

# CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

*(Priorities are listed by category, in alphabetical order for ease of reading. There is no ranking of the categories)*  
2019-2020 State Legislative Session and the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress

The legislative priorities guide the advocacy efforts of the Legislative Affairs team, which is comprised of City staff and the City's Sacramento lobbyist. The team works collaboratively to safeguard the City's interests and advance its strategic goals. The legislative priorities take into consideration the City's Mission Statement, Core Values and the Vision 2020's Primary Strategic Goals (PSG) and/or Ongoing Strategic Programs (OSP).

### MISSION STATEMENT

*"As a premiere city, we are proactive in responding to the unique needs of our diverse community, creative in finding solutions to managing our urban environment, and dedicated to preserving and enhancing its well-being. We strive for quality in all our actions, setting the highest goals and standards".*

### CORE CITY VALUES

#### ***Respect and Support for People***

We recognize and celebrate the diversity of our community by treating all individuals with respect for their personal dignity and providing a wide array of specialized services. We promote mutual respect, courtesy, and thoughtfulness in all interactions.

#### ***Responsiveness to the Public***

We hold ourselves accountable to the members of our community and are committed to actively seeking public participation. We promote a public process whereby we can respond to the community's needs while balancing competing interests and diverse opinions.

#### ***Idealism, Creativity and Innovation***

We value our artistic richness and support idealism and creativity. We are dedicated to consistently finding innovative and better solutions to provide the best public service possible.

#### ***Quality of Residential Life***

We maintain a balanced sense of community by protecting quality of life, conserving our historic neighborhoods, safeguarding housing affordability, and proactively governing growth with care and thought.

#### ***Promote Economic Development***

We recognize that economic development is essential to maintaining quality of life for the total community. We support an environment where our diverse and eclectic businesses can flourish and seek mutually beneficial relationships with the business community.

#### ***Public Safety***

We protect the personal safety of our constituents and safeguard the community from the threats of natural, technological and other man-made hazards. Through preparation and planning, we minimize the effects of these disasters.

## ***Responsibility for the Environment***

We make it our responsibility to protect and improve our natural and built environments, pursuing opportunities to preserve and create open and green space in our urban setting. We initiate partnerships with other cities and agencies to address regional and global environmental challenges.

### **PRIMARY STRATEGIC GOALS**

- **Maintain the City's Unique Urban Balance with Emphasis on Residential Neighborhood Livability**
  - Recognize diverse and competing interests, and work to find balance.
- **Develop Parking Opportunities**
  - Explore the creation of off-street parking opportunities near all business districts.
- **Affordable Housing**
  - Protect and enhance affordable housing opportunities, with emphasis on Rent Stabilization laws.
- **Fiscal Sustainability**
  - Monitor, protect and increase City resources.
- **Enhance City Parks and City Library**
  - Expand and Enhance City's Green and Public Spaces
  - Complete the Park(s) Master Plan process and Library Project,
  - Create and encourage more public spaces wherever feasible.

### **ONGOING CITY STRATEGIC PROGRAMS**

- **Adaptability to Future Change**
  - Through strategic planning anticipate and plan for the future to ensure that we are providing relevant programs and policies.
- **Institutional Integrity**
  - Maintain and enhance government integrity in all City operations and the efficient delivery of services.
- **Promote Economic Development while Maintaining Business Vitality & Diversity**
  - Recognize the strength of our diverse business economy.
- **Upgrade Existing Buildings & Infrastructure**
  - Recognize the need to shore up aging housing and make other private improvements, as well as invest in the City's infrastructure.
- **East Side Revitalization**
  - Through the Community Director's Commission and the PAC, continue to explore opportunities to enhance the East Side.
- **Transportation System Improvement**
  - Work to improve vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic.
- **Adaptability To Future Change**
  - Through strategic planning, anticipate and plan for the future to ensure that we are providing relevant programs and policies.
- **Institutional Integrity**
  - Maintain and enhance government integrity in all City operations.

- **Community Education**
  - Encourage civic engagement through public outreach.
- **Actively Participate in Regional Issues**
  - Effectively work and partner with our neighboring governmental agencies.
- **Support People through Social Services**
  - Continue and expand social services programs as appropriate to needs and changing demographics.
- **Value and encourage the broad diversity of cultures**
  - Provide an environment that nurtures the variety of ethnicity, age and sexual orientation that uniquely defines the West Hollywood.
- **Collaborative Public Safety**
  - Promote traditional and non-traditional approaches to public safety; recognizing diversity and community involvement.
- **Enhance Technology and Access for the City and its Citizens**
  - Recognize the need to maintain City's technology infrastructure and expand access of resources to our citizens.
- **Enhance and Expand Disability Access throughout the City**
  - Encourage greater awareness and implementation of the American with Disabilities Act regulations.

## **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

### **ANIMAL WELFARE (AW)**

The City's concern for the well-being of animals dates back to the first years of Cityhood and is a priority aligned with the City's core values. The City of West Hollywood is "cruelty-free" and is the first City in North America to prohibit the practice of declawing. The City has also supported many legislative initiatives that advance a more humane treatment of animals.

- AW 1: Support legislation for the prevention of cruelty to animals.
- AW 2: Support legislation that creates mechanisms to prevent the adoption of animals for a certain number of years by persons convicted for violations to California statutes on animal cruelty.
- AW 3: Support legislation and policies that improve animal welfare.
- AW 4: Address the needs of individuals with companion and service animals following a major disaster or emergency.
- AW 4: Continue to advocate for the humane sheltering of animals and the development of additional animal care and control facilities in the Westside of Los Angeles County.
- AW 5: Support a statewide ban on the sale of animal fur and products containing fur.

## **STATE BUDGET (SB)**

The legislative affairs team monitors the State budget as soon as it is released in January of each year and then provides comments to the City's State representatives on particular items that are of interest or concern to the City.

- SB 1: Support State budget that includes funding for social and human services to address the needs of vulnerable communities such as persons with mental health and disabilities, individuals experiencing homelessness, frail seniors, and low-income working families.
- SB 2: Support State budget that funds the development of new public infrastructure and the maintenance of roadways and public facilities.
- SB 3: Support State budget that includes funding for affordable housing for very low, low, moderate income families.
- SB 4: Support State budget that funds food and nutrition and education support programs for low income families.

## **CANNABIS (C)**

The City of West Hollywood was among the first cities in the country to support medicinal cannabis and California Proposition 215 in 1996. The City has also supported California Proposition 64 in 2016, which legalized the sale, possession, use and cultivation of cannabis.

- C1: Support legislation that protects local governments' discretionary authority to regulate cannabis businesses.
- C2: Support legislation for the reclassification of cannabis and its removal from Schedule I of the U.S. Controlled Substances Act (CSA) of 1970

## **EDUCATION (ED)**

The City of West Hollywood has long advocated for adequate funding levels for education, supported public education and legislative initiatives to protect all students from harassment and discrimination.

- ED 1: Support legislation that improves safety in schools.
- ED 2: Support legislation that ensures an educational environment that eliminates discrimination and harassment of students.
- ED 3: Support legislation that will provide funding for improvements to public schools that directly benefits and enhances students' education, including curriculum, instructional materials, and infrastructure needs.

ED 3: Support career technical education in public schools.

ED 4: Support legislation and funding for the restoration and/or enhancement of arts programs in public schools.

### **EMPLOYMENT /ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (EM/ED)**

The City of West Hollywood has advocated for legislation that fund training programs for Californians. In addition, the City has advocated for raising the California and federal minimum wage rates.

EM/ED 1: Support legislation that will increase job opportunities in the City and throughout the State.

EM/ED 2: Support legislation that increases the federal minimum wage.

EM/ED 3: Support programs to provide training for job entry and career advancement that will enable City residents to enter the job market and progress to higher-paying, higher-skilled jobs that lead to self-sufficiency.

EM/ED 4: Support legislation that assists workers in balancing home/family/work, including appropriate sick leave and paid family leave benefits.

### **LGBTQ EQUALITY (LGE)**

The City of West Hollywood is home to a large LGBTQ population and has been a leading advocate for full equality. It is one of the first municipalities in the world to implement a domestic partnership program, well before any government had considered treating LGBTQ people equally.

LGE 1: Support legislation locally and at the State and federal levels that assures everyone the right to equal treatment in all government-sponsored benefits or funded programs.

LGE 2: Support legislation at the State and federal levels to protect the civil, fair housing, and equitable employment rights of all persons.

LGE 3: Support legislation that prohibits conversion therapy aimed at LGBTQ people.

LGE 4: Support legislation that protects transgender persons from discrimination.

## **FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY (FS)**

The City of West Hollywood has exercised fiscal prudence and successfully managed its financial affairs. The City has made it a priority to maximize revenues and keep liabilities in check. As such, the City has enjoyed very high credit and bond ratings.

- FS 1: Support legislation that strengthens and expands ongoing revenues for the City.
- FS 2: Oppose any legislation or initiative that would undermine voter-approved initiatives to guarantee ongoing revenue sources for local governments.
- FS 3: Monitor the State’s implementation of changes in State/local fiscal relationship.
- FS 4: Oppose legislation that undermines and preempts local authority over local taxes and fees.
- FS 5: Support legislative reforms that would remove unwarranted, State-imposed mandates or barriers in the execution of local government programs.
- FS 6: Support legislation to streamline the process for state reimbursement of State-imposed mandates.
- FS 7: Identify and pursue potential funding sources for City projects, services and infrastructure needs, including libraries, parks, recreational facilities, etc.
- FS 8: Monitor the actions of CalPERS as it relates to any changes in the calculation of state and municipal workers’ pension benefits that could potentially impact the fiscal sustainability of the City.

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)**

One of the drivers behind incorporation was the desire by many community members to have discretion over revenues and how those revenues were invested. The City Council has, since the City’s incorporation, committed to funding health and human services, above and beyond of what is expected from or legally required of municipal governments.

### **Health Services**

- HHS 1: Support local and State efforts that encourage use of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine to protect young people against the HPV virus.
- HHS 2: Support legislation that promotes and protects women’s reproductive health and personal choices.

- HHS 3: Support legislation and funding to provide outreach, education, prevention and treatment for HIV/AIDS and related health and welfare issues, e.g. hepatitis C and needle exchange programs.
- HHS 4: Support legislation that funds preventative health care services.
- HHS 5: Support federal efforts to preserve the right of terminally or chronically ill patients to use medical cannabis.
- HHS 6: Oppose legislation that would reduce access to affordable medical care.
- HHS 7: Oppose legislation that repeals or further dismantles the Affordable Care Act (ACA).
- HHS 8: Support legislation that aims at making prescription medications more affordable.
- HHS 9: Support legislation and funding for programs that provide for the medical care of undocumented immigrants.
- HHS 10: Continue to support legislative efforts for the enactment of a “single-payer” health system in California and the United States.

### **Human Services**

- HHS 11: Support legislation and funding that enables seniors and people with disabilities to remain in their homes and that provides needed social services, and allowing modifications to existing dwellings, and/or moving to units within same buildings without changes to terms of tenancy to accommodate ambulatory restrictions
- HHS 12: Support legislation to assist at-risk youth.
- HHS 13: Support legislation that will increase State and federal funding for the care of injured and disabled veterans of all ages.
- HHS 14: Support legislation that addresses the need for housing and supportive services, e.g. health, mental health and substance use disorder services and social services for the City’s homeless population.
- HHS 15: Support legislation, programs and policies that focus on alleviating hunger locally, nationally and internationally.

- HHS 16: Support legislation that encourages policies and programming that promote healthy lifestyles; e.g. physical activity, preventative screenings, healthy eating habits and core wellness for people of all ages and abilities.
- HHS 17: Support legislation to increase funding of and access to community health, mental health and substance use disorder treatment services.

### **HOUSING & RENT STABILIZATION (H/RS)**

This is another priority area that is a quintessential part of the City's history. As the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles voted to end rent control in 1984, area seniors, LGBTQ people and tenants, faced with massive evictions, rallied and organized a successful city incorporation drive in 1984.

- H/RS 1: Support legislation and funding that encourages the production of a diverse housing stock in new developments to address the needs of all socio-economic segments of the community.
- H/RS 2: Support legislative, administrative and regulatory efforts that will expand and/or supplement funding for services targeting disabled and frail seniors that enable them to live independently in their naturally occurring residential communities (NORC).
- H/RS 3: Oppose legislation that would prohibit inclusionary housing/zoning unless government subsidies are available for the affordable units.
- H/RS 4: Oppose legislation that would preempt local governments' ability to regulate condominium conversions.
- H/RS 5: Support increases in State funding for enhancement and expansion of residential code enforcement and other programs that will preserve the quality of the existing housing stock.
- H/RS 6: Support efforts to strengthen rent control laws at the State level.
- H/RS 7: Support legislation that repeals or amends the Ellis Act.
- H/RS 8: Support legislation that authorizes cities to increase relocation benefits for those who are displaced under the Ellis Act.
- H/RS 9: Support legislation to repeal the Costa Hawkins Rental Housing Act.
- H/RS 10: Monitor legislation addressing Notice of Change in Terms of Tenancy.



- H/RS 11: Support legislation that would provide funding for seismic retrofitting of buildings.
- H/RS 12: Support legislation that establishes a formula for the fair and equitable allocation of housing units under the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) regulations.
- H/RS 13: Support legislation to strengthen the regulation of short-term rentals, including measures to gather information on the number of short-term rentals in the state and the impact short-term rentals have had on the housing market.

**INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY (II)**

The City has made significant efforts to increase transparency in all its affairs and has worked diligently to make City data available to the public.

- II 1: Support greater transparency in all levels of governmental institutions.
- II 2: Support reforms and more stringent accountability for CalPERS as the provider of health benefits for the majority of California public employees.

**PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE & OPEN SPACE (PI/OS)**

Through prudent fiscal management, the City has built reserves and used some of those funds to build new infrastructure and maintain existing facilities. The City, however, cannot do it all and supports legislative initiatives that fairly distribute State and County funds for infrastructure and public parks.

- PI/OS 1: Support legislation and funding that aim to support the development and maintenance of urban parks and green space.
- PI/OS 2: Support legislation to develop infrastructure for local performing art centers and recreational facilities.
- PI/OS 3: Support legislative efforts to maintain and upgrade aging infrastructure.

**PUBLIC SAFETY (PS)**

The City has invested in public safety and has made strides to be fully prepared in case of emergencies.

- PS 1: Support enhanced strategies, legislation and funding for public safety needs (fire, police, commercial code compliance, and disaster preparedness) and coordinated recovery efforts that do not supplant other City funding, services and/or operations.

- PS 2: Support legislation to enhance control of access to guns.
- PS 3: Support programs to prevent domestic violence and child abuse.
- PS 4: Support legislation that mandates the testing of all rape kits.
- PS 5: Support legislation and policies that address the needs of seniors, individuals with disabilities, and at-risk youth following a major disaster or emergency.
- PS 6: Support efforts to eradicate human trafficking.

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE (SJ)**

The City’s incorporation was driven by an intense belief in social justice and the need to end discrimination against LGBTQ people as well as minorities. Thus, social justice issues are of concern to the City.

- SJ 1: Encourage and support adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) as the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- SJ 2: Support legislation that puts emphasis on rehabilitation and successful reintroduction into society of incarcerated individuals.

### **SUSTAINABILITY & INNOVATION (SI)**

The City of West Hollywood has taken an early lead in adopting mitigating policies to reduce its carbon footprint. The City is one of the first municipalities in United States to adopt a green building ordinance. In addition, the City has advocated for reduction of waste, maximizing reuse and recycling opportunities, and the use of renewable energies.

- SI 1: Support legislation that promotes the utilization and expansion of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure across the State, particularly in areas with high-density multi-unit dwellings.
- SI 2: Support legislation that incentivizes the use of alternative technologies aimed at protecting the environment, promoting renewable energy and encouraging reductions in energy consumption.
- SI 3: Support legislation that removes obstacles for residents and businesses to utilize alternative fuels/energy, and that provide funding and tax incentives for such advancements.
- SI 4: Support State, county and local programs that promote and provide incentives for “green” commercial and residential development.

- SI 5: Support the expansion of Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) initiatives across the State.
- SI 5: Support economic incentives and assistance to innovative in-State businesses that utilize the materials diverted from landfills as an alternative to shipping overseas.
- SI 6: Support effort to further reduce the State's dependence on landfills.
- SI 7: Support legislation requiring manufacturers to be responsible for safe disposal or reuse of their products and by-products, e.g. sharps and fluorescent light bulbs.
- SI 8: Support legislative and administrative efforts to decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and reduce air pollution throughout the State.
- SI 9: Support legislation that provides incentives to residential and commercial property owners for the purchase and/or installation of solar panels or other sources of renewable energy.
- SI 10: Support efforts to rebate and/or credit residential and commercial property owners for returning into the grid, excess onsite-generated power.
- SI 11: Support legislation that facilitates the abatement of excessive noise in the City.
- SI 12: Support legislation that promotes water conservation and efficiency in California.
- SI 13: Support legislation that promotes and protects the ocean and ocean resources.

### **TRANSPORTATION (T)**

The City has advocated for and supported the creation of new funding sources for transportation programs and maintenance of roadways and bridges across California. In addition, the City has long been a champion of public transportation and advocated for Metro rail service in Los Angeles County and through West Hollywood.

- T 1: Support current State and federal funding levels and encourage increased funding and flexibility in both operating and capital funding for mass transit.
- T 2: Support legislation that provides incentives for the development of local transportation corridors.
- T 3: Support local, regional, State and federal legislative, administrative, and regulatory efforts that will expand and/or supplement funding for maintaining transportation service program funds for employee benefits or for specific

Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) transportation programs and passenger rail service.

- T 4: Support local, regional, State and federal legislative, administrative, and regulatory efforts that will expand and/or supplement funding for maintaining and upgrading major thoroughfares in the City.
- T 5: Support State strategies that support development of transit/work housing through direct funding, tax credits and technical assistance.
- T 6: Support increased State and federal resources to mitigate traffic congestion on City streets and rebuild and maintain roads.
- T 7: Support legislation that enhances the safety of City streets for car, bicycle, scooter, and pedestrian traffic.
- T 8: Support legislation and funding of distracted driver education programs.
- T 9: Support legislation and funding that reimburses cities for the tear and wear caused by public transit heavy buses to city roads.

#### **URBAN BALANCE/LAND USE (UB/LU)**

The City works constantly to balance the needs of local residents and the activities that are customary for a densely populated urban area that is a nightlife and entertainment destination. As such, the City has advocated for State land use legislation that provides for a balanced approach to community development and does not arbitrarily limits local determination.

- UB/LU 1: Support legislation that provides protection for individual homeowners while allowing local government to utilize the right of eminent domain in an appropriate and fair manner.
- UB/LU 2: Oppose legislation that preempts local governments' ability to incidentally regulate and exercise its enforcement powers.
- UB/LU 3: Oppose legislation and regulations that preempt local governments' land use authority.
- UB/LU 4: Support "Smart Growth" initiatives that provide incentives to local governments and that promote balanced growth.
- UB/LU 5: Advocate for equitable distribution of recycling centers across Southern California to preserve quality of life of residential neighborhood.