



# **2017 Federal 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, and 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 federal 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 federal legislative 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 federal 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.

**Washington D.C. Delegation**

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Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kamala Harris  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry McNerney  
District 11  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1210 Longworth Building  
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## City Council Strategic Work Plan

### Strategic Targets:

- Public Safety
- Fiscal Sustainability
- Economic Development
- Infrastructure

### Priority Goals:

#### Tier 1

1. Focus on crime reduction, blight reduction and outreach for “Hot Zones” and “Hot People”
2. Adopt a budget and allocate resources consistent with the Long-Range Financial Plan; implement solutions that provide financial transparency to the community
3. Develop business incentives, including incentive tools for underserved neighborhoods
4. Maximize relationships with partner agencies and organizations in carrying out and funding priority projects
5. Develop solutions that address housing infrastructure for the homeless

#### Tier 2

1. Prioritize resource allocation and infrastructure projects to “Hot Zones” within Council Districts
2. Engage private employers and the business community in workforce development and job placement; develop an employment pipeline for Stockton residents to Stockton employers
3. Achieve full staffing for positions funded through Measure A

## **Legislative Program**

### **Purpose**

Throughout each year, the United States Congress proposes and enacts legislation, some of which affects local municipal government. National associations and contracted legislative advocacy firms keep the City of Stockton informed on proposed legislation from these bodies. At times, it is in the interests of the City to take a position on proposed legislation. This Legislative Program establishes Legislative Principles, Priorities and Positions that provide direction for advocating for the City of Stockton with the federal 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 federal 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 federal legislative and budget actions 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 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 federal legislative priorities and positions are adopted.



## 2017 Federal Legislative Priorities

1. Advocate for Federal funding
2. Advocate for Federal funding for transportation infrastructure
3. Pursue Federal programs that enhance public safety
4. Pursue Federal programs providing assistance and resources to distressed communities
5. Advocate for limited financial impact for Federal Regulations and Rulemaking
6. Promote legislation and funding allocations that enhance educational outcomes in Stockton

### 1. Advocate for Federal funding

**Background:** In previous years, the City of Stockton has received significant federal funding through congressional earmarks and has successfully positioned grant applications for favorable review. The current federal funding strategy is structured around the void of congressional earmarks, reductions to federal agency funding levels, and the potential elimination or realignment of previous federal grant programs under the Trump Administration. In light of this environment, advocating for robust funding levels in beneficial programs will be as important as targeting those programs for grant applications.

**Position:** The City of Stockton must adjust its federal funding strategy to take into account the loss of congressional earmarks and the reductions to federal agency funding levels. The City will advocate for allowance of reasonable direct funding allocations for specific projects. The City should also advocate for maintaining funding levels for priority federal agency programs and develop a clear advocacy message to help in identifying, completing and advocating for priority consideration in funding applications. The City should also continue to develop a priority project list to target discretionary funding from agencies, seek specific policy changes that would benefit specific projects, and position projects for earmark funding that may be available in the future. Furthermore, the City should target funding opportunities that will have the most beneficial impact to General Fund operations.

**Action:** Advocate maintaining funding for priority federal agency programs including:

- Department of Justice Programs, specifically the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), Office of Violence Against Women and Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) programs
- Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER), Highway Funding and Transit Funding
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) programs
- Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)

Action: Support innovative federal financing programs:

- Water Infrastructure Financing Innovation Act (WIFIA)
- Transportation Infrastructure and Innovation Act (TIFIA)

Action: Establish a priority project list for consideration in grant applications and future potential earmarks:

- Public Safety: Police Air Support, Shot Spotter, Interoperability, prevention and intervention
- Transportation and Infrastructure:
  - Miner Avenue Streetscape Improvements
  - Wastewater Facility Upgrade Projects
  - Lower Sacramento Road improvements
  - North Stockton I-5 interchanges and widening
  - Highway 99 – 8-Mile Road interchange
  - Sanitary Pump Station and Collection System Improvements Downtown
  - Floodplain management infrastructure
- Economic Development: Brownfields, Waterfront, implementation of the
- Education: Broadband internet infrastructure, early childhood and after school programs
- Broadband internet infrastructure for public libraries

Action: Advocate for legislation and federal funding authorizations that benefit the City of Stockton and maximize local tax authority and flexibility

- Maintain tax exemption for municipal bonds
- Support long term transportation and infrastructure authorizations
- Support full funding for transportation and infrastructure programs
- Increase flexibility for utilizing Public, Education and Government (PEG) Access fee revenues

## **2. Advocate for federal funding for transportation infrastructure**

Background: A key theme in the Trump Administration is a commitment for transportation infrastructure. The City of Stockton needs \$10 million per year to resurface pavement to keep the pavement network in its current condition. The current backlog of unmet repair needs for Stockton's roadway maintenance program for the next five years is a staggering \$177 million and includes overlays, cape seals, slurry seals, micro surfacing, and reconstruction. Additionally, the City of Stockton has a known backlog of curb, gutter and sidewalk that are in need of replacement totaling approximately \$2 million, with our unassessed estimate for curb, gutter and sidewalk repair conservatively estimated to be in excess of \$25 million. In addition to maintenance and repair needs, Stockton currently has \$224 million in unfunded transportation infrastructure projects that are fundamental to safety, commerce and development in our community. Without additional funding sources, these critical projects will be delayed long into the future. Details related to a federal infrastructure proposal have not been outlined. However, the City of Stockton has already

documented our need and provided details related to our critical projects to our federal delegation for inclusion in a federal infrastructure package.

**Position:** The City of Stockton should receive an equitable share of infrastructure funding to complete our priority projects. The City of Stockton should receive special consideration for additional funding as a distressed community with acute need for infrastructure. The City of Stockton would leverage federal funding more than an average community with economic development opportunities that would result from our priority projects.

**Action:** Advocate for a federal infrastructure funding package. Advocate for equitable distribution of infrastructure funding. Advocate when appropriate for direct funding allocations for specific infrastructure projects.

### **3. Pursue Federal programs that enhance public safety**

**Background:** The City of Stockton has demonstrated commitment to the enhancement of public safety through a comprehensive, collaborative community partnership in the Marshall Plan on Crime, and successfully reduced overall crime to the lowest rate in 15 years. Given opportunities and successes in Stockton, the City has participated in multiple federal programs such as the National Initiative on Police-Community Trust Building.

**Position:** The City will continue these positive trends by supporting innovative legislation, regulation, and federal funding programs that help maintain vigorous public safety. The City of Stockton is well positioned to leverage federal funding to implement public safety initiatives.

**Action:** Advocate for legislation that increases local retention of fines and forfeiture dollars:

- Promote flexibility for the City to utilize funds for public safety initiatives

**Action:** Advocate for federal funding programs and mechanisms to improve local law enforcement and emergency response:

- Promote the retention of D Block as critical to radio interoperability
- Support robust funding for the Department of Justice grant array, including COPS, OJP, and OVW
- Oppose the Administration's budget proposal to reduce funding for FEMA disaster relief grants, which aid local governments

### **4. Pursue federal programs providing assistance and resources to distressed communities**

**Background:** In recent years, federal programs have been designed to support distressed communities, such as the Strong Cities, Strong Communities initiative, the Promise Zone Initiative and the National Resource Network. In 2014, the City of Stockton began participation in the National Resource Network through the "311 for

Cities” pilot program and initiated a technical assistance application through this Network in 2015. In addition, as noted above, the City of Stockton submitted an application in 2014 and 2016 for consideration for Promise zone designation. In 2016, the City of Stockton was named a finalist for Promise Zone designation, and while not selected as an awardee, will still receive assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development as a finalist. It is anticipated that the current administration will scale back programs like Promise Zones. However, existing funding allocations and staff commitments suggest opportunities for continued support to the City of Stockton related to this priority.

**Position:** The City of Stockton merits equitable consideration for Federal assistance as a municipality that has experienced significant distress in recent years. The City of Stockton has undertaken a financial restructuring effort to get our fiscal house in order. As such, we are in a position to leverage Federal assistance to enhance public safety, economic development and community quality of life. The City of Stockton should be considered as a strong candidate for existing or new Federal assistance programs such as those available through the National Resource Network, the Strong Cities, Strong Communities effort and the Promise Zones initiative.

**Action:** Advocate that the City of Stockton be given consideration in the development, offers for participation and award of Federal assistance programs to local governments. Advocate for programs and federal funding that would make projects viable that are consistent with the City’s Economic Development Strategic Plan. Advocate for access and preference related to federal grants consistent with the City’s Economic Development Strategic Plan. Advocate that Executive Departments facilitate the City’s application for future grants and special programs. Advocate for all resources available to Promise Zone Initiative finalists, including technical assistance and Americorps VISTA volunteers. Coordinate Promise Zone efforts with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and pursue additional federal grants.

## **5. Advocate for limited financial impact for Federal Regulations and Rule Making**

**Background:** In recent years, the federal government has increased regulations related to water, wastewater, stormwater and other federal oversight functions. Examples include storm water control measures issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and changes to the definition of waters of the United States proposed by the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers. These regulations have infringed on local control and could result in significant cost increases to municipalities. The Trump administration has shown interest in preserving local control for these issues.

**Position:** The City of Stockton seeks to ensure that water quality objectives remain relevant to our region and that control measures are feasible.

**Action:** Monitor rulemaking and regulations issued by federal agencies. Advocate for regulations that maintain local control. Advocate for rulemaking that would ease overly burdensome costs implications for municipalities. Advocate against legislation and rule-

making, in whatever form it may come, that creates infeasible control measures and regulations related to storm water.

## **6. Promote legislation and funding allocations that enhance educational outcomes in Stockton**

**Background:** Under the Trump Administration's proposed budget, the Department of Education is facing a reduction of 13.5%, which is the biggest funding cut the Department has ever experienced. The Administration also shifted funding and focus to charter schools, increased school choice, and non-traditional forms of school.

**Position:** Educational opportunities directly support economic development, public safety, and youth enrichment, which are critical to the community. The federal advocacy team will work with the City of Stockton to identify legislation and federal funding that will preserve and enhance educational opportunities for its residents.

**Action:** Support legislation that enhances educational outcomes and institutions in the community.

- Oppose legislation, federal regulations or funding reductions that would adversely impact educational outcomes for Stockton
- For example, the Administration's budget proposal eliminates \$3.7 billion for programs including teacher training, after school programs, and aid to low income students
- Advocate for early childhood education policy development
- Monitor Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) under the enhanced state template

**Action:** Target federal funding programs for educational development for the early childhood level, after school programs, and workforce training:

- Support Department of Education Title I grant programs
- The Administration's budget proposal increases funding for the Title I grant program by \$1billion
- Title I grant programs specifically assist schools with high concentrations of underprivileged children
- Oppose the Administration's Department of Education budget proposal that would remove \$1.2 billion from after school programs for children
- Oppose the Administration's Department of Labor budget proposal that would reduce jobs training programs for seniors and at risk youth

## **2017 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. 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.

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

Oppose reductions to federal agency programs that fund local government services, particularly in instances where communities have come to depend on federal funding to maintain services.

Support full reimbursement to cities for all federal mandates.

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

Oppose legislation that would negatively impact the City's ability to issue municipal bonds, including elimination of the tax exempt status for municipal bonds.

Oppose legislation that would eliminate or limit existing local taxing authority including internet sales tax collection and broadband internet taxes; support legislation that would protect local control of taxing authority and revenue collection.

Support legislation that would allow local discretion in expending PEG Access fee revenues; advocate in particular for legislation that identifies programming and operating costs as allowable expenditures.

### **3. Public Safety**

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

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

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

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

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

Advocate for federal funding for transportation and other infrastructure that support City projects and City programs including projects adopted in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Support increased funding to enhance existing public transportation programs.

Advocate for federal 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 federal 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.

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

Advocate for legislation that establishes a new, long term and secure transportation bill as opposed to continued short term extensions of MAP-21.

Advocate for legislative and federal funding in support of the Transportation Alternatives Programs.

Advocate for streamlining and greater efficiencies related to environmental restrictions and obstacles on major federally funded projects. Advocate for revisions to the transportation funding process to waive NEPA requirements in deference to State of California CEQA requirements.

Support executive actions or legislation that streamlines federal transportation and other infrastructure funding processes or the federal stimulus funding process, if applicable. Advocate to our delegation for legislative adjustments that would streamline the transportation and other infrastructure funding processes.

Support legislation or executive rule-making that balances scarcity of local infrastructure resources, scope of street resurfacing projects and the City's commitment to enhancing accessibility of City infrastructure. Advocate for revisions to ADA rules requiring extensive accessibility modifications on street resurfacing projects without capacity improvements or geometric changes.

Support legislation and executive programs providing funding or tax credits for broadband internet infrastructure to public facilities

Support legislation or executive programs that provide local communities with low-cost loans to build networks of sidewalks, bikes lanes and paths.

Support federal funding for parks and recreation infrastructure in metropolitan areas, including appropriate revisions to the Land and Water Conservation Fund that would provide for a larger allocation of state and local grants for recreation and conservation.

Support legislation and regulation that respond to recurring drought conditions and earthquake preparedness and provide increased opportunity for water conservation, storage, watershed planning, and water infrastructure improvement.

## **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 and funding that is consistent with the City's Economic Development Strategic Plan.

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 which addresses the health, welfare, and economic needs of older individuals.

Support federal funding of programs providing nutrition for children, older individuals and other at-risk populations.



Support legislation or executive programs that strengthen and expand environmental education and encourage partnerships between school districts, parks and other community based organizations in an effort to help children and families be more physically active in the outdoors.

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

Support legislation and funding for energy-efficiency and water conservation 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 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. Delta Protection and Enhancement**

Support legislation providing funding and other means for delta stewardship.

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

Oppose the construction of a Peripheral Canal or other isolated water conveyance facility in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Support legislation protecting existing water supply.

Support legislation that provides a mechanism to fund the construction, operations, maintenance, and administration of storm water programs and projects that improve quality, minimize runoff, maximize infiltration and beneficial uses, maximize flooding protection, and minimizes negative environmental impacts. Oppose legislation or regulation that imposes excessive costs on local governments to achieve storm water and other Clean Water Act objectives.

Support efforts that clarify the definition of the Primary Zone for the Delta as related to waterways. Advocate for the position that geographic sections of waterways can have distinct zone designations, specifically that portions of the San Joaquin River located in the Secondary Zone can maintain the classification of Secondary Zone. Currently the discharge area of the San Joaquin River for the Regional Wastewater Control Facility

(RWCF) is located in the Secondary Zone, but by interpretation the State of California designates the entire San Joaquin River as the Primary Zone because portions of the river are located in the Primary Zone.

Oppose changes to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan 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 storm water 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 storm water regulations.

Support legislation and regulations that encourage and recognize public and private investment in flood control and floodplain management. The City of Stockton has a long history of ensuring adequate flood protection and seeks to ensure that responsible development can continue once an area has been protected from flooding.