



To: Mayor Wolcott
Vice Mayor Williams
Council Member Biundo
Council Member Alton
Council Member Villanueva
Council Member Woodard
Council Member Hall
City Manager, Chris Hillman

From: Michael Celaya, Intergovernmental Relations Director
Date: January 2, 2013
Re: 2013 State Legislative Agenda

This report describes the City's proposed state legislative agenda for the First Regular Session of the 51th Arizona State Legislature. Once modified and approved by the Mayor and Council, the agenda will define the City's state legislative priorities and guide the City's lobbying activities at the State Legislature. As bills are introduced and debated, the agenda will evolve with input from the Mayor and Council. The session will commence on Monday, January 14, 2013.

GUIDING PRINCIPALS AND KEY PRIORITIES

Each year the State Legislature considers thousands of bills and amendments, many of which impact municipal operations. Staff will brief Mayor and Council throughout the session and seek direction regarding important bills and amendments; however, in order to prioritize and guide staff's lobbying efforts, we recommend that the Mayor and Council endorse familiar, but critical guiding principles as our highest priorities. These priorities include maintaining and protecting **shared revenues**, opposing **unfunded mandates** and preserving **local authority**.

SHARED REVENUES

The City's budget includes revenues from a number of State sources, most importantly, shared revenues from state income, sales and vehicle license taxes. Shared revenues make up 26% of the City's general fund, helping to pay for police, fire, streets, parks, and other critical City services. Staff recommends the City oppose any reduction of shared revenues.

OPPOSE UNFUNDED MANDATES

Given our fiscal predicament, new unfunded mandates could force the City's budget further into the red. An example is the continued raid on the Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF). Staff recommends the City oppose state legislative efforts that shift new programmatic duties to the City without accompanying funds.

LOCAL AUTHORITY

Cities and towns are established voluntarily by people living in communities in order to foster economic activity and deliver services that protect public health, safety and quality of life. Staff recommends that the City work to protect the ability to set policy at the local level and oppose legislation that preempts local authority.

OTHER ISSUES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The City opposes any attempt to limit economic development initiatives or projects and supports any effort to enhance the range of economic development funding mechanisms.

LAND USE PLANNING

The City supports maintaining local authority in land use planning issues and supports legislative efforts that promotes more orderly growth and opposes efforts that impede growth management, including the preservation of local authority to set land use policies and support for citizen involvement in the planning and zoning process. Furthermore, the city opposes legislation that would restrict a municipality's ability to redevelop under-performing areas.

MILITARY PRESERVATION

The City recognizes the importance of preserving the mission viability of Luke Air Force Base and the importance of the base to our national security interests, state and local economies, and to the retirees who rely on Luke for services. The city supports the retention of existing state statutes relating to military airports, and the development of legislation that limits encroachment of all types, supports compatible land uses around such facilities, and ensures the capability for future mission expansions.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The city supports initiatives to preserve and enhance the ability of local governments to strategically plan for and respond to emergencies.

CONCLUSION

This report was developed to serve as a guide and discussion for Mayor and City Council regarding the City's proposed state legislative agenda for the First Regular Session of the 51th Arizona State Legislature. As bills are introduced and debated, the agenda will evolve with input from the Mayor and Council.