destroyed by Storm 2006.
- b. Proposal:** To seek a change in State law to permit cities to perform storm water management in the extra territorial jurisdiction of the city.
- c. Proposal:** Support legislation to allow for development control in arroyos.

4. REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY

- a. Proposal:** Seek legislation to allow for Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority Board membership from outside City the limits but within the defined jurisdiction of the El Paso MPO.
- b. Proposal:** Seek funding to staff and commence the operation of the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority.

5. STATE PARK

- a. Proposal:** Seek appropriate legislation and/or appropriation to allow the foothills of the Franklin Mountains currently designated as open space on the N.E. Master Plan to be incorporated into the Franklin Mountains State Park.

- b. **Proposal:** Seek appropriation for a visitor's center in the Franklin Mountains State Park to be located in the Northeast part of El Paso.

6. ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE

Proposal: Seek legislation to require business with more than 50 employees that receive state contracts provide health insurance to their employees.

II. STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION

1. MILITARY AFFAIRS

- Support funding for recruiting 300 teachers.
- Support legislation and appropriation requests from community partners to insure adequate funding for construction of schools to create additional school capacity.
- Support change in legislation to modify exit testing to military dependents who are relocated to Texas during the last two years of high school.
- Support funding to workforce development to create programs to assist in job placement of accompanying military spouses.
- Support the enhancement of the educational pipeline from Head Start through the college level

2. TRIBAL RIGHTS

- Support the efforts of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo to restore Indian gaming rights on tribal land.

3. REVENUE AND TAXATION

- Support the efforts of appraisal districts across the State of Texas to seek legislation requiring the mandatory disclosure of real property sales prices to appraisal districts.
- Oppose legislation that would mandate a reduction in the current appraisal growth cap.

- Oppose legislation that would impose revenue caps of any type, including a lowered rollback rate, mandatory tax rate ratification elections or lowered rollback petition requirements.

4. REGULATION OF DEVELOPMENT

- Support legislation to allow counties additional development authority, provided that such legislation does not erode city authority in the ETJ or conflict with development regulations enacted by cities with authority over the ETJ.

5. UTILITIES

- Support introduction and passage of legislation by the Texas Municipal League that would:
 - A. “grandfather” the provisions of Texas law in any federal cable franchising bill if any proposed federal law provisions would erode the provisions of Senate Bill 5 (Seventy-Ninth Legislature, Second Called Session).
 - B. address the failure of utility companies to relocate their facilities in a timely manner as required by current law.

6. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

- Support legislation that would require electronic reporting of pawnshop data to local law enforcement agencies.
- Support legislation to increase local parks funding to \$25 million, or more as appropriate.
- Support legislation to enact the recommendations of the State Park Advisory Committee.
- Support legislation that would prohibit registered sex offenders from residing in close proximity to schools.
- Support legislation that would increase the punishment for burglary of a vehicle and unauthorized use of a vehicle to a third degree felony punishable by imprisonment between two (2) and ten (10) years with option to assess a fine not to exceed \$10,000.00.
- Support an appropriations request for \$300,000 to fund a GIS system to enhance homeland security for the region.

7. HEALTHCARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

- Support legislation that maintains the integrity of the CHIP program by retaining the comprehensive benefits that are currently in the program and restore dental coverage for services rendered to children. Continue to support an increase to continuous eligibility to encourage the establishment of relationships with primary care providers.
- Support funding for housing programs for the mentally ill and the regulation of lodging facilities that serve that population.
- Support funding for educational institutions to increase the number of admissions of healthcare professionals.
- Support legislation to continue streamlining and simplifying eligibility processes for Medicaid that will encourage more eligible but non-covered individuals to take advantage of this program.
- Support legislation that increases funding to Title 5 services (coverage for children's dental and immunization services, public education for prevention of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer).
- Support legislation that eliminates the disparity in border Medicaid capitation rates and per capita expenditures.
- Support continued funding for the Texas Area Information and Referral Networks.
- Support legislation that reverses the reduction in funding for public health activities to include, but not limited to, children's health, women's health services, child and adult immunizations, family planning, tuberculosis, and services related to sexually transmitted diseases, and vector/mosquito control and general environmental enforcement activities.
- Support legislation that allows for appropriate and responsive mental health and mental retardation services in our community.
- Support legislation that ensures accountability and performance from the Adult and Child Protective Services Agency.
- Support legislation that would maintain or increase existing funding for emergency preparedness activities.

8. IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY

- Oppose legislation not in keeping with the “Consensus Statement By the Community of the El Paso Region to encourage the United States Congress and the Elected Officials of the State of Texas to Pass Fair and Comprehensive Immigration Reform” approved on August 17, 2006 and the City Council Resolution regarding same.

9. RAIL RELOCATION IMPROVEMENT FUNDS

- Support the appropriation of \$200 million to the Rail Relocation Fund to finance the relocation of dangerous freight rail lines in densely populated areas. The 79th Texas Legislature passed legislation to create the Rail Relocation Fund; however, the program was not funded.

10. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Support the continuation and enhancement of the Skills Development Fund job training program.
- Support Project Arriba in securing and obtaining state funds that provide workforce training in demand occupations.

11. GENERAL MUNICIPAL INTERESTS

The City will support legislation and administrative actions that:

- Will protect and enhance City revenues.
- Reduce costs to the City.
- Provide for more local control.
- Protect those policies previously established through the Charter, ordinances, resolutions, and master plans.

The City will oppose legislation or administrative actions that:

- Undermine the principle of home rule and local self-government.
- Result in loss of revenue or revenue growth to cities.
- Diminish the current authority of cities to regulate and manage their growth and development.
- Nullify or undermine the City’s policies contained in existing provision of the Charter, ordinances, resolutions and master plans, unless such changes expand the City’s ability to manage its own affairs.
- Diminish any existing authority of cities.
- Impose mandates that require any expenditure by the City unless all costs of same, including administrative as well as direct out-of-pocket costs, are fully reimbursed by the mandating government.

III. ISSUES TO MONITOR

- Legislation that affects international trade.
- Legislation that affects public pension funds.
- Legislation affecting red light cameras.
- Legislation affecting eminent domain.

Additional legislative developments will be brought to the attention of Mayor, Council, and the City Manager throughout the session.