



**2020**

**LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

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## **CITY OF GOLETA 2020 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

### **Introduction. Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of the City of Goleta’s Legislative Platform is to intentionally promote the adoption of state and federal legislation that will establish sound public policy for responsible local governance; protect and enhance public health, safety and welfare; and aid the City’s delivery of high-quality services to its residents.

The Legislative Platform is intended to articulate the City’s positions on issues that are currently, or are anticipated to be, the focus of future legislation by the state or federal governments. Overarching positions include opposing any federal or state legislation that takes away local control and opposing any unfunded mandates.

The positions contained in the Platform are intended to supplement the broad range of goals, policies and programs reflected in the Goleta Strategic Plan, the General Plan, the Municipal Code and other adopted documents. Therefore, advocacy efforts may be based on references articulated in these policy documents as they provide current direction for the City organization.

City departments are authorized to review proposed legislation to determine how it relates to the City’s Legislative Platform and to recommend that the Mayor take a position on legislation that the department determines to be “high priority” and write letters, contact legislators, and otherwise communicate the position of the City as appropriate. The Mayor, or his/her designee, after conferring with City staff, may make contact with legislators to advocate for or against legislation which is consistent with the legislative platform.

## **Section 1. Governance, Transparency, and Labor Relations**

### **A. Employee and Labor Relations**

1. Support legislation that increases the transparency of all public employee compensation and benefits.
2. Support legislation that grants public pension and other post-retirement benefit reform that is fiscally responsible, sustainable, affordable, and equitable for employees and taxpayers in the long term.
3. Support legislation that streamlines the Workers' Compensation system and makes it easier for employers, employees, and health care providers to navigate.
4. Support legislation and policy that control escalating workers' compensation costs to public agencies and taxpayers.
5. Oppose legislation that limits a public sector employer's ability to conduct job related pre-employment inquiries and background checks in order to prevent physical, financial, economic and personal threats to employees and general public.
6. Support legislation that enhances tax-advantaged health saving accounts (HSAs) for employees.
7. Support legislation that enhances participation and promotes increased retirement savings in various types of deferred compensation plan.

### **B. Tort Reform**

1. Support legislation to limit local government liability.
2. Oppose legislation that limits power of local government to negotiate indemnification protections in public contracts.
3. Support legislation to reform California's tort system to curtail

unreasonable liability exposure for public agencies and restore the ability of public agencies to obtain affordable insurance.

C. Elections

1. Support legislation to reduce unnecessary and costly procedures for conducting municipal elections.
2. Support legislation that encourages and expands civic engagement and voter participation in elections.
3. Support legislation that lowers the threshold for passage of local special purpose agency funding propositions.

D. Public Records Act

1. Support legislation to improve data management systems and allow public agencies greater access to data.

E. Political Reform Act/Ethics/Conflict of Interest Laws

1. Support legislation and regulations that establish sound practices and principles related to political campaigns. Regulations that would restrict or preempt local authority are opposed.
2. Support legislation designed to improve and streamline the Political Reform Act and its implementation through regulations.
3. Support legislation that increases the transparency of all public official compensation and benefits.
4. Support legislation to revise laws governing local agency transparency and ethics when it addresses material and documented inadequacies and has a reasonable relationship to resolving those problems, is internally consistent, avoids redundancy, and accommodates the practical challenges of implementation.

F. Brown Act/Public Notice

1. Support legislation modernizing the methods by which a local agency may comply with public noticing, advertisement, and posting requirements related to agendas, hearings, resolutions, ordinances and other government matters.

## **Section 2. Housing, Community, and Economic Development**

### A. Housing

1. Support legislation that increases financial assistance to local governments, nonprofit housing organizations, and public/private partnerships to provide affordable, transitional, supported, and emergency housing to seniors, farmworkers and people with special needs, including people who are homeless or are at risk of experiencing homelessness.
2. Support legislation that increases the City's ability to effectively compete for state and federal housing funding.
3. Support legislation and grants that promote development and enhancement of safe, affordable, sustainable, and accessible housing within the City.
4. Support legislation that maintains local government's statutory authority to implement non-discriminatory housing occupancy limitations.
5. Support legislation allowing local jurisdictions to pool resources to meet sub-regional affordable housing goals.
6. Support legislation that provides the City with options in meeting its housing needs; and that would simplify the housing element review process.
7. Oppose legislation that cuts funding for affordable housing and services to vulnerable populations through programs such as HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).



## B. Land Use Planning

1. Support legislation that promotes environmentally sustainable land use patterns that maintain safe residential neighborhoods, bolster economic prosperity, preserve open space, and enhance the overall quality of life in the City of Goleta.
2. Support legislation that is consistent with the principle of local control and the local exercise of police powers over local land use.
3. Support legislation that would provide priority processing of Coastal Development Permits for critical needs, including affordable housing projects, public and quasi-public medical facilities and public safety facilities.
4. Oppose legislation that diminishes the City's discretionary ability to approve land use patterns and entitlement applications or restrict city permitting and land use planning authority including land use processes, decisions, and fees.
5. Oppose project entitlements in areas outside the City limits, but within the City's General Plan proposed sphere of influence that do not conform to current City standards.
6. Oppose legislation in areas outside the City of Goleta, such as the Santa Barbara Airport in the City of Santa Barbara, which may have negative impacts on the City of Goleta. Support legislation in these areas which may provide benefits to the City of Goleta.
7. Support legislation that retains the discretion of cities to prohibit or limit their own use of power of eminent domain to acquire property.
8. Support legislation that streamlines the California Environmental Quality Act, while supporting its goals.

## C. Regional Governance/Growth Management

1. Support legislation funding state and local investment in the physical infrastructure of California, including but not limited to, its roadways, bridges, railway systems, levees, dams, parks, libraries, public

safety facilities, jails, prisons, and systems for delivering and treating water, wastewater and storm water.

2. Support legislation to achieve fair and proportionate representation on statewide and regional boards.
3. Support legislation encouraging regional, sub-regional or countywide cooperation in planning urban development strategies in areas such as: transportation, air quality, affordable housing and conservation; especially those that provide funding for effective implementation of agreed upon goals.
4. Oppose legislation that mandates compliance of the City's local land use authority to regional, sub-regional, or Countywide plans.

D. Local Agency Formation Commissions' ("LAFCO") Policies

1. Support legislation that clarifies and redefines the sphere of influence concept to provide better planning for growth, development and service delivery while preserving agricultural and open space resources, discouraging urban sprawl, and coordinating local and regional planning.
2. Support legislation that enhances LAFCO's ability to mitigate fiscal impacts regarding "change of organization" proposals through tax sharing conditions.
3. Support legislation that provides for tax reform to mitigate negative fiscal impacts to local governments from past and present tax revenue shifts away from said local governments.
4. Support legislation aimed at creating equity in determining annexation matters.
5. Support legislation which amends the state's Revenue and Taxation Code so that counties are no longer allowed to block annexations in exchange for unreasonable property tax sharing agreements.

E. Economic Development

1. Support legislation that encourages economic development using criteria which is not limited to census tract-based eligibility.
2. Support legislation that enhances or expands community and economic development tools and funding to address revitalization and redevelopment needs.
3. Support legislation that will provide tools and incentives to support job creation and retention and address the infrastructure and jobs/housing needs and long-term affordability within the City and State.

## **Section 3. Transportation, Communication, and Public Works**

### A. Transportation

1. Support legislation to enhance the ability of local agencies to finance local transportation programs and facilities.
2. Support legislation that ensures the City of Goleta receives its fair share of transportation revenue.
3. Support legislation that provides increased state and federal funding for preservation and maintenance of local streets and roads and secures the maximum amount of state and federal funding for maintenance and construction of local streets, roads, infrastructure, transportation projects and major corridors.
4. Support legislation that reduces local reliance on local gas tax revenues for roads and streets improvements and proposes new alternative funding solutions with longer-term sustainability.
5. Support legislation protecting dedicated transportation-related tax revenues and funding for transit operations and maintenance.
6. Support legislation that provides funding for development of an integrated, comprehensive, and efficient multi-modal transportation network; this includes inter-county and intra-county highways, pedestrian and bicycle, mass-transit, commuter rail service, facilities and infrastructure within the region.
7. Support legislation that provides local agencies greater discretionary authority to expend available transportation funds.
8. Support legislation funding opportunities for transit and para-transit operations, including service for persons with disabilities as well as the senior citizen community.

9. Support legislation that encourages reform to expedite federal review and reduce delays in payment of local agencies and their contractors for transportation project development, right-of-way and construction activities.
10. Support legislation that increases administrative flexibility and offers streamlining reforms that assist cities with operating and maintaining the existing transportation network; this includes lobbying for consistency between the National Environmental Protection Act (“NEPA”) and the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) to alleviate redundant environmental review of transportation projects which will promote expedited project delivery.
11. Support legislation that ensures transportation infrastructure funding and does not jeopardize critical projects with each reauthorization.
12. Support legislation that allows for discretion on the part of traffic engineering professionals in setting appropriate speed limits rather than having to rely on prevailing speeds.

#### B. Water and Biological Resources

1. Support legislation to diversify the City’s water supply resources and improve water quality in the region.
2. Support legislation that would increase funding for infrastructure to distribute reclaimed water city-wide. Support legislation that calls for the conservation of water resources.
3. Support legislative policy development, funding, research, and implementation strategies based on scientific data and human/ecological risk assessment for addressing urban water and storm water runoff.

4. Support policy development, “watershed based” solutions, funding and research for addressing urban runoff and beach closures, which identify the sources of bacterial, viral and other contaminants as well as human pathogens.
5. Support legislation that would regionally retain any Regional Board fines that are levied against storm water permit violators within the Region.
6. Oppose legislative actions by Regional Water Quality Control Boards that impose mandates on cities that exceed state or federal regulations and/or are outside their jurisdictional authority to impose or enforce.
7. Support legislation and grants that promote wildlife, habitat protection, and preservation of endangered or threatened species, including care for injured wildlife.

C. Telecommunications and Utilities

1. Support legislation that preserves state and local authority to manage public rights-of-way including the appearance and aesthetics of equipment placed within it, zoning and planning for the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure that protects public safety and welfare.
2. Oppose legislation that pre-empts the city’s authority to negotiate compensation paid to cities for the use of their property and rights-of-way for telecommunications.
3. Support legislation that grants the ability of local governments to provide electricity and ancillary services to residential, commercial and industrial sectors.
4. Support legislation that grants cities’ authority to zone and plan for the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure.

5. Support legislation that protects cities' ability to maintain and manage the public right-of-way and negotiate compensation for its use.
6. Support legislation to specifically allow municipalities to use public-goods funds for development of renewable energy sources and require public utilities to improve and expand incentive structures for renewable energy generation.
7. Oppose legislation that erodes the ability of local governments to maintain existing fees on telecommunications services.
8. Support legislation that would result in lower energy rates for the residents and businesses of the City of Goleta including funding that assists with the conversion of outdated energy systems to new energy efficient options.
9. Support legislation that improves the reliability and consistency of electrical supply and improve transmission of electricity to local governments and their communities.
10. Support legislation that enhances the public power options available to local governments and oppose legislation that reduces the public power options available to local governments.
11. Support legislation that enables or encourages public utilities to mitigate and find alternatives to public safety power shutoffs.

D. Contracts

1. Support legislation that allows cities the option to use design/build contracting and other innovations designed to bring efficiency to the public contracting process.
2. Support legislation that preserves a minimum 5 percent retention for construction contracts.
3. Support legislation to maintain maximum local flexibility in the

area of contracting and contract negotiations.



## **Section 4. Community Services**

### **A. Parks and Recreation**

1. Support legislation and park bond measures that provide per capita grants to local governments that fund parks, recreation and capital improvements, as well as programs that enhance the quality of life for the City of Goleta residents.
2. Support legislation to develop regional and state parks and connecting trail systems.
3. Support legislation that increases funding to repair, maintain and develop state and local park and facility infrastructures.
4. Support legislation to monitor and protect Goleta Beach Park and to support kelp bed restoration in the Goleta Bay.

### **B. Facilities**

1. Support legislation and grants that provide for construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of public facilities.

### **C. Libraries**

1. Support legislation and grants that provide increased funding for library programs and services, construction, renovation, and development.
2. Support legislation that restores state funding for public libraries.
3. Support local legislation for additional funding for the Goleta Valley Library.

D. Arts, Cultural Resources and Historic Preservation

1. Support legislation providing funding for local arts activities and historic preservation.
2. Support legislation providing funding for high quality art programs in schools and for the community at large.

E. Family Services

1. Support legislation and grants that provide for the overall wellbeing and physical, mental and emotional health of the individuals within the City of Goleta including children, youth, seniors, and persons with disabilities.
2. Support legislation providing affordable universal access to health care.
3. Support legislation and grants that provide affordable, accessible, quality prenatal care and childcare services and assistance to low-income families.
4. Support legislation and grants that facilitate the provision of recreational activities for all segments of our population.
5. Support legislative reforms in healthcare policy that address prevention, promote health and wellness, and encourage affordability and cost containment.
6. Support legislation and policies that promote mental health and substance use disorder services and make resources available that support and assist members of our community.
7. Support legislation and grant programs that provide funding for youth programs, such as job training programs, after school programs, educational programs and those designed specifically for transitional and marginalized youth.

8. Support legislation and grants that provide services for senior citizens and individuals with disabilities; services will specifically include nutrition, housing, transportation, recreation, and social services.
9. Support legislation and local, state, and federal programs to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness by promoting mental health and substance use disorder services; providing emergency and transitional housing; expanding affordable permanent and supported housing; and promoting self-empowerment through counseling, job training, and other supportive services. add
10. Support legislation that addresses the needs of at-risk youth, juvenile offenders and juveniles that are placed on court-ordered probation.
11. Support legislation that provides funding at the local level to address gang prevention and intervention programs including after school programs for at- risk teens.
12. Support legislation that educates and protects children from tobacco, alcohol, cannabis, and other drugs.
13. Support legislation that encourages safe routes to schools including enforcement of school zone speed limits and expanded school zones.

#### F. Animal Welfare

1. Support legislation that facilitates responsible pet ownership.
2. Support legislation that supports humane treatment of animals and increases the penalties for animal abuse.

## **Section 5. Environmental Quality**

### **A. Climate Adaptation and Sustainability**

1. Oppose legislative infringement on local control and authority to plan for and adapt to future climate conditions, including sea level rise, precipitation patterns, temperatures, and air quality attainment strategies.
2. Support legislation that provides for continued funding and incentives to local governments to work together to improve air quality by reducing emissions and advancing economic development.
3. Support legislation that holds gross polluters (those which exceed current standards) directly accountable for increased emissions.
4. Support legislation that supports energy resiliency and programs to achieve state emission reduction targets, in addition to providing incentives and grants for their implementation.
5. Support legislation to increase state and federal funding for reforestation.
6. Support legislation that provides funding and other incentives for the installation of charging stations for “low” and “zero emission” vehicles.
7. Support legislation enhancing building energy efficiency standards and building safety standards.
8. Oppose legislation that diminishes the authority of local jurisdictions to enforce building codes, or mandate the manner of enforcement.
9. Support legislation that provides federal and state rebate programs, tax credits, and other financial incentives that encourage property owners to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy systems.

10. Support legislation to ensure that new construction and major renovations include smart meters, pre-wiring of buildings to accommodate future GHG- reducing retrofits such as solar hot water heaters, photovoltaic (PV) panels, or other distributed renewable power sources and metered charging outlets in parking areas for electric vehicles.
11. Support legislation that promotes the use of green building rating systems for new construction and existing buildings as one of several model options for achieving verifiable greenhouse gases emissions reductions and improving energy efficiency.

#### B. Oil and Gas Cleanup, Restoration, and Oil-Spill Prevention

1. Support legislation that results in the discontinuation of offshore unused or abandoned facilities, and the restoration of areas affected by existing or former oil and gas facilities within the City.
2. Support legislation that mandates a percentage of state revenue from onshore and offshore coastal leases be directed to the cleanup and natural restoration of those leaseholds, particularly those leaseholds that lie along Haskell's Beach, Ellwood Mesa, Sands Beach and Coal Oil Point.
3. Support legislation to fund oil-spill prevention and response as well as to remediate improperly abandoned legacy oil and gas wells, equipment and the Ellwood Onshore Facility.
4. Support legislation that would eliminate hydraulic fracturing.
5. Oppose legislation that grants any new oil drilling or well leases off the coast of California.

C. Solid Waste

1. Support legislation that expands the market for recyclable materials and encourages meeting state and local commercial recycling goals.
2. Support legislation that maintains and enhances local authority and flexibility to regulate solid waste and recyclables.
3. Support legislation that streamlines compliance and implementation of the Integrated Waste Management Act.
4. Oppose legislation that invalidates the Integrated Waste Management Act indemnification and/or prevent cities from negotiating indemnification clauses with waste haulers.
5. Support legislation that increases local funding to governments and special districts for the collection of household waste.
6. Support legislation that reduces the toxic and non-reusable waste load.
7. Support Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation to encourage manufacturers to design environmentally friendly products by holding producers responsible for the costs of managing their products at end of life.

## **Section 6. Public Safety**

### **A. Public Safety**

1. Support legislation to provide state and federal funding to support local law enforcement through equipment upgrades, capital improvements, training, and emergency preparedness initiatives.
2. Support legislation that provides a greater share of asset forfeiture funds for cities and increases latitude for spending local funds.
3. Support legislation that seeks to reimburse the City for the overtime costs associated with public safety personnel who are required to appear before state or county courts.
4. Support legislation that: a) promotes comprehensive drug and alcohol education and rehabilitation; b) discourages drivers from operating motor vehicles while under the influence of drugs or alcohol; and, c) maintains state funding necessary to post and operate sobriety and driver's license checkpoints.
5. Support legislation that seeks funding to assist local law enforcement with crime prevention and reduction.
6. Support legislation that provides flexible block grants to local governments that improve security and public safety at the local level.
7. Support legislation and grants that promote Crisis Intervention Team training for local law enforcement agencies in order to reduce arrests of people with mental illness and increase law enforcement's ability to do their job safely and effectively.
8. Support legislation that grants federal funding for first responder training and improved communications systems as part of Homeland Security.
9. Support legislation that mitigates the impacts of transferring state and federal inmates into our community.

10. Oppose legislation that eliminates local control of alcohol beverage establishments and any state or federal interference with local codes or compliance mechanisms.
11. Support legislation that promotes and increases vehicle, bicycle, scooter and pedestrian safety.
12. Support legislation that strengthens cities' authority to regulate business that serve as fronts for illegal conduct such as human trafficking and prostitution.
13. Oppose legislation that seeks to impose mandatory levels of cannabis business permitting.
14. Support legislation to reduce gun violence through measures such as enhancing background check requirements, prohibiting unlicensed transfers of guns through unregulated secondary sales, and increasing law enforcement's ability to trace crime guns.
15. Support legislation protecting the rights of residents of all national origins, races, ethnicities, religious beliefs, genders, gender identities, and sexual orientations to reside safely in our community, free from violence and intimidation
16. Oppose legislation that diminishes local authority to establish regulations regarding reasonable use of public space and appropriate behavior in public spaces.
17. Support legislation that enhances local control to regulate medical marijuana dispensaries, cooperatives, collectives or other distribution points.
18. Support legislation that increases the cannabis industry's access to banking systems and supports a consistency between state and federal regulation in this area.



19. Support legislation to develop processes and standards for evaluating impairment due to cannabis influence for drivers.

B. Emergency Preparedness

1. Support legislation, strategies and initiatives that provide increased state and federal funding for emergency preparedness, planning, response and recovery.
2. Support legislation that secures adequate frequencies and communications systems for multi-jurisdictional connectivity for public safety and protects the frequencies from intrusion.
3. Support legislation that increases Emergency Management Performance Grant funding which retains flexibility of fund usage for emergency preparedness training, disaster events and disaster communication outreach efforts.
4. Support federal, state, and local regulations that provide the highest levels of public health and safety in the transportation of hazardous materials.
5. Support legislation that ensures first responders can perform their duties during an emergency without interference from unmanned aerial systems (UAS) or drones, and legislation that provide local agencies immunity if responders damage or destroy UAS during emergency operations.

C. Crime Victims

1. Support legislation that strengthens and enforces legal protections for all individuals who are victims of crime, especially victims of family violence and sexual assault.
2. Support legislation that provides funding for shelters and victim advocacy, as well as trauma and crisis counseling to assist victims of violent crime.

## **Section 7. Revenue and Taxation**

### **A. Local Government Finance**

1. Support legislation that provides tax reform to mitigate negative fiscal impacts to local governments from past and present tax revenue shifts away from local governments.
2. Support legislation to change the terms of the Revenue Neutrality Agreement, including the tax sharing arrangements the state and local level.
3. Support legislation that grants full cost reimbursement to local agencies by the state and federal government for all mandated programs.
4. Support legislation that ensures the retention of existing local revenue sources, including the City's share of property taxes, sales and use taxes, transient occupancy taxes, vehicle license fees, development fees, etc.
5. Support legislation that authorizes a simple majority of the voters in a city to establish local priorities such as the right to increase taxes or issue general obligation bonds.
6. Oppose legislation, such as "maintenance of effort" requirements, that further limit cities' ability to administer their own revenues.
7. Oppose legislation that delays the payment of revenues due the City.
8. Support legislation that will enhance revenue for cities.
9. Support legislation that bolsters local authority to enforce local ordinances and tools to collect revenue associated with short-term vacation rentals.
10. Oppose legislation that undermines the City's ability to manage financial resources and limits decisions regarding the long-term

interests of local residents.

11. Support legislation which streamlines the creation and expands the applicability of Infrastructure Finance Districts as well as Enhanced Infrastructure Finance Districts.
12. Oppose legislation that threatens tax exemption for municipal bonds, including reinstating authority to issue tax-exempt advance refunding bonds

B. Property Tax Appeals Process

1. Support legislation that changes the property tax appeals procedures providing each public agency receiving property tax with the legal standing to appear and be heard at any property tax appeal affecting property tax revenue received by such agency.
2. Support legislation that would require the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration to inform local jurisdictions in a timely manner of Sales Tax disputes prior to the issuance of adjustments to the local jurisdictions Sales Tax payment