

I. City of Whittier and Whittier Utility Authority Legislative Philosophy

As a rule, the City Council of the City of Whittier, both in its role as City Council and as the Board of Directors for the Whittier Utility Authority (WUA), respect the role of the State legislature in setting laws and regulations for the State of California as a whole. In general, Whittier practices a philosophy of non-interference with responsibilities outside of local government purview and in turn emphasizes an overarching philosophy preserving local control.

II. Purpose and Procedure

The City and WUA Legislative Platform states the City Council and Board of Directors position on current issues with the potential to impact the City or WUA. Staff will monitor legislative issues and communicate the City's interests in conformance with the legislative platform and City Council's adopted Strategic Goals. When local interests may be impacted by legislative initiatives, staff will communicate with elected officials and their staff; monitor and communicate with similarly positioned cities and organizations, and provide written communication as appropriate. In some instances, letters expressing the City's legislative position may be drafted for signature of the Mayor (or Mayor Pro Tem in the absence of the Mayor, or City Manager if Mayor Pro Tem is unavailable). These activities do not preclude additional City Council discussion of legislative, regulatory or budgetary proposals throughout the legislative sessions.

III. City Council Strategic Goals

- A. Provide for Public Safety
- B. Ensure Long-Term Financial Stability
- C. Maintain and Enhance Quality of Life
- D. Transparent and Open Government
- E. Promote a Strong Local Economic Base

IV. Guiding Legislative Principles

- A. Preservation of Local Control
- B. Local Fiscal Responsibility
- C. Support Funding Opportunities
- D. Enhance Quality of Life

V. City of Whittier Legislative Policy Statements

1. Administration, Finance and Human Resources
 - a. Oppose Regional/County, State or federal efforts to borrow local revenues
 - b. Support local government action rather than the imposition of mandates on local governments, or federal mandates places on the state
 - c. Oppose legislation that imposes mandated costs for which there is no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits

- d. Support maximum flexibility for local governments in contracts and contract negotiations
 - e. Support open government initiatives as well as the principles of open meeting provisions of the Brown Act at all levels of government
 - f. Support legislation that preserves local government authority to administer appropriate elections for their jurisdictions
 - g. Monitor legislation pertaining to e-cigarettes and cannabis
 - h. Monitor and evaluate legislation related to tax apportionments and Proposition 13
 - i. Oppose amendments to the redistribution of sales and use taxes that negatively affect the City and its ability to provide services (and thereby cause a negative fiscal impact)
 - j. Oppose measures to withhold funding unless proposed housing goals are met
 - k. Support full funding of the Public Library Fund and other local public library programs
 - l. Oppose measures that reduce local control over employee relations issues or circumvent the good faith bargaining process
 - m. Support legislation to require prior notice before filing an access-related lawsuit under the Americans with Disabilities Act
 - n. Support legislation that provides policy or financial support for the adopted priorities and goals of the City Council, for the City's adopted General Plan and Housing Element, or for other policy directives established by vote of the City Council
 - a. Support legislation requiring State and Federal Government to provide full cost reimbursement to cities for mandated programs that impact revenues
 - b. Support legislation that protects current local government revenue sources from being taken, confiscated, diverted or otherwise used to fund state or federal government operations and responsibilities
 - c. Support legislation that ensures the sustainability of public pension and retirement health benefits, consistent with League of California Cities' adopted sustainability principles
2. Economic Development, Land Use and Public Works
- a. Support efforts to attract, retain and provide resources for current and future commercial and industrial businesses
 - b. Support economic development tools for infrastructure and economic development
 - c. Support policies that provide for regional collaboration and joint leveraging of resources for economic development
 - d. Support policies, programs and regulations that diversify Whittier's economic base and facilitate investments that will grow or maintain local jobs
 - e. Support initiatives that preserve and enhance the local business climate and grow the economic base
 - f. Support programs that provide funding for hazard mitigation projects
 - g. Support programs that provide funding for historic preservation and reuse
 - h. Support initiatives that maintain and enhance local control over solid waste and recyclables
 - i. Support legislation that increases the availability of, and funding for, groundwater treatment

- j. Support efforts that allow local governments to retain authority over local projects, including the authority to reject, amend, condition, or propose mitigations
 - k. Support local authority to determine safe, affordable housing development at all income levels, including the authority to propose mitigation measures that meet local community needs and expectations
 - l. Oppose measures that undermine adopted general plans, zoning codes and housing documents
 - m. Oppose measures that interfere with local control over permits and permitting timelines
 - n. Support legislation that would increase funding for local transportation projects including road resurfacing projects, local transit projects, adding bicycle lanes, sidewalks and trails throughout the city where appropriate, programs that facilitate development-oriented transit and transit-oriented development and enhancing pedestrian safety.
 - o. Support increased State and Federal funding of transportation improvements with regional or subregional benefits for all modes of transportation.
 - p. Support protection of dedicated transportation-related tax revenues and enhance the ability of local agencies to finance local transportation programs and facilities.
 - q. Support legislation and policies to lessen the financial impact of state and federal unfunded mandates for air, groundwater and storm water compliance requirements
 - r. Support measures that preserve groundwater protection and remediation of contaminated groundwater
 - s. Support legislation and regulation that protect WUA landfills and wastewater facilities as essential public services
 - t. Oppose infeasible performance standards, fee increases unless substantiated with data, and unreasonable operations restrictions
 - u. Oppose legislation and other efforts that would increase costs to Whittier Utility customers without direct, substantiated, equitable benefit to Whittier customers.
 - v. Oppose legislation that would erode local control over WUA properties and operations Support state and federal funding and legislation that will result in approval or funding for WUA infrastructure projects
 - w. Support the preservation of locally determined methods and standards for customer service, notification procedures, and initiation, interruption and termination of service.
 - x. Oppose legislation that would shift the cost burden for imported or local water resources without compelling justification
 - y. Oppose legislation that imposes undue hardship on local agencies to implement environmental regulations
 - z. Oppose efforts to mandate a state water public benefits charge unless funds remain within the local community
3. Parks, Quality of Life and Public Safety
- a. Promote local control over policies related to parks and recreational programs and facilities
 - b. Support legislation and initiatives that seek to correct unintentional adverse community impacts of AB 109, Prop 47 and Prop 57
 - c. Oppose legislation and proposals that weakens authority over local public safety responsibilities, including public safety reforms that change sentencing procedures,

provide for early-release without sufficient community supervision, or otherwise negatively impact the ability of law enforcement to address community quality of life and safety concerns

- d. Support local control over adult entertainment facilities, problem alcohol establishments and properties where illegal drugs are sold.
- e. Support local control for the regulation of cultivation, storage, manufacture, transport and use of medical marijuana.
- f. Support legislation increasing resources and local authority for abatement of public vandalism, including graffiti
- g. Support the use of Homeland Security Funds for local law enforcement agencies as first responders.
- h. Monitor legislation on implementation of best practices regarding law enforcement procedures.
- i. Advocate for the safeguarding of State asset forfeiture funds for law enforcement training and equipment.