



## COMMUNITY ADVOCACY, SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

### *Background*

---

The City of Surprise Council and staff are committed to ensuring Surprise residents live and work in a dynamic community with quality and efficient services. This report describes the City's legislative agenda for the First Regular Session of the 53rd Arizona State Legislature.



## LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

### *Approach*

---

**Partnerships, intentional engagement.** Surprise will maintain an intentional level of engagement with our partners at all levels in order to best leverage resources to meet the needs of the community. Strategic partnerships, a proactive approach, and a spirit of responsiveness will characterize our approach when working with our partners and working to resolve issues.

### *Local Authority*

---

**Preserve our right to maintain local authority and autonomy in meeting the needs of our community.** 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. Surprise must continue its work to help foster the economy and create quality of life for the community. The City supports the protection of local control and decision-making authority while opposing any attempts to erode this control through preemptions or mandates.

### *Fiscal Sustainability*

---

**Preservation of shared revenues.** The City's budget includes revenue from a number of State sources; most importantly, shared revenues from state income, sales, and vehicle license taxes. Shared revenues make up approximately 30% of the City's general fund. A diverse and sustainable revenue stream with predictable sources is critical for the City's financial well-being. Surprise supports the protection and full disbursement of shared revenues and a diverse revenue portfolio based on sustainable, predictable revenue sources.

**Unfunded mandates.** The City opposes unfunded state mandates placed on local jurisdictions and encourages the Legislature to evaluate the fiscal impact such mandates will have on communities prior to considering the issue.

**Partnerships:** Pursue solutions that will provide for enhanced use of partnerships with the public and private sector to help municipalities efficiently develop and maintain public infrastructure.

### *Economic Development.*

---

**Retention and diversification of economic development tools.** The City supports any effort to enhance the range of economic development funding mechanisms. Surprise relies on numerous tools to recruit, retain, and attract economic development opportunities. The City supports efforts to maintain and enhance the economic development mechanisms available to create future economic vitality and opposes any attempts to limit or prohibit Surprise's ability to execute economic development projects.

### *Land Use Planning.*

---

**Local authority and sustainable growth.** The City supports maintaining local authority in land use planning issues and supports legislative efforts that promote sustainable growth. Surprise promotes the preservation of local authority to set land use policies and supports citizen involvement in the planning processes. The City opposes legislation that would restrict a municipality's ability to develop under-performing areas.

### *Public Safety.*

---

**Planning, emergency response, enhance public safety, support personnel.** Surprise supports initiatives to preserve and enhance the ability of local governments to strategically plan for and respond to emergencies and properly support public safety personnel. The City supports legislation that enhances public safety and protection from criminal activity while maintaining vigilance in the protection of individual rights.

### *Transportation.*

---

**Regional coordination, local control.** The City supports legislation that advances the planning, design, financing and construction of transportation infrastructure and supports regional coordination in planning while opposing efforts that limit local control in the transportation decision-making process. Surprise supports the voter-approved Proposition 400 and opposes efforts to hinder the implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan while also supporting efforts that grant municipalities additional ability to provide for transportation improvements.

### *Environmental Resources.*

---

**Sustainability, stewardship.** The City supports efforts that ensure the wise use of natural resources and promotes environmentally sensitive and sustainable development. Surprise advocates for water resource stewardship.

### *Military Preservation.*

---

**Partnership and support.** 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. Surprise will continue to be involved in protecting the mission of Luke through community support activities as well as any legislation that strengthens local efforts to protect the base from encroachment, supports compatible land uses, and ensures the capability for future missions.

Questions? Contact Nicole Lance, Deputy City Manager

Nicole.Lance@surpriseaz.gov Office: 623.222.1030 Cell: 480.220.1076