



# 2020 State Legislative Program



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## **Definitions**

### **Legislative Program**

The Stockton City Council will adopt a Legislative Platform prior to the beginning of each calendar year. The Legislative Platform sets forth the City of Stockton's legislative priorities and interests, as well as provides general authority and direction regarding advocacy efforts on behalf of the City to: the City Manager's Office; City departments; and the City's state legislative advocate.

### **Legislative Principle**

Legislative Principles are foundational statements of broad legislative objectives or philosophies that form the basis for establishing Legislative Priorities and Positions.

### **Legislative Priority**

Items receive designation as Legislative Priorities within the Legislative Program when it is anticipated that they will (1) have a significant impact on the City of Stockton; (2) require significant effort by City staff and/or the City's state advocate; and (3) have a strategic action identified to address a high-level priority for the City.

### **Legislative Position**

The City of Stockton has numerous areas of legislative interest beyond those that rise to the surface as Legislative Priorities. The City prepares position statements for both the themes of legislation and funding that regularly recur on the state level as well as new issues that arise each year in the legislative process. Legislative Positions provide background as to the importance of the issue to the City of Stockton and state the position of the City and any action that will be pursued to address it.

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The Honorable Cathleen Galgiani

District 3

State Capitol

Room 5097

Sacramento, CA 94248

Assembly

The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman

District 13

State Capitol

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## City Council Strategic Work Plan

### Strategic Targets:

- Safer Streets
- Growing Economy
- Housing Opportunities for all
- Thriving and Healthy Neighborhoods
- Fiscal Sustainability

### Council Priority Goals:

#### Tier 1

1. Develop solutions to address homelessness including increasing the affordable housing supply.
2. Focus on crime reduction in focus areas.
3. Prioritize resource allocation to focus areas within Council Districts.
4. Develop our core downtown.

#### Tier 2

1. Develop business incentives and tools for underserved neighborhoods.
2. Work with education partners to improve quality of life, increase literacy, fund college scholarships and develop the workforce.
3. Engage private employers and the business community in workforce development and job placement and develop an employment pipeline for Stockton residents to Stockton employers.

## **Legislative Program**

### Purpose

Throughout each year, the State Legislature proposes and enacts legislation, some of which affect local municipal government. The League of California Cities and contracted legislative advocacy firms keep the City of Stockton informed on proposed legislation from these bodies. At times, it is in the interest of the City to take a position on proposed legislation. The State Legislative Program establishes Legislative Principles, Priorities, and Positions that provide direction for advocating for the City of Stockton with the state government.

### Process

For proposed legislation, either consistent with the City's Legislative Program or consistent with legislative positions the City has taken in the past, City staff shall be authorized to prepare position letters for the Mayor's signature. Should availability be an issue, the Vice Mayor or City Manager shall be authorized to sign position letters in lieu of the Mayor. All members of City Council shall receive copies of sent position letters. The City's advocacy firm may also be authorized to express the City's position in person to legislative representatives.

Items not addressed in the City's Legislative Priorities may require they be brought to the City Council for consideration. These legislative priorities may only address issues directly relevant to or impacting the provision of municipal services. Generally, the City will not address matters that are not pertinent to the City's local government services such as partisan, socially divisive or international issues.

## Legislative Principles

In its relationship with the state government, the City will always:

- Seek the broadest authority for our citizens and the City Council to make decisions locally
- Seek out, develop, and support legislative and budget efforts that protect and/or enhance local governments revenues, maximize the City's access to funding, and/or increase local funding flexibility
- Support legislative and budget action that will provide robust funding for domestic infrastructure, public safety, community development and environmental programs which support City efforts to maintain and enhance the quality of life
- Oppose legislative or administrative actions that have negative fiscal impacts to the City
- Oppose legislative or administrative actions which would create unfunded mandates and/or preempt local decision-making authority
- Encourage and seek legislation to facilitate orderly and sustainable economic expansion and growth, and increase the opportunity for discretionary revenues and programmatic and financial flexibility for the City
- Seek opportunities to help our partners achieve success in order to further improve the community
- Support legislation that furthers the adopted City Council Goals

It is within this philosophy that the attached state legislative priorities and positions are adopted.



## 2020 State Legislative Priorities

1. Advocate for our fair share of State Funding
2. Advocate for reasonable and measured relief from state-regulated flood requirements
3. Advocate for and pursue transportation, infrastructure and affordable housing funding available through new State programs or funding initiatives
4. Protect our interests in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
5. Promote legislation and funding allocations that enhance educational outcomes in Stockton

### 1. Advocate for our fair share of State Funding

**Background:** The City of Stockton has been successful in receiving state funding through both project-specific earmarks and competitive funding application processes. However, the City of Stockton has been underrepresented in recent years and has only in the past year taken the opportunity to develop more positive working relationships with state agencies and explain our unique needs. Also, the City has experienced a reduction in funding from the state as a result of direct removal of revenues previously remitted to municipalities examples of which include Vehicle License Fee revenues and Redevelopment Agency revenues.

**Position:** The City of Stockton should more aggressively target earmark funding when available by establishing priority projects and advocating for available funding to our state delegation. Priority projects will be identified each year based on the strategic needs of the City while taking into consideration the eligibility of projects for the funding sources available and the likelihood of funding advocacy efforts being successful. The City of Stockton should also leverage the Sacramento presence of our state advocate to develop positive working relationships with key state agency executives. The City should also advocate for maintaining funding levels for priority state agency programs. In addition, the City should target funding opportunities that will have the most beneficial impact on General Fund operations. Furthermore, the City should oppose any state actions that reduce funding to municipalities or create unfunded mandates.

**Action:** Advocate for legislation and resources that will further the City's ability to respond to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), as well as enhance the City's ability to address community needs.

**Action:** Advocate for the following priority project list for consideration in grant applications for direct funding when available:

- Wastewater Infrastructure Replacement and Treatment Facility Upgrade Projects (State Revolving Loan Fund)
- Active transportation
- Transportation-Oriented Development
- Bridge rehabilitation and replacement
- Transportation infrastructure maintenance

- California Street Complete Street Improvements
- Lower Sacramento Road improvements
- Sanitary Pump Station and Collection System Improvements Downtown
- Floodplain management, protection, and critical infrastructure
- Gang prevention, intervention, and suppression
- Youth services and programs
- Recovery of Vehicle License Fee (VLF) revenues taken by the state
- Integrated Regional Water Management Planning and Projects
- Integration of Department of Water Resources and State Water Resources Control Board Programs supporting ESJ Groundwater Sustainability Plan implementation
- Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Projects
- Projects or programs that would support economic development
- Rehabilitation or development for a new park or open spaces in underserved areas or disadvantaged communities with limited options for active lifestyles
- Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- California State University in San Joaquin County
- Broadband equity for California communities
- Scrutiny of unfair and anti-competitive practice that limit libraries' ability to provide e-book and digital content to their users

Action: Advocate for programs providing additional funding for public safety and violence prevention

- Advocate for emergency radio infrastructure replacement.
- Pursue grant funding in support of violence reduction and gang intervention
- Advocate for funding for early diversion and deflection programs
- Advocate for funding programs designed to outreach to at-risk youth for education and training

Action: Advocate for equitable processes and equitable sharing of resources related to new State funding sources or State Bond issuances. Advocate for equity in allocating new funding for transportation, water resources, floodplain management, critical utilities, affordable housing, homelessness, and public park infrastructure.

Action: Oppose legislation or executive action that reduces funding to the City or creates an unfunded mandate.

## **2. Advocate for policies and funding that support the revitalization of Stockton's downtown core and Stockton's neighborhoods**

Background: In addition to financial sustainability and public safety, a top priority in Stockton's revitalization effort has been a focus on economic development and urban renewal. The City of Stockton has undertaken various strategies to stimulate economic growth, including a redesign of our permitting process, adoption of a new General Plan, implementation of an aggressive economic development strategy, and leveraging state

and federal programs that support redevelopment. Also, the City has implemented initiatives facilitating revitalization in neighborhoods, while ensuring that development is sustainable and maintains the character of our community. Of particular note is the collective impact work of the broader community that is leading to neighborhood transformation. Key State programs in support of these efforts include Sustainable Communities grants and Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) funding.

**Position:** The City of Stockton is poised to leverage State programs that facilitate downtown urban renewal and neighborhood transformation. State funding related to sustainable infrastructure and planning that has been allocated in recent years should remain a priority to allow for these programs to continue the revitalization of communities like Stockton. The City of Stockton is also well positioned to leverage investments through Opportunity Zones; all of downtown and a majority of Stockton neighborhoods are included in the Stockton Opportunity Zone. The City of Stockton should receive an equitable share of funding supporting sustainable infrastructure and development, if not a greater share as a disadvantaged community.

**Action:** Oppose any legislation or administrative action that reduces funding for sustainable revitalization and development. Support legislation that maintains cap-and-trade funding for sustainable development and TCC funding. Advocate for funding and redevelopment tools that aid in brownfield cleanup efforts and infrastructure improvements along Downtown's key corridors. Seek out technical assistance for sustainable and equitable use of Opportunity Zones. Advocate for capital gains tax incentives for specific uses of Opportunity Funds in Opportunity Zones. Advocate for greenhouse reduction funding.

### **3. Advocate for and pursue transportation, infrastructure, affordable housing, workforce housing, and homelessness funding that may be available through new State programs or funding initiatives**

**Background:** Recent legislation seeks to streamline and enhance resources for projects and programs that will benefit cities, including specific allocations for grant funding for disadvantaged communities. The State legislature continues to address the need to create more affordable housing funding.

**Position:** The City of Stockton supports state programs that provide transportation, infrastructure, and affordable housing funding to local governments. The City of Stockton support grants and other financial assistance to local governments for greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects. Stockton is well-positioned to benefit from these funds and use the funds to promote projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and also provide additional jobs in the community. The City of Stockton is a disadvantaged community that has suffered the impacts of the Great Recession and climate change to a greater degree than most communities. The City of Stockton should have access to an equitable share of grant funding related to Cap and Trade revenues allocated for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions Projects. Also, the City of Stockton has experienced significant deferred maintenance related to transportation and other

critical municipal infrastructure. Furthermore, the City of Stockton has a need for additional quality affordable housing units, particularly in disadvantaged communities. The City of Stockton should have access to an equitable share of transportation, infrastructure, affordable housing, and homelessness funding authorized by the State. As a member of the Big City Mayor's coalition, the City of Stockton has received Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) funds. The initial HHAP funds will make a significant impact in addressing the needs of the homeless population, however, a dramatic need remains.

Action: Closely monitor legislation and rule-making outlining how transportation, infrastructure, and affordable housing funding will be allocated. Advocate for legislation and rule-making that would take into consideration the relevant factors that demonstrate that Stockton is a disadvantaged community. Aggressively pursue grant applications through the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program. Aggressively pursue transportation and infrastructure grant applications resulting from new transportation funding authorization. Aggressively pursue affordable housing and homelessness grant applications in collaboration with San Joaquin County. Continue to consider opportunities to advocate with the Big City Mayor's coalition when appropriate for local funding in 2020. Advocate for rule-making and funding allocations that would make projects viable that are consistent with the City's Capital Improvement Program and Economic Development goals.

#### **4. Protect our interests in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta**

Background: Stockton is the largest municipality wholly within the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. Stockton derives a substantial percentage of its municipal water supply from Delta surface waters. The current and future well-being of the City, its residents, and the economy is inextricably linked to the Delta, the quantity and quality of Delta water supplies, and the Delta ecosystem. Stockton and its water supply could be uniquely impacted by the State's Delta Conveyance Project and a changing climate. It is critical that the State's Water Resilience Portfolio initiatives prioritize and protect the health and safety of Stockton, its Delta economy, and the environment.

Position: No actions should be taken related to the Delta that negatively impacts the City's water rights, water supply, water quality, air quality, economic vitality, local land use control in the Delta.

Action: Oppose any legislation or administrative action that negatively impacts the City of Stockton's interests in the Delta. Support legislation that maintains local control of water rights, water supplies, and land use. Support legislation that addresses the needs and concerns of the Delta in a balanced and objective manner. Advocate for the City's interests throughout the review and development of the Delta Conveyance Project. Proactively negotiate to protect the City's rights and interests related to water resources and flood protection. Proactively seek coalition-building opportunities at the State and

Federal level with those that share common interests in prudently and equitably allocating funding for water projects, programs, mitigations and/or those that share common interests in protecting water rights and quality within the Delta. Closely monitor, interact and actively engage with those agencies responsible for the development for the Delta Conveyance Project to ensure that the City of Stockton's goals and objectives are achieved as a measure of any successful negotiations or discussions. Closely monitor and seek approval on water resources, flood management, and other infrastructure funding packages to ensure that funding is provided for the City's projects and programs and regional flood protection efforts. Also, see Section 7. Delta Protection and Enhancement of the Legislative Positions for more information.

**5. Promote legislation and funding allocations that enhance educational outcomes in Stockton; pursue policy development and funding to bring a California State University (CSU) Campus to Stockton.**

Background: The 2020-21 Strategic Work Plan for the City of Stockton outlines Council Priorities which include Public Safety, Improve the quality of life, Literacy, College scholarships, the local workforce, and other Economic Development as strategic targets. The City Council has publicly expressed support for educational outcomes and programs as a legislative priority of the City.

Position: Support educational outcomes and institutions that are consistent with the Council goals to improve the safety, economic development, quality of life, and economic development outcomes for our community. The City of Stockton supports legislation and funding that will enhance educational outcomes. The residents of the City of Stockton should have equitable access to higher education opportunities. The City of Stockton, as a major metropolitan community of California, should have equal access to State funding for a CSU Stockton Campus.

Action: Support legislation and funding that will enhance educational outcomes and institutions in the community. Support funding appropriations for CSU Stockton Campus and workforce readiness, And take into consideration the recent findings in the California State University Enrollment Demand, Capacity Assessment, and Cost Analysis for Campus Sites. Actively pursue, support, and coordinate work to bring a CSU Stockton Campus to our community. Oppose legislation that would inhibit bringing a CSU Stockton Campus. Oppose legislation, state regulations or funding reductions that would negatively impact educational outcomes in Stockton.

## **2020 State Legislative Positions**

1. Protect Local Control
2. Protect local Revenues and Funding for Vital Community Services
3. Public Safety
4. Infrastructure Investment
5. Improve the Quality of Life and Sustainability of the City
6. Employment and Labor Relations
7. Delta Protection and Enhancement

### **1. Protect Local Control**

Support efforts that are consistent with the doctrine of "home rule" and the local exercise of police powers, through planning and zoning processes, over local land use.

Oppose legislation that negatively impacts the City Council's authority to manage and control the public right-of-way and for the City to receive compensation for its use.

Oppose any legislation that attempts to limit the ability of the City to avail ourselves of the protections offered under chapter 9 or any other action that undermines the City's ability to restructure our finances. Oppose any legislation that limits the ability of the City to move beyond chapter 9 protection or places burdens or mandates on municipalities exiting chapter 9 protection.

### **2. Protect Local Revenues and Funding for Vital Community Services**

The City acknowledges the State's financial challenge, but the City will oppose efforts that capture or divert local revenue or efforts which shift responsibility for State services or programs to local government without commensurate revenue.

Support full reimbursement to cities for all State mandates.

Oppose legislation that eliminates or restricts the taxing authority of cities; weakens existing Government Code section 66000 fee authority; or redefines any development tax, condition, or other monetary change as development fees.

Support legislation that protects the ability of cities to recover the costs of mandated programs through fees that are exempt from Proposition 218 as well as potential exemptions for stormwater infrastructure projects.

Support efforts to restore local authority and control over revenues, governance, and service delivery as well as protect local governments against unfunded mandates.

Oppose any legislation that attempts to allocate additional general liability exposure to cities or that seeks to prohibit the ability of cities to seek maximum indemnification from other parties in the contractual process.

Support efforts to allocate State Cap & Trade revenues to local government projects that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Advocate for grants or loans to upgrade municipal irrigation systems and install smart controls. This will reduce water use due to leakage loss and over-irrigation. Advocate for further grants to upgrade and maintain the urban forest.

Advocate for state taxation policies and procedures that ensure that taxing authorities and services provided by the City are fairly and adequately funded.

Support efforts to lower the voter approval threshold for local library bond measures and special taxes to 55%.

Support legislative efforts that maximize reimbursement to local governments for medical transport and fire responder paramedic services to individuals that are beneficiaries of state and federal medical coverage.

Support legislation and regulations that protect Proposition 64 funding for local agencies and maintain local control of cannabis regulations, both medicinal and recreational

### **3. Public Safety**

Support funding for local law enforcement equipment, services, or personnel.

Support legislation that allows the use of state public safety grants for intervention and prevention efforts to curb gang crime and youth violence.

Support legislation that would provide cities with a greater share of fines and forfeitures.

Support legislation that allows law enforcement to better combat gun violence through investigation, interdiction, and prevention of firearm-related crimes.

Support legislation that allows the use of state public safety grants for maintenance efforts in addition to service increases.

Support legislation and administrative actions that protect the City's interests related to offender reentry initiatives, including but not limited to equitable distribution of funding and policies that do not unfairly impact Stockton and San Joaquin County.

Support legislation and administrative actions that protect the City's interests related to Proposition 47 and processes and procedures put in place for its implementation.

Ensure local discretion in the adoption and implementation of health and safety standards contained in the building and fire codes.

Oppose legislation that mandates local building and fire code standards that negatively impact the health and safety of the community and add undue burden and investment in the City.

Support funding for local emergency operations including equipment, services, and personnel.

#### **4. Infrastructure Investment**

Advocate for state funding and transportation re-authorizations that support City infrastructure projects and City programs including projects adopted in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Support increased funding to enhance existing public transportation programs.

Advocate for state funding for street, road, and alleyway repair within the City of Stockton.

Advocate that fundamental responsibility for transportation decision making should be at the local level.

Oppose any state reductions to existing transportation grants and programs.

Oppose legislation that limits and/or decreases the existing amount of retention proceeds withheld from any payment by a public entity to a contractor on a public project.

Support equitable long-range, statewide infrastructure investment.

Advocate for fair implementation and distribution of state infrastructure bond funds to assure the City receives an adequate share for local improvements and programs.

Advocate for trails and landscape grants consistent with the Waterfront Connections Plan that calls for further landscape, streetscape, and public access improvements to the Stockton Channel.

Support efforts to provide high-speed capacity broadband provisions for all libraries to ensure full, equal electronic services.

Support legislation and regulations that provide additional funding for construction and maintenance of public parks and advocate that Stockton receive equitable funding from statewide revenues



Advocate for state funding opportunities that support energy-efficient technology initiatives (i.e. green data center) or those that support Digital Cities initiatives (i.e. Mobile City Hall, Public WIFI).

## **5. Improve the Quality of Life and Sustainability of the City**

Support efforts that impact the City's ability to enhance the well-being, quality of life, health, and safety of residents, stabilize and enhance jobs and economic growth, and improve the environment.

Support legislation that provides economic development and redevelopment tools and programs for municipalities, particularly tools to assist urban revitalization.

Support legislation and state funding that is consistent with the City's Economic Development goals.

Support legislation and state funding that would support educational efforts in the City of Stockton and improve educational outcomes.

Support legislation and state funding that would increase access to higher education for Stockton residents.

Support legislation that provides financial assistance for local public libraries without the imposition of new taxes.

Oppose legislation that reduces funding for libraries including public library funds.

Support legislation that makes funds available to upgrade, remodel existing libraries, and build new libraries.

Support legislation that provides financial support and incentives for programs that provide affordable housing for disabled and low-income residents, families, and senior adults.

Support legislation that protects and maintains existing affordable housing opportunities for disabled and low-income residents, families, and senior adults.

Support legislation and funding for energy-efficiency projects and programs for public buildings and facilities.

Support legislation providing funding for the acquisition and restoration of wildlife habitat.

Encourage the use of water conservation techniques.

Support statewide funding for rehabilitation, development and capital improvements for local and state park and recreation agencies.

Support the enactment of policies and encourage state funding opportunities to assist agencies in meeting sustainability objectives including energy and water efficiencies, non-motorized trail development and connectivity, carbon sequestration through natural environment management, protection, and enhancement.

Advocate for legislation that requires manufacturers and retailers to address hazardous, expensive, or difficult to manage waste streams that are a burden to local governments.

Oppose legislation that has a negative impact on park and recreation agencies including the sale of parks and open space.

Support access for all Californians to physical activity and nutrition through parks and open space, active transportation (bicycles and pedestrians, trails, complete streets, use of easements), healthy foods, youth programs, and joint use of schools.

Ensuring that funding and support for technology are present for workforce development efforts, individual learning, entrepreneurial/business centers, and lifelong learning.

Supporting the enactment of policies and funding opportunities to assist agencies in meeting sustainability objectives including energy and water efficiencies, non-motorized trail development and connectivity, and carbon sequestration through natural environment management, protection, and enhancement.

## **6. Employment and Labor Relations**

Oppose legislation that limits local control of hiring practices or the ability to determine the terms and conditions of employment.

Advocate for legislation that supports employers for and during unforeseen pandemic situations that help maintain a productive labor workforce while securing employee general welfare.

Support legislation that creates a fair and balanced workers compensation system for both employers and employees with an emphasis on cost containment and returning employees to work as soon as possible; oppose legislation that puts either the employer or employee at a disadvantage or increases the cost of workers compensation insurance in the State. Lobby for employee health benefit security that extends the continuation of health care provisions for occupational exposure to disease and injury under workers compensation, while minimizing the cost impact to the employer during an unforeseen pandemic situation.

## 7. Delta Protection and Enhancement

Advocate for the state to take full responsibility and establish concrete assurances in the form of Delta Conveyance Project design and operation commitments that avoid or fully mitigate adverse effects on Stockton's water supply, including water quality and availability.

Advocate for the state to construct permanent improvements that build the capacity of the City and its surrounding Delta community to withstand floods, droughts, and a changing climate.

Advocate for the state to take full responsibility and carry out the necessary actions for the remediation of harmful algal blooms (HABs) and the removal of invasive species that negatively impact the Delta, in particular, the annual infestation of water hyacinth in local waterways.

Support legislation providing funding and other means for delta stewardship.

Support legislation or administrative policies that protect the interests of the City related to water resources and flood control including clarification of the definition of infill development, exclusion of interior drainage issues from 200-year flood control requirements, and the ability to issue discretionary permits for appropriate low impact projects without burdensome review requirements.

Oppose legislation or governance that attempts to supersede adopted planning documents or projects that have already been approved through the appropriate processes.

Support efforts to clarify Water Quality Control Standards, including establishing reasonable criterion associated with permit issuance (i.e. public outreach metrics)

Support legislation protecting the existing and future water supply.

Support administrative actions to promote dredging, aquatic weed removal, and other maintenance of waterways within the Delta.

Support legislation that provides a mechanism to fund the construction, operations, maintenance, and administration of stormwater programs and projects that improve quality, minimize runoff, maximize infiltration and beneficial uses, maximize flooding protection, and minimizes negative environmental impacts, and exempt fees, and charges supporting these programs and projects from Proposition 218 restrictions.

Oppose legislation or regulation that imposes excessive costs on local governments to achieve stormwater and other Clean Water Act objectives.

Support legislation exempting stormwater utilities from the balloting process required under proposition 218.

Oppose changes that would alter operations of the Delta Cross Channel in a way that would negatively affect water quality at the Delta Water Supply Project (DWSP) intake or at the discharge location for the RWCF.

Oppose additional mandated stormwater pollution prevention measures that are not accompanied by funding or a mechanism to provide for funding.

Support legislation creating sustainable funding sources to assist local governments with obligations under federal stormwater regulations.