

2019 Legislative Agenda

86th Texas Legislative Session

DRAFT

August 14, 2018

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GENERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICY

STATEMENT OF PRESERVATION

The City of Pflugerville seeks to preserve its current statutory authority to govern the City, its citizens, and its property. To that end, the City opposes any legislation that would diminish the fundamental authority of the City or that interferes with the City's adopted strategic goals.

Specifically, the City will oppose any initiatives that seek to erode home rule municipal authority or that otherwise have a negative impact on municipal operations, including legislation that would:

- Be contrary to the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens;
- Detrimentally affect the City's financial position by reducing revenue streams;
- Increase costs through unfunded mandates;
- Erode the authority to manage and control the rights-of-way;
- Erode current municipal economic development authority;
- Erode the authority to manage land uses or adopt zoning regulations; or
- Require the City to generate revenues for the State.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

The City supports legislation that advances the City's strategic goals; that improves the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; or that advances the City's authority to conduct the public's business.

PARTNERSHIPS

In order to provide the City with a stronger presence in the legislative process, we will form strategic partnerships with other organizations that share our common goals and will work in coordination with organizations such as the Texas Municipal League.

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LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

1. BUDGETING & REVENUE

The City:

- *Supports* legislation that improves the property tax system by:
  i. simplifying public notices for effective tax rate calculations;
  ii. requiring mandatory sales prices disclosure; or
  iii. improving the appraisal and appeals process.
- *Supports* legislation that improves funding for local services

- *Opposes* legislation eroding local public finances that:
  i. Establishes a "revenue cap";
  ii. Requires property tax rates or the city budget to be approved via referendum;
  iii. Lowers the existing "appraisal cap";
  iv. Imposes unnecessary and costly burdens on the taxpayers regarding newly required language ballot language for debt propositions;
  v. Imposes unfunded mandates on the city;
  vi. Restricts the ability to collect impact fees;
  vii. Diminishes the City's ability to impose the current sales taxes; or
  viii. Requires the City to unreasonably collect funds on behalf of the State;

2. LAND USE PLANNING & ZONING

The City:

- *Supports* legislation that preserves local land use authority.

- *Opposes* legislation that:
  i. Erodes local land use authority in the city limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ); or
  ii. Restricts a city's ability to adopt or amend zoning regulations.

3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Over the years, the City has successfully utilized many different economic development tools to bring new investment to Pflugerville. The City:

- *Supports legislation that provides local governments the ability to expand local economic development efforts and workforce training.*

- *Opposes legislation that would erode current authority to participate in local economic development projects, including but not limited to, the ability to provide tax abatements and Chapter 380 economic development agreements.*

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4. RETIREMENT FUND (TMRS)

The City of Pflugerville desires that an appropriate retirement system be provided to its current and former employees through the Texas Municipal Retirement System. To achieve this end, the City supports *legislation that creates additional, flexible, cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) options under the Texas Municipal Retirement System that are not retroactive to a retiree's date of retirement, such options to possibly include one-time increases tied to increases in the consumer price index or flat percentage increases.*

5. TRANSPORTATION

The City *supports* legislation that:

i. Discontinues the diversion of transportation revenues to non-transportation purposes; or
ii. Provides additional funding to the Texas Department of Transportation.

The City *opposes* legislation that:

i. Authorizes or requires TxDOT to "turnback" state highways to cities;
ii. Reduces local authority for the conversion of abandoned rail corridors

6. OPEN RECORDS

- The City *supports* legislation that allows a municipality to publish certain required legal notices on the city's website in lieu of publishing in a newspaper.

7. GOVERNANCE

- The City *opposes* legislation that erodes Home Rule Authority limiting implementation of locally appropriate policies and initiatives.

8. ISSUES TO MONITOR

The City will monitor legislation related to:

- *LCRA and water supplies (including groundwater issues),*
- *Emergency Service Districts,*
- *private and rural water districts,*
- *sales tax allocation in the ETJ,*
- *attorney general bond approval process,*
- *special purpose districts (such as MMDs or MUDs) proposed to be created within the city limits or ETJ,*
- *issues related to tourism, and*
- *transit and transportation issues related to Capital Metro as well as the MoKan Corridor.*