

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM – PLATFORM DEVELOPMENT MATRIX

The Legislative Platform is maintained by the Sparks City Council in support of its legislative program for a defined time. The Legislative Platform serves as a guidance document regarding the city’s advocacy position which serves to assist the Mayor, Council, City Manager and Government Affairs function in providing prompt and accurate responses to proposed legislation during the legislative process. This is particularly important during the state legislative process where time is often very short between a bill’s drafting and publishing and determining when a position is required by the local entity. Often it is impossible for the Council as a whole to properly meet and deliberate in a public forum to provide direction to the city’s lobbying effort.

The matrix below, is a prioritized list of platform issues derived from current state legislative discussions, as well as council priorities and citywide strategic goals. Platform issues in bold are new from the last approved document.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM ISSUES	
FINANCIAL STABILITY	
1.	General Government:
	a. Support legislation that enhances local government’s ability to control the community it is elected to lead.
	b. Oppose state legislation that requires the local entity to provide a service or benefit without appropriate, full funding or the ability to enact a funding source (no unfunded mandates).
	c. Support legislation that would allow for a local preference in government purchasing.
	d. Support legislation that provides local authority over raising revenue when supported by local electorate.
	e. Support legislative efforts to review and improve state revenue restructuring that does not negatively impact local government.
	f. Support legislation that protects local government revenues from state action.
	g. Oppose legislation that requires regional consolidation of services.
	h. Support public utility regulations that:
	i. Maintain local control over rights-of-way.
	ii. Provide compensation for the use of rights-of-way and overseeing public service standards.
	iii. Ensure public, educational, and governmental access is available and affordable. [Strategic Goal 4.1]
	iv. Provide free access for public information services and announcements. [Strategic Goal 4]
	i. Support measures that provide funding for community park facilities, open space, and recreation programs. [Strategic Goal 3.2.3]
	j. Support state and federal funding and legislation for the arts that benefit local communities.
	k. Support legislation that would enhance the efficiency of the Open Meeting Law and the electoral processes. [Strategic Goal 4]
	l. Oppose legislation that limits the city’s ability to grow services as demanded by the citizens (i.e., voter approved initiatives).

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m. Oppose legislation that rolls back property tax assessment levels resulting in limiting the city’s ability to maintain or grow services as demanded by the citizens (i.e., a Nevada version of California Proposition 13 and the Nevada Tax Restraint Initiative).

2. Regional and State-wide Issues: [Strategic Goal 4]

- a. Support efforts that reinforce local entity governance.
- b. Maintain a leadership position in mandated regional governance boards and commissions.
- c. Support efforts to stabilize the state tax environment.

3. Local Government Finance:

- a. Oppose state legislation that requires the local entity to provide a service or benefit without appropriate, full funding (seek self determination and more local authority).
- b. Support measures that safeguard existing revenue sources from pre-emption by the state, or county governments.
- c. Oppose any change by the state or county governments in revenue allocations (current or future) that would negatively affect local government, including the redistribution of taxes or fees.
- d. Oppose any measure that would limit local entities’ ability to issue or use voter-approved proceeds.
- e. Support measures that provide fiscal independence for cities and the retention of all existing local revenue sources. (2011 Nevada Legislature Interim Study)
- f. Support legislation that allows the city to maintain and/or control revenues related to franchises (i.e., gas, water, sewer, garbage, telecommunications, etc.).
- g. Support legislation that makes funds available to support the building, operations and maintenance of public facilities (i.e., facilities, parks, open space, etc.). [Strategic Goal 3.2.3]
- h. Support legislation that provides greater accountability on the part of counties for unincorporated residential services. [Strategic Goal 3]
- i. Support greater local authority for tax exemptions and incentives for purposes of economic development. [Strategic Goal 2]
- j. Oppose legislation that creates surcharges for state oversight of mandated programs.
- k. Support legislation for local governments to maintain and expand the use of special improvement districts. [Strategic Goal 2]
- l. Oppose legislation that would further exempt or reduce revenue from fees and taxes of for-profit or non-profit organizations within special improvement districts. [Strategic Goal 2]

4. Labor Relations:

- a. Oppose state legislation that requires the local entity to provide a service or benefit without appropriate, full funding (no unfunded mandates).
- b. Support legislation that improves access to, and reduces the cost of, healthcare for public employees.
- c. Oppose any measure that mandates the granting of new employee benefits which pose burdensome costs to the city (without forcing the issue to the bargaining table).

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d.	Support any measure granting employee benefits that mandate personal accountability components. Mandated personal accountabilities should include exclusion from the benefit for non-compliance.
e.	Oppose legislation that increases worker's compensation benefits without providing for concurrent cost controls.
f.	Support legislation that limits the ability of employees to receive worker's compensation benefits for occupational injuries and illnesses that result from stress, disciplinary action or performance evaluations, or consultations.
g.	Support legislation limiting employer liability if injury occurs due to employee negligence.
h.	Oppose changes to mandatory bargaining laws that negatively impact local government.
i.	Oppose legislation to include subjective complaints of pain in determining partial disability awards.
j.	Support changes in the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) to increase the ability to pay provisions from 8.3 to 16.6 percent
5. Tort Reform:	
a.	Support measures to reform Nevada's tort system to reduce or limit liability exposure for public agencies and restore ability of public agencies to obtain affordable insurance.
b.	Support legislation that recognizes or broadens immunities for public agencies.
c.	Oppose legislation that attempts to limit or restrict existing immunities for public agencies.
d.	Oppose legislation that limits local entities' ability to properly use eminent domain.
PUBLIC SAFETY	
6.	Public Safety: [Strategic Goal 1]
a.	Support legislation that strengthens local law enforcement. [Strategic Goal 1]
b.	Support measures that provide a greater share of seized assets to localities and increased latitude for local spending.
c.	Support legislation that allows local agencies to recover costs from guilty parties for public property and services in accidents involving driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
d.	Support legislation granting immunity to governmental entities and their employees for purposes of liability for those entities and employees who provide emergency medical instructions or treatment as a part of their public safety job duties.
e.	Support legislation that provides the delivery of local emergency medical service to its citizens if no other regional delivery system is available. [Strategic Goal 1.2]
f.	Support state homeland security legislation that assists in safeguarding the homeland as well as provides direct funding to cities and high-threat regions with populations less than 700,000.
g.	Oppose any broadening of access to law enforcement records.
h.	Support legislation that requires parents or legal guardians of minors to pay the cost incurred by offenses of those minors.
i.	Oppose legislation that directly or indirectly prohibits a fire department from

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	providing additional services to the public.
j.	Support enabling legislation that provides expanded utilization of non-sworn officers to issue nuisance citations.
k.	Support enabling legislation that provides local authority to impose mandatory court assessments to defray administrative cost of municipal courts.
REDEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT [Strategic Goal 2]	
7.	Redevelopment:
a.	Oppose legislation that restricts the Sales Tax Anticipated Revenue Bond program. [Strategic Goal 2.4]
b.	Support legislation that maintains and enhances redevelopment efforts. [Strategic Goal 2.3]
c.	Oppose legislation that prohibits or limits the establishment of new redevelopment project areas or expansion of existing project areas.
d.	Oppose legislation that limits or reduces the power of local entities to properly use eminent domain.
e.	Support legislation that enhances redevelopment agency authority and financing capabilities. [Strategic Goal 2.3]
f.	Support changes in redevelopment legislation that provides greater flexibility to redevelopment agencies to finance and participate in redevelopment projects. [Strategic Goal 2.3]
g.	Oppose legislation that diverts future revenues from redevelopment agencies to other public entities.
8.	Economic Development: [Strategic Goal 2]
a.	Support legislation that facilitates economic development efforts and encourages businesses to locate or remain in Sparks (2011 Session, AB 449). [Strategic Goal 2.1]
b.	Support legislation that facilitates expansion of Free Trade Zones (FTZs) in Sparks. [Strategic Goal 2]
c.	Oppose efforts to limit tax incentives that benefit the City and the State.
d.	Support legislation that assists in diversifying the economy of Sparks. [Strategic Goal 2.1]
e.	Support legislation that reinforces regional efforts to recruit and establish new businesses and industries in Sparks. [Strategic Goal 2.1]
f.	Support regional legislation that aids efforts by local and state tourism agencies to expand the opportunities for activities by visitors. [Strategic Goal 2.6]
g.	Explore legislation that provides for international economic efforts. [Strategic Goal 2.1]
h.	Explore legislative opportunities to bring technology to assist the city in economic recruitment (i.e., WiFi, DSL, fiber optics, broadband cable, voice over IP, etc.). [Strategic Goals 2 and 3]
i.	Support legislation that provides for retention of room tax revenue for local utilization in promotion and capital improvements. [Strategic Goals 2, 2.2, 2.3, 2.6]
9.	Housing and Community Development:
a.	Support legislation that provides assistance to homeowners in maintaining their mortgages against foreclosure by lending institutions.

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b.	Support legislation that provides incentives (tax benefits, grants, loans, credits for affordable units) to local agencies, private developers, and non-profit groups in order to rehabilitate residential units and commercial properties without using existing local government resources.
c.	Support the streamlining of state reporting.
d.	Support efforts to develop state participation, financial support and incentives (tax benefits, grants, loans) for programs that provide adequate, affordable housing (home ownership or rental opportunities for first-time home buyers assistance) for all economic segments of the community including the elderly, handicapped and low-income persons.
e.	Support legislation that provides additional funding for rental subsidy assistance programs (such as Section 8) via more vouchers or certificates.
f.	Support state participation in funding innovative housing solutions for low-income, elderly, and handicapped individuals.
g.	Support legislation that provides incentives for maintaining cultural resources, including historic housing stock.
h.	Support streamlined procedures for annexation of land within a city's sphere of influence.
i.	Support legislation that maintains city's control over the construction of facilities and/or structures within its sphere of influence (i.e., cellular towers, well heads, power lines, maintenance yards, etc.).
j.	Support legislation that encourages energy conservation (green building) design standards that do not overburden state and local governments with tax waiver incentives. [Strategic Goal 3.3.]
k.	Explore more effective methods for funding regional planning that does not take away from existing local government resources.
l.	Explore alternative models for regional planning implementation.
m.	Support legislation that ensures financial institutions or holding/asset management firms are responsive to code enforcement issues on bank owned properties.
<u>INFRASTRUCTURE and HIGHWAYS [City Wide Strategic Goal 3.2.]</u>	
10. <u>Transportation:</u>	
a.	Support measures that increase the ability of local agencies to finance local transportation facilities and infrastructure. [Strategic Goal 3.2.1]
b.	Support measures to finance local and regional transportation facilities and improvements, including alternative modes of transportation and traffic management systems. [Strategic Goal 3.2.2]
c.	Support legislation that provides for effective and efficient transportation alternatives. [Strategic Goal 3.2.2]
d.	Support legislation that provides for long-term planning and acquisition of rights-of-way (i.e., interchanges, connectors, frontage roads, etc.). [Strategic Goal 3.2.2]
e.	Support legislation that encourages emerging employment centers with the end goal of reducing commute miles. [Strategic Goal 3.3]
f.	Support legislation that provides funding sources for highway and transportation projects. [Strategic Goal 3]
g.	Support measures that safeguard our community and transportation networks from hazardous and toxic materials. [Strategic Goal 1]
h.	Support legislation to relocate and expand rail yard operations to enhance the local economy (economic development issue also).

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11. Public Works:

- a. Support legislation that provides greater flexibility regarding public works projects and funding sources. (i.e. new funding mechanisms utilizing existing state and federal revenues as well as new sources). [Strategic Goal 3]
- b. Support legislation that provides for well-planned, cost-effective infrastructure. [Strategic Goal 3.2.2.]
- c. Support legislation that maintains city control over its rights-of-way.

12. Flood Control/Water Management:

- a. Advocate federal, state, and local sources of on-going revenue to fund completion of the Truckee River Flood Management Project. [Strategic Goal 1.3.]
- b. Support legislation that retains control over local water supply, distribution, and reclamation.
- c. Support legislation for flood control management to mitigate loss of property and life.

13. Regional Planning

- a. Support legislation that maintains local control through policies governed by the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Governing Board (TMRPGB). [Strategic Goal 4.4.]
 - i. Seek potential amendments or revisions to existing TMRPGB legislation to clarify role, functions, addresses costs to local governments, and/or moves legislative mandates to local agency level.
- b. Maintain a strong working relationship with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA). [Strategic Goal 4.4.]
- c. Support state legislative review of current state department programs for environmental and wildlife preservation to improve responsiveness and reduce unnecessary regulations.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM — PROGRAM POLICIES

The legislative platform, as defined by the Sparks City Council, is the basis for the operational policies, procedures, and processes for the effective management of the city's government affairs program at the federal, state, and local levels.

The operational policies, procedures, and processes suggested to be reviewed and edited by the Council are as follows:

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM OPERATIONAL POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PROCESSES	
1.	<u>Platform Development and implementation</u>
	a. The Legislative Platform is to be developed by the City of Sparks City Council through consensus.
	b. In the interest of the timely operation of the 120-session of the Nevada Legislature, and during special sessions, the Sparks Legislative Team has full discretion to exercise their judgment in implementing the legislative platform which includes items that may not be addressed in the platform. (new language approved by council on 4/22/13)
2.	<u>Platform and Program Message</u>
	a. The approved Legislative Platform will be the guide in conducting discussions of legislative issues with Legislators.
	b. The approved Legislative Platform message will be coordinated through the Legislative Team as directed by the City Manager.
	c. No dissenting opinion on the approved Legislative Platform will be presented.
	d. City representatives, in either their elected or appointed capacity, will not lobby or testify on matters related to the city's Legislative Platform, policies and/or operations without first advising and/or coordinating the testimony with the Legislative Team.
	i. Any city representative who lobbies or testifies without coordinating with the Legislative Team may be disciplined, including censure.
	ii. Any city representative who speaks against any majority position of the council may be disciplined, including censure.
	e. The Legislative Team will be responsible to assist in determining the need for legislative testimony and will coordinate the proper city resources.
	i. City elected officials may be utilized to introduce Legislative Platform-driven legislative issues and emphasize their importance to the city.
	ii. Staff and/or contract representatives will be responsible to present the technical aspects of Legislative Platform issues to Legislators.
	f. The Legislative Team will be responsible to coordinate briefing schedules to communicate city issues and positions on legislative matters.
	i. Local government elected boards and staff.
	ii. State Legislators and staff (both Sparks and northern Nevada representatives).

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM OPERATIONAL POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PROCESSES

iii. State Legislature Leadership.