

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF 2024 CITY OF LOUISVILLE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

DATE: FEBRUARY 06, 2024

PRESENTED BY: SAMMA FOX, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

SUMMARY:

The legislative agenda serves as a guiding document for the City's engagement in legislative affairs prior to and during the legislative session. The proposed 2024 legislative agenda reflects the City's policy goals as well as local and regional policy issues of importance to the Louisville community. City Council provided feedback on the draft agenda January 16th, 2024 and it is now being brought forward for adoption. Once approved, staff will format and circulate the document to our legislative delegation members.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact related to this item.

PROGRAM/SUB-PROGRAM IMPACT:

One objective of the Governance & Administration Sub-Program is to provide governance based on a thorough understanding of the community's diverse interests executed through clear and effective policy direction.

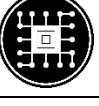
RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend City Council approve the 2024 Legislative Agenda.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. 2024 Legislative Agenda Redlined
2. 2024 Legislative Agenda Clean Copy

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT:

☐	 Financial Stewardship & Asset Management	☐	 Reliable Core Services
☐	 Vibrant Economic Climate	☐	 Quality Programs & Amenities
☒	 Engaged Community	☐	 Healthy Workforce
☐	 Supportive Technology	☒	 Collaborative Regional Partner

2024 City of Louisville Legislative Agenda

The 2024 City of Louisville Legislative Agenda will be used by staff and council as an advocacy tool when working with regional partners and our legislative delegation members. Louisville is dedicated to working together to make a long-lasting and meaningful impact in our community. We do this by creating a community of involvement, respect, and connection. We value our similarities and differences and invite people from all backgrounds and identities to join us in conversation and participation towards inclusion, equity, and belonging. These values permeate the 2024 Legislative Agenda.

Community Recovery and Resiliency

The Marshall Fire served as a sobering reminder that all communities in Colorado, regardless of socioeconomic status, must be prepared for climate disasters at all times. While the City continues to recover from the Marshall Fire, the community is working together to increase resilience and preparedness for the next disaster. Ongoing state action and investment is needed in order to mitigate future disasters and ensure our communities are prepared when disaster strikes. The front-end investment in community resiliency will reduce the state, local, and federal costs of the severe climate disasters we are experiencing today.

Positions:

- The City supports the taskforce to explore a statewide minimum building code for wildfire risk reduction that addresses the expansion of the wildland urban interface into the plains areas, consider suburban community building patterns, and establish a minimum standard that can be applied across various environments and exceeded based on specific geographic needs.
- The City supports increased wildfire mitigation funding for local communities in the plains areas to establish and maintain risk reduction measures on public lands.
- The City of Louisville supports insurance reform that helps residents be better prepared and able to recover from climate disasters, while promoting the homeowners', renter's, and landlord's roles and responsibility in securing insurance coverage. Examples of desired insurance reform include legislation that:
 - Reduces system-wide underinsurance
 - Improves the transparency of the coverage gap that a private property owner or renter has with their existing policy
 - Eliminates the practice of insurance companies requiring contents itemization in total losses to receive the contents' coverage stated in a policy
 - Supports regulating the loss ratio for property and casualty insurance so that premiums paid go to cover losses and do not become excessive
 - Supports exploration of reinsurance for disaster impacts
 - Addresses insurance availability to ensure community members have access to insurance
 - Supports the exploration of public insurance to address availability

CDPHE should establish standards for acceptable levels of contaminants in water systems, soils, homes, businesses and schools. Without these standards there is no FEMA reimbursement opportunity or insurance standards for coverage

Home Rule/Local Control

The City supports local control and municipal government home rule authority. In most cases, local problems are best addressed at the local level and the current authority and powers of municipal governments such as land use, zoning, personnel matters, sales tax, etc. should not be diminished. However, certain issues require statewide and multi-jurisdictional response, which are best addressed through early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with local municipalities.

Positions:

- The City urges state officials to respect Colorado's tradition of local control and allow municipal officials to address local problems at the local level.
- The City generally opposes state legislation that creates unfunded mandates on local municipalities without state funding or other sources of revenue. Unfunded mandates shift the cost burden of state mandates onto local governments, limiting a municipality's ability to provide locally identified government services.
- The City supports liquor ~~and~~, marijuana, psilocybin, and psychedelics licensing that allows for local decision-making and collaboration between local and state licensing entities, including but not limited to local opt-in provisions for any new permitting or licensing requirements.
- The City supports maintaining local government authority to regulate oil and gas development at the local level, and the establishment of state rules and regulations that reflect such authority.
- The City supports legislation that provides local governments with additional flexibility, resources, and/or guidance in meeting the challenges of ensuring technology and digital resources are fully accessible.

Tax and Finance Policy

The City supports a fair and consistent state tax policy that preserves and expands the authority of local governments and opposes state exemptions that erode municipal sales taxes, use taxes, property taxes, and other revenue sources.

Positions:

- The City supports fiscally responsible government spending, but believes it is important to address the layers of constraints on state and local government budgets resulting from the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR).
- The City supports equitable sharing with municipalities of existing and future state revenues derived from state-collected, locally shared revenues, such as the Cigarette/Tobacco/Vaping Tax, Highway Users Tax Fund, Lottery funds, and Marijuana tax funds.
- With the repeal of the Gallagher Amendment and new tax cuts and exemptions, the City believes it is critical to maintain ongoing residential and commercial property taxes to preserve public service revenues to the state, local governments, fire districts, schools, health providers, and others dependent on property taxes to deliver essential services.

Municipal Administrative Services

The City's administrative services help ensure a high-performing government, including the effective and efficient use of taxpayer funds in providing City services. This includes information technology, human resources, records management, elections, and general government administration. The City supports efforts to ensure that these services can be delivered in a transparent and cost-effective manner.

Positions:

- The City supports increased funding and resources to elevate cyber-security prevention, response, and recovery/rebuilding when attacks occur.
- The City has implemented accessibility measures that assist persons with disabilities in accessing City information and services, as required by HB21-1110. The City supports accessible digital communications but opposes unfunded mandates on local governments without reasonable opportunity to remediate complaints.
- The City supports the exploration of an accessible database to facilitate information and data sharing between the state and municipal courts.

Public Health and Safety

The City supports law enforcement and municipal court policies that ensure public health and safety, thereby improving the quality of life in partnership with the community.

Positions:

- The City supports state-level actions to address gun violence. While regional and local legislation can be effective in reducing gun violence, state action is needed to improve safety and regulatory consistency across jurisdictions.
- The City supports access to quality and affordable healthcare for residents and businesses across Colorado.
- The City supports continued efforts to improve municipal court and law enforcement practices and further refinement of such changes to ensure that victims are adequately protected in areas including, but not limited to, deterrents/prevention of crime, enforcement, and property crime.
- The City supports statewide efforts to expand mental/behavioral health services, reduce barriers to care, and provide funding to support such initiatives. This includes additional assistance for law enforcement to address community-wide mental health impacts, and mitigate the costs for healthcare and mental health services for persons in custody.
- The City opposes legislation that would prohibit the use of red light cameras and speed radar.

Energy/Environment

The City supports legislation to address climate change by improving energy efficiency, increasing the use of cost-effective renewable energy, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels while maintaining the reliability and resilience of energy delivery and local control.

Positions:

- The City supports the state's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through reduced energy consumption, increased use of clean energy and transitioning away from fossil fuels including efficient and alternate transportation options.
- The City supports statewide policies that reduce overall energy demand and consumption, while preserving and expanding local governments' ability to reach their sustainability and climate action goals including but not limited to efforts to reduce waste such as recycling and composting, and water conservation.
- The City supports the improvement/preservation of air quality, renewable energy production and emission reductions through legislative, administrative, and regulatory actions.
- The City supports state efforts to reduce noise impacts and air pollution, and led pollution associated with local metropolitan airport activities.

Transportation

Colorado's transportation infrastructure, which connects our communities and facilitates the movement of people and goods, is essential to the economic vitality of our state and necessary to maintain the high quality of life enjoyed by Coloradans. Appropriate investments in transportation, as one of the largest sectors of greenhouse gas emissions, also further the City's energy and environment goals.

Positions:

- The City supports ongoing state and federal funding sources for transportation projects, such as the CO 42 corridor and South Boulder Road, that provide funding for the maintenance of existing infrastructure, multimodal improvements, and other investments that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- The City supports regulation and investments that accelerate transportation electrification and other innovative transportation technologies that reduce emissions and congestion.
- The City supports investments that enhance safe and convenient multimodal transportation, including Complete Streets which increase transportation options, improve mobility, and reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions, and Vision Zero strategies which improve safety. The City also supports funding for the design and construction of pedestrian underpasses, which achieve many of the goals of Complete Streets and Vision Zero programs.
- The City supports funding for the construction and operation of the Northwest Rail line and the Front Range Passenger Rail to expand multi-modal transportation in the northwest metro region. The City also supports ensuring rail services along this line include stops in Louisville, supporting the much-delayed obligation of RTD for transit investment in our community.
- The City supports full restoration of transit services that were reduced or cut by the Regional Transportation District (RTD) during the COVID pandemic.
- The City opposes efforts to divest state-owned roads to municipalities without adequate short and long-term funding to meet additional maintenance and operational responsibilities.

Utilities, Telecommunications and Broadband

The City supports policies that protect Colorado's natural resources and allow the City to maintain facilities efficiently, allowing for reasonable and equitable rates while maintaining optimal quality. The City also supports the local authority to manage all matters related to local telecommunications policy, cable franchising, wireless communication facilities, broadband deployment, public safety communications, rights-of-way management and government access channels.

Positions:

- The City supports the inventorying and protection of water rights, including the protection of municipal water.
- The City supports appropriate water conservation efforts and sustainable water resource management practices by all users.
- The City supports efforts to improve water quality through compliance with state and federal regulations.
- The City supports state policy for consumer protections of utility customers, including broadband customers.
- The City opposes state and federal efforts that complicate deployment of small cell and other wireless infrastructure and create unfunded mandates on local governments and supports federal and state actions removing these preemptions of local control.
- The City supports state efforts to determine the most effective ways to distribute federal funding to promote broadband deployment and equity in the availability and accessibility of broadband services to all Coloradans.
- The City supports state policy and funding to improve public safety telecommunications.
- The City supports the clarification that franchise fees do not include in-kind franchise obligations and supports the repeal of FCC action that creates these limitations on local franchising authority.

Land Use, Development and Revitalization, Housing

The City has a long-standing commitment to managed growth. The City believes strongly that local control and land use planning enhance our ability to meet the goals/mission of the City Comprehensive Plan and improve the overall quality of life. In addition, the City is working to redevelop and revitalize certain areas within the community, and appropriate urban renewal tools must be preserved to support these efforts.

Positions:

- The City supports policies and investments that improve the coordination of land use and transportation, and regional cooperation in land use planning and economic development activities.
- The City supports increased local government funding for the statewide expansion of affordable housing.
- The City supports increased local government and community engagement and impact analysis around the expansion and development of airports.
- The City supports enhancements to Colorado Urban Renewal law that do not unreasonably restrict the use of tax increment financing or eminent domain for redevelopment projects.
- The City supports legislation that encourages and facilitates historic preservation and rehabilitation.
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