



City of Oxnard 2013-2014 Legislative Program

The foundation for the City's legislative priorities is based in the mission statement adopted by the Oxnard City Council in January of 2005:

"The City of Oxnard will have clean, safe, prosperous and attractive neighborhoods with open, transparent government."

The following Legislative Program was developed to enable the City to respond to pending state and federal legislation in a proactive manner. The Mayor (or Mayor Pro Tem in the Mayor's absence) would be authorized to sign correspondence expressing the City Council's position on legislation consistent with this Legislative Program and/or other positions approved by the City Council.

Staff would maintain direct and consistent contact with contracted state and federal lobbyists and monitor the League of California Cities' *Priority Focus*, California Water Association, and other sources to identify pending legislation that may impact the City. Letters expressing the City's position will be drafted for the Mayor's signature, with copies distributed to each Councilmember. Pending legislation not addressed by the Legislative Program or staff recommendations that deviate from the Legislative Program would be agendaized for City Council consideration.

Basic Principles

A. Local Control

1. Support legislation mandating that the state and federal governments provide full cost reimbursement to cities for all required programs and for all programs resulting in revenue loss to cities.
2. Support legislation that protects the ability of cities to recover the costs of mandated programs through fees that are exempt from Proposition 218.
3. Advocate legislation that enhances local control of resources and tools that assist the City Council to address the needs of City residents.
4. Oppose legislation that limits or interferes with City Council authority over local municipal affairs.
5. Oppose legislation that eliminates or restricts the taxing authority of cities over development; weakens existing Government Code section 66000 fee authority; or redefines any development tax, condition, or other monetary change as development fees.
6. Oppose legislation that mandates changes that interrupt the City's operations, services to the community, or impairs or weakens its infrastructure.

B. Local Budget

1. Advocate for state and federal funding supporting City infrastructure projects and City programs.
2. Support reforming the local government finance structure in a way that establishes long-term financial stability to assure future growth and provide needed public facilities and services.
3. Support discretionary revenue sources to cities over directed and limited sources.
4. Advocate for fair implementation and distribution of state infrastructure bond funds to assure the City has access to receiving an adequate share for local improvements and programs.
5. Oppose legislation that negatively impacts the City's fiscal viability by adding further financial burden through unfunded mandates.
6. Oppose legislation that reduces the City's revenue base.
7. Oppose legislation that cuts state or federal grant funding for existing programs and services, e.g., Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Time Sensitive/Specific Issues

A. Telecommunications

1. 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. Oppose legislation that diminishes or eliminates the collection of local franchise fees or diverts its collection by the federal or state governments.
3. Oppose legislation that authorizes "redlining" or "cherry picking" and precludes equal access to affordable cable television, Internet and digital services.

B. Transportation Needs

1. Advocate for state and federal transportation funding to construct critical transportation projects in the City of Oxnard, including the projects in the Port Intermodal Corridor (Rice Avenue/5th Street Grade Crossing, Hueneme Road Widening), and the Del Norte/101 Freeway Interchange.
2. Support increased funding to enhance existing public transportation programs.
3. Advocate for state and federal funding for street, road, and alleyway repair within the City of Oxnard.
4. Advocate for state and federal funding for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) projects that support the goals of SB 375 (Steinberg).

5. Advocate that fundamental responsibility for transportation decision making should be at the local level.
6. Oppose any state or federal reductions to existing transportation grants and programs, including Americans with Disabilities Act funding.
7. 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.

C. *Waste Management*

1. Support legislation that provides cities with financial assistance for programs designed to provide for the safe disposal of solid, hazardous, and special waste.
2. Support legislation that strengthens cities' ability to direct municipal solid waste flow to designated solid waste facilities.
3. Support legislation that streamlines AB 939 tracking and reporting requirements.
4. Support legislation that promotes recycling and expands the market for recycled materials.
5. Support legislation that encourages the innovative use of biosolids for regional beneficial uses, including, but not limited to alternative daily cover for landfills and soil amendments.
6. Oppose legislation that would restrict or limit the City Council's authority to franchise refuse and recycling collection services, to direct municipal solid waste flow, or to contractually require haulers to guarantee achievement of AB 939 goals.

D. *Water Resources*

1. Support legislation and funding to clean up contaminated soil and/or polluted water wherever found, including but not limited to, surface water, ground water, estuaries, or near shore ocean areas.
2. Support legislation and funding to abate sources of soil and/or water pollution wherever found, including septic systems, leaking underground fuel tanks, and agricultural and residential applications of fertilizers and pesticides.
3. Support legislation and funding to develop recycled water as an alternate water source, including treatment, storage, and distribution.
4. Support legislation and funding to develop brackish groundwater.
5. Support legislation and funding to manage groundwater and surface water salinity.
6. Support legislation and funding that encourages innovative and cooperative water resources projects that will be of regional benefit.

7. 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.
8. Support legislation to remove by 2016 regulatory, scientific, technical, and attitudinal barriers to direct potable reuse of recycled water as part of the solution to local water supply challenges.
9. Support legislation that encourages the development of consistent statewide water quality policies for the development and implementation of standards for impaired water bodies (303(d) listed), including Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) allocations, National Pollutant Elimination System (NPDES) permits, and monitoring programs.
10. Support legislation that establishes a fee-sharing program for general stormwater permits issued by the State Water Resources Control Board.
11. Advocate for amendments to the existing California Water Code to support local collection and discharge of groundwater.
12. Oppose legislation that would establish drinking water quality standards or treated water quality discharge standards without sound scientific basis.

E. *Economic Development*

1. Support actions that fully fund CDBG as a direct allocation to cities, with the broad objective of helping low and moderate income people.
2. Support legislation to reinstate and protect redevelopment as a tool to build needed infrastructure, develop and retain affordable housing and provide financing for local redevelopment and economic development programs.
3. Support the creation of an enterprise zone partnership with the City of Port Hueneme and the Port of Hueneme.
4. Support legislation to improve California's business climate by supporting new industry-specific workforce training and non-partisan research focused on strategies to make California a more attractive place to do business, while preserving environmental standards.
5. Support legislation to bring jobs in manufacturing and service sectors back to the United States (insourcing), while not compromising environmental standards.

F. Affordable Housing

1. Support legislation that provides financial support and incentives for programs that provide affordable housing for disabled and low-income residents, families, and senior adults.
2. Support legislation that protects and maintains existing affordable housing opportunities for disabled and low income residents, families, and senior adults.

G. Public Safety

1. Support legislation that allows use of state and federal public safety grants for intervention and prevention efforts to curb gang crime and youth violence.
2. Support legislation that would provide cities with a greater share of fines and forfeitures.
3. Support legislation that promotes the efforts of the Oxnard Police Department in its role to serve and protect the community with relevance to local enforcement.
4. Support legislation that allows law enforcement to better combat gun violence through investigation, interdiction, and prevention of firearm related crimes.
5. Support legislation that allows use of state and federal public safety grants for maintenance efforts in addition to service increases.

H. Land Use Planning

1. Support legislation that provides for shared land use determinations among counties and cities when the general plan of the city establishes a planning area consistent with Government Code provisions.
2. 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.

I. General Government

1. Support legislation that provides financial assistance for local public libraries without the imposition of new taxes
2. Advocate for federal stimulus funding to support City infrastructure projects and City programs.
3. Support legislation that limits libraries' contributions to the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund.
4. Support legislation that makes funds available to refurbish and improve parks.
5. Oppose legislation that reduces funding for libraries including public library funds.

6. Support legislation that makes funds available to upgrade, remodel existing libraries, and build new libraries.
7. Support legislation that improves library services.
8. Support legislation and programs that maintains or enhances funding for the Oxnard School District's school safety and intervention and preventions; oppose legislation which reduces funding to these programs.
9. Oppose legislation that reduces or restricts local authority to regulate public right-of-way.
10. Support legislation and funding for energy-efficiency projects and programs for public buildings and facilities.
11. Support legislation and seek funding for the needed construction, repair, and enhancement of the Santa Clara River levee system, *including SCR-3 Reach 4, the "GAP"*.
12. Support legislation and seek funding for the complete remediation of the EPA Superfund Site located on Perkins Road in Oxnard (former Halaco site).

J. Military Bases

1. Support legislation that provides funding or additional missions to the military bases in Ventura County.
2. Support the legislative efforts of the Ventura County Regional Defense Partnership for the 21st century (RDP-21).
3. Support legislation to add aircraft for the firefighting capability of the Air National Guard within Ventura County.