

CITY OF RIO VISTA’S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 2023-24 AND 2024-2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The City of Rio Vista’s Legislative Platform is a summary of the priorities of the City Council and establishes the basis for its advocacy efforts with the Executive and Legislative branches of the U.S. Government and the State of California regarding legislation and regulation.

The annual Platform contains general principles, key issues, and specific proposals of interest for the legislative year in no particular order of priority. Implementation of the Platform throughout the legislative year is structured to proactively frame support, and advocacy regarding key legislative and regulatory priorities while also monitoring numerous bills. Actions are taken through collaboration with subject matter experts in departments, engagement of elected-officials and other interested parties.

LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

Preserving Local Control

The City deeply values its ability and authority to exercise local control, offer excellent public services, and protect and enhance the quality of life for Rio Vista residents and businesses. Advocacy efforts include:

1. Opposing legislation that may reduce municipal authority, particularly in the areas of land use planning, zoning, and development review.
2. Supporting legislation that protects local revenue sources and prevents the imposition of unfunded mandates on cities.
3. Supporting legislation that rolls back/unwinds existing unfunded mandates or increases funding to cities.

Housing

The City acknowledges that California is currently facing a housing shortage and supports legislation and policies to develop affordable housing that will accommodate the needs of the community, while still complying with local land use plans and policies. Advocacy efforts include:

1. Supporting legislation that facilitates the streamlined construction and production of accessory dwelling units (ADUs).
2. Supporting legislation that would allow cities to count ADUs towards the fulfillment of their regional housing needs allocations (RHNA).

3. Supporting legislation that uses a county jobs-housing balance as a basis to allocate RHNA and funding.
4. Supporting legislation that creates a permanent source of revenue —or strengthens existing revenue sources —to local governments for the production and preservation of affordable housing.
5. Supporting legislation that provides funding for local governments to address homelessness.
6. Monitoring legislation that impacts a city’s ability to approve or deny projects based on health and safety impacts.

Fiscal Matters

The City supports legislation to fund economic development and to protect and fund essential city services. Advocacy efforts may include:

1. Opposing legislation that diminishes the City’s ability to impose and collect impact fees.
2. Supporting legislation and initiatives that would provide funding for libraries, arts, and cultural expression in Rio Vista.
3. Supporting legislation and initiatives that would provide funding for open spaces, parks, trails, and other public amenities.
4. Supporting legislation and initiatives that would provide funding for economic development, downtown beautification, and revitalization.
5. Supporting legislation that protects local rate payers with regard to state utility mandates.
6. Opposing legislation that affects the ability of cities to increase Transient Occupancy Taxes.
7. Supporting legislation aimed at protecting businesses and non-profits, either through financial assistance or by preventing evictions, during emergencies such as a pandemic.

Environmental Protection

The City supports legislation and policies that promote sustainable development, improve environmental standards, streamline the regulatory process, provide incentives and funding for preservation of natural resources, and support sustainable energy policies. Advocacy efforts include:

1. Supporting legislation to increase funding for climate action and adaptation planning.
2. Supporting legislation to increase funding for green buildings, electric vehicle charging stations, electrification, and related infrastructure.
3. Supporting legislation that supports and funds flood management and climate adaptation solutions.
4. Supporting legislation to expand the availability and funding for reclaimed water.
5. Support legislation and funding to increase the City's water quality and supply.
6. Support legislation and funding mechanisms that advocate zero-waste practices recycling, and/or Extended Producer Responsibility programs.
7. Support legislation that provides financial assistance to local governments and waste haulers to implement new statewide mandates for organic waste collection and procurement under Senate Bill 1383.
8. Support legislation that would incentivize "farm-to-table" initiatives.

Transportation

The City supports legislation and policies that promote investing in the planning and implementation of complete streets, regional and local transportation and traffic congestion relief projects, the maintenance and rehabilitation of aging transportation infrastructure, and building system capacity expansions where appropriate. Advocacy efforts include:

1. Supporting legislation to fund alternative modes of travel including expanding transit services, especially for low-income residents with high transit needs such as students, older adults, and people living with disabilities.
2. Supporting funding for new pedestrian and bicycle facilities.
3. Supporting funding for the expansion of local school bus programs.

4. Supporting new statewide funding opportunities for the ongoing maintenance and repair of local roads, bridges, and highways.
5. Supporting efforts to address regional transportation congestion, specifically on Highway 12.

Public Health and Safety

The City supports legislation to access funding and resources to provide high quality police, fire, emergency management, emergency medical and public health services. Advocacy efforts may include:

1. Supporting legislation to fund the purchase of supplies for first responders addressing a pandemic or other emergency.
2. Supporting funding opportunities to address natural disaster mitigation and evacuation planning.
3. Supporting legislation to reform public utilities in order to ensure the reliable, safe and sustainable delivery of energy and communications to the community.
4. Support legislation that improves care and benefits provided to veterans.
5. Support policies, funding, and strategies to address opioid misuse and tobacco usage.
6. Support legislation and policy that promote local food systems.
7. Monitoring legislation/research on the potential safeguards regarding the purchase, distribution, consumption, and cultivation of cannabis.
8. Support legislation that provides continued federal funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program and the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act.
9. Monitoring legislation related to local law enforcement's use of force policies, law enforcement training standards, alternative responses to non-emergency calls, and other police reform efforts.
10. Supporting the funding of additional behavioral health programs and services.
11. Support legislation that advocates for medical facilities in rural communities.

Elections

The City supports legislation to reduce unnecessary and costly procedures for conducting municipal elections, while streamlining voter registration efforts to ensure all eligible residents can vote freely. Advocacy efforts include:

1. Supporting legislation that encourages and expands civic engagement and voter participation in elections.
2. Monitoring legislation that lowers or increases the voting requirements for passage of local special purpose agency funding propositions.
3. Monitoring legislation that affects municipal elections.
4. Monitoring legislation that affects the California Voting Rights Acts and by-district elections.

Government Transparency and Efficiency

The City supports government transparency, public access to records and supports legislation that facilitates these principles while still allowing for necessary and efficient municipal operations and services. Advocacy efforts include:

1. Monitoring legislation that affects the Brown Act.
2. Supporting legislation that would permanently allow local governments to conduct certain public meetings through teleconference, or other technology platform that allows for robust public participation.
3. Monitoring legislation that affects the Public Records Act.
4. Monitoring legislation that affects the Political Reform Act.
5. Opposing legislation that impacts the ability of local governments to utilize digital communication.

General

Advocacy efforts include:

1. Supporting legislation to ensure an equity approach that is anti-racist and acknowledges community members affected by systemic racism. Public policy should seek to address imbalances to enhance inclusion and race equity with meaningful analysis of impacts, including what constituencies are benefitted or burdened.

2. Support legislation that acknowledges and works to root out explicit or implicit ageism and ableism, including increased education to combat stigmas and funding for age and disability-friendly improvements to community physical and social infrastructures to create greater opportunities for wellbeing, safety, and social connection across all generations and abilities.