



CITY OF MARTINEZ

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

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Prepared For:

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MARTINEZ LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

1. OVERVIEW

The City of Martinez is engaged in legislative advocacy efforts that are aimed at protecting and promoting Martinez's best interest at the local, state, and federal levels. These efforts are driven by the City's mission to deliver superior municipal services that make our residents, employees, and visitors' lives better.

The significant increase in bills being introduced in the State Legislature that have the potential to further impact cities' local control has prompted the City to expand its advocacy efforts. Key to these efforts is the development of this Legislative Platform which outlines the City's principles, policies, goals, and strategies.

This Legislative Platform provides staff with direction and authorizes the Mayor, City Manager, or designee(s), on the City Council's behalf, to quickly respond in support of or opposition to bills and other legislative or gubernatorial actions in time-sensitive situations. Additionally, the Platform enables staff to communicate Martinez-specific issues and impacts with State legislators. The City Manager or designee may draft letters, direct potential legislative advocates, or speak on behalf of the City regarding the legislative priorities this document outlines. Any correspondence signifying the support or opposition of a given bill must be signed by the Mayor and/or City Manager with notification to the City Council.

2. PLATFORM OVERVIEW AND COORDINATION

This Legislative Platform serves as the foundation for City legislative advocacy at all levels of government. It informs City staff and potential legislative representatives of the key issues and legislation that could have a potential impact on the City and the process in which the City will participate in the legislative process. The City will employ several strategies to advocate or advance the City's public policy interests, which include:

- **Position Development.** The City Manager or designee(s) will work with City departments, legislative advocate(s) to further develop and refine this Platform and identify positions on proposed legislative matters in accordance with the Platform.
- **Status Tracking.** The City Manager, City Attorney, or designee(s) will track notable bills through the legislative process and periodically update the City Council.
- **Communication.** The Mayor, City Manager, or designee(s) will communicate the City's position, in accordance with this Platform, through correspondence, testimony, or meetings.
- **Collaboration.** The City will work collaboratively with other cities, the County, regional agencies, local professional organizations, the League of California Cities, the Association of Bay Area Governments, and legislative representatives on advocating the City's legislative platform.
- **Advocacy.** The Mayor, City Manager, or designee(s) will meet with legislators and their representatives, as well as other federal, state, and county government officials on a regular basis, to discuss local government issues, proposed legislation, requests for funding assistance, and City programs and services.

The City Manager's Office will exercise day-to-day oversight on legislative matters. In addition to coordinating formal action through the City Council, the City Manager, or designee(s) will manage the City's Legislative Platform.

Staff will adhere to the following process when responding to notable proposed legislation, policies, programs, ballot measures, mandates, and budgets:

1. Review and determine whether a proposal will impact the City.
2. Prepare a letter outlining the City's position for the Mayor or City Manager's signature.
3. Distribute the letter to the legislation's author(s), the City Council, and other relevant parties.

3. GENERAL LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

The General Legislative Principles for the City's legislative advocacy efforts include:

- Advancing the City's adopted vision.
- Preserving or increasing local government discretion.
- Promoting or enhancing revenue sources.

4. PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

This Legislative Platform identifies specific public policy priorities by topic areas. Informed by the General Legislative Principles (see Section 3), these priorities will guide the City's positions on relevant legislation, policies, programs, grant funding opportunities, ballot measures, mandates, and budgets.

The public policy priorities are categorized as follows:

- A. General Administration
- B. Fiscal Sustainability
- C. Human Resources
- D. Land Use and Community Development
- E. Economic Development
- F. Housing
- G. Transportation
- H. Utilities and Infrastructure
- I. Public Safety
- J. Parks, Recreation, and Community Services
- K. Climate and Environment
- L. Technology and Cybersecurity

A. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The City shall support legislation that:

1. Enhances and streamlines local control and allows cities to address the needs of local constituents within a framework or regional cooperation.
2. Assures every person the right to equal treatment and access to all government-sponsored benefits or funded programs.

The City shall oppose legislation that:

3. Attempts to restrict local authority or decision-making whether by state or federal legislation or ballot propositions.
4. Diminishes or eliminates local governments' ability to contract out for provision of services.

B. FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

The City shall support legislation that:

1. Maintains or enhances ongoing revenues to the City.
2. Streamlines the process to apply for, receive approval of, and to receive State and federal funding.
3. Updates the tax structure to enhance local government' revenues that have declined due to expansion of e-commerce, increased consumption of services rather than durable goods, and technology innovations.
4. Ensures timely distribution of mandated reimbursements owed to the City.
5. Removes unnecessary State-imposed mandates.
6. Provides incentives for local government action rather than funded or unfunded mandates.
7. Increases transparency of all public employee salaries and benefits.
8. Provides sustainable public pensions and other post-retirement benefits.
9. Lowers the necessary voter threshold from a two-thirds supermajority to 55-percent to approve local general obligation bonds and special taxes for affordable housing and public infrastructure projects.
10. Provides funding for public amenities, such as parks, trails, open space, and cultural facilities; implementation of the Waterfront Marina Trust Land Use Plan; and downtown beautification.

The City shall oppose legislation that:

11. Undermines or preempts local authority over local taxes and fees.
12. Shifts funds from local governments to the County, State, or federal government.
13. Imposes unfunded or inadequately funded County, State, or federal mandates on local governments.
14. Eliminates development fees or limits the ability of cities to levy such fees to provide services.
15. Requires or expands state involvement in City financial audits, fiscal monitoring, general oversight, or assistance by the State Treasurer, State Controller, or other state agencies.
16. Defers reimbursement for State-mandated programs.
17. Facilitates or expands sales tax sharing agreements, potentially resulting in businesses leaving Martinez for other communities.
18. Eliminates or limits the traditional tax exemption for municipal bonds.

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

The City shall support legislation that:

1. Places reasonable parameters over public pension plans, while opposing measures that would eliminate local control over plan specifics.
2. Manages the rising cost of health insurance and urges elected officials to fully consider the financial impact on local governments when considering any health care coverage legislation.

The City shall oppose legislation that:

3. Mandates any additional and costly program for employee benefits without local control.

D. LAND USE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The City shall support legislation that:

1. Maintains the City's authority over land use decisions.
2. Strengthens local regulatory authority and control over the siting of medicinal or adult use cannabis uses.
3. Eliminates redundant, costly, and cumbersome mandates and restrictions required by the California Environmental

Quality Act (“CEQA”) and the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”).

4. Provides fair share of tax revenue to the City for properties that are annexed from unincorporated Contra Costa County.

The City shall oppose legislation that:

5. Interferes with or reduces local land use control and decision making.
6. Diminishes or eliminates the authority of cities to zone and plan for the development of wireless telecommunications facilities.
7. Diminishes or eliminates the authority of cities’ authority to regulate condominium conversions.

E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The City shall support legislation that:

1. Enhances the City’s efforts to retain existing businesses and attract new businesses that maintain and grow the business tax base.
2. Provides tangible and productive tools and incentives to support job creation, business attraction, and business retention.
3. Advances or encourages innovation, entrepreneurship, start-ups, small business opportunities, and/or workforce development.
4. Advocates for measures that bolster the tourism sector, recognizing its substantial role in fostering economic growth and generating employment opportunities.
5. Fosters partnerships between the public and private sectors for financing and executing initiatives that positively impact economic development.
6. Addresses regional disparities and promotes balanced economic development across different areas or communities.
7. Provides direct assistance, both technical and financial, to varied industries within the City.

The City shall oppose legislation that:

8. Interferes with the ability to provide productive incentives to support job creation, business attraction, and business retention.

F. HOUSING

The City shall support legislation that:

1. Creates a more equitable Regional Housing Needs Allocation (“RHNA”) process.
2. Creates more flexibility for local jurisdictions to work together to provide housing that counts towards RHNA requirements.
3. Commits Federal and State funds for affordable housing and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (“AFFH”) programs to each jurisdiction that are commensurate with its RHNA.
4. Provides tangible actions, incentives, and/or new funding mechanisms to make it easier to fund and build affordable housing.
5. Provides increased funding for housing programs, including incentives for private sector investment in housing projects.
6. Increases financial assistance to provide affordable, transitional special needs, and emergency housing for the unhoused, seniors, veterans, and people with special needs.
7. Supports legislation that facilitates the streamlined construction and production of accessory dwelling units (“ADUs”).
8. Exempts high fire hazard areas from requirements to build higher density housing.

9. Continues or expands funding for the Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG”) and HOME Investment Partnerships (“HOME”) programs.
10. Provides additional Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (“HHAP”) and Project Homekey funding to provide the City with support for regional coordination and expand or develop local capacity to address immediate challenges for the unhoused population.

The City shall oppose legislation that:

11. Requires the production of housing away from job centers, which would further burden the region’s strained transportation network and increase vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions.
12. Reduces funding for cities that do not meet their housing targets.

G. TRANSPORTATION

The City shall support legislation that:

1. Ensures the City receives its fair share of transportation funding and that keeps the funding decisions at the local level.
2. Provides more stable and equitable long-term funding sources for transportation.
3. Leverages local funds to the maximum extent possible to implement transportation improvements through grants and partnerships with regional, State, and federal agencies.
4. Reduces vehicle miles traveled (“VMT”) and encourages developing and implementing Transportation Demand Management (“TDM”) plans and strategies.
5. Expands opportunities and funding for connected and shared autonomous vehicles, high occupancy vehicles, managed lane policies, improved enforcement, new technology deployment, and reducing traffic congestion and delay.
6. Encourages active transportation, enhances the safety of all modes of transportation, particularly bicycles and pedestrians, and reduces vehicles speeds and traffic congestion.
7. Increases and funds local control and local regulation of shared mobility, transportation network companies, and other emerging industries that use City infrastructure to offer private services.
8. Enables innovative rail connectivity projects which aim to address the jobs/housing/transit imbalance.
9. Provides for the expansion and establishment of new ferry service.
10. Promotes interconnectivity of multiple modes of public transportation.
11. Funds Vision Zero planning and implementation.

The City shall oppose legislation that:

12. Infringes upon the ability of local governments to effectively administer and modify state and local construction provisions and standards.
13. Takes away local control of managing and operating local streets.
14. Reduces the City’s condemnation authority regarding acquisition of properties required for public projects.

H. UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The City shall support legislation that:

1. Establishes new and innovative revenue options and resources to finance public infrastructure construction and maintenance.
2. Streamlines the establishment and utilization of infrastructure financing districts or other funding mechanisms for infrastructure improvements.

The City shall oppose legislation that:

3. Eliminates development fees or limits the ability of cities to levy such fees to provide or maintain infrastructure.

I. PUBLIC SAFETY

The City shall support legislation that:

1. Increase funding for local law enforcement, fire suppression and prevention, hazardous materials mitigation, and emergency medical services.
2. Provides funding to local agencies for training, disaster preparedness, crime prevention, and emergency planning.
3. Ensures cities have control of regulating local medical and recreational cannabis uses, protects public safety with standardized security requirements, protects public health with uniform health and safety standards, and ensures safety with a quality assurance protocol.
4. Improves data and information dissemination, data and communication interoperability, preparedness funding, and first responder training.
5. Maintains or increases funding for local public safety programs including the Community Oriented Police Services (“COPS”) program, California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training reimbursement, booking fees, and other critical programs.
6. Provides a greater share of asset forfeiture funds for cities and increases latitude for spending local funds.
7. Supports funding to prepare, mitigate, adapt, and respond to extreme weather or emergency events.
8. Supports alternative crisis response programs for mental health, substance abuse, or unhoused related calls for emergency services and includes identified funding sources.
9. Supports increased funding for prevention, intervention, and victim services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, dating violence, stalking, elder abuse, and human trafficking.
10. Addresses federal pre-emption of state and local regulations regarding the blocking of railroad crossings for extended periods of time that impacts public safety in the community.
11. Provides funding and/or resources dedicated to address the impacts associated with criminal justice reform measures and re-alignment.

The City shall monitor legislation that:

12. Makes changes to police officers’ duty requirements, including use of police cameras, K9 dogs, license plate readers, public safety cameras, data storage requirements, and data collection requirements.
13. Makes changes to police officer training requirements.
14. Changes the definition of early release, serious crimes, and violent crimes.

The City shall oppose legislation that:

15. Increases the costs or passes along risks associated with law enforcement and public safety to local governments.
16. Reduces penalties for repeat offenders of serious crimes impacting public safety, including sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse.
17. Expands “early release” programs for serious and violent offenders.
18. Restricts the use of new and emerging technologies by the Police Department that can enhance public safety and assist in preventing and solving crime, unless such legislation places the ultimate decision making with the City Council.

J. PARKS, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The City shall support legislation that:

1. Creates new and bolsters existing funding opportunities for parks and community facilities, including upgrades and maintenance to existing facilities.
2. Creates new and expansion of open space to support public health.
3. Creates new and expands existing recreational programming and fiscal opportunities to support the City's diversity, equity, and inclusions ("DEI") goals and objectives. Equalizes the opportunities for participation in recreational programs that some in our community have a barrier either through language, funds, access to public transportation, and/or another barrier.
4. Creates new funding opportunities for implementation of the Waterfront Marina Trust Lands Use Plan.
5. Provides funding for Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") facility and park upgrades.
6. Increases available financial assistance for social services and mental health services to residents in need.

The City shall oppose legislation that:

7. Reduces or eliminates the City's ability to levy park impact fees.
8. Imposes regulations that create cost prohibitive administrative burdens which likely result in the reduction of parks and recreational programming.

K. CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

The City shall support legislation that:

1. Assists local governments in meeting or exceeding local, State, or federal goals to reduce global warming pollution levels, to develop alternative energy resources and fuel-efficiency programs, and to reduce fossil fuel dependence.
2. Incentivizes regional and local government efforts to develop and implement programs to reduce air pollution.
3. Supports programs that increase local control over the purchase and development of renewable energy resources, as an effective means of increasing consumer access to renewable energy at stable, competitive rates, and decreasing statewide greenhouse gas emissions.
4. Supports Community Choice Aggregation ("CCA") autonomy in policy- and decision-making actions.
5. Aids development of local renewable energy resources and supply, including protection of local autonomy to administer energy efficiency and install and utilize integrated distributed energy resources.
6. Supports complete transparency of all energy procurement practices, stranded costs, and departing load charges; supports fair competition in statewide energy markets for CCAs and municipal or other publicly owned utilities; and protects CCA customers from improper cost allocation.
7. Supports effective leveraging of energy efficiency programs tailored to address local needs and concerns.
8. Streamlines development of and provides funding for electric vehicle (EV) charging and hydrogen fueling infrastructure locally and regionally.
9. Supports waste diversion goals, local compliance efforts, and associated measurement and reporting requirements.
10. Addresses litter control and abatement problems locally, regionally, and state-wide.
11. Assists the City in meeting or exceeding established goals of reducing water consumption and increasing water supply without preempting local planning decisions.
12. Provides funding for compliance and full life cycle costs of mandatory storm water quality permit requirements.
13. Requires manufacturers be responsible for end of useful life cost of collecting, processing, recycling, and disposing products they manufacture.
14. Reduces the financial impact of state and federal funded and unfunded mandates related to compliance with environmental programs and regulations.

The City shall oppose legislation that:

15. Poses unfair disadvantages to CCAs or CCA customers or reduces or undermines local decision-making autonomy by the CCA or its governing board.
16. Conflicts with or diminishes CCA procurement autonomy.
17. Preempts local planning decisions regarding solid waste facility sites.
18. Preempts local solid waste and AB 939 fee setting authority or imposes taxes and/or fees on local solid waste programs to fund state programs not directly related to solid waste management.

L. TECHNOLOGY AND CYBERSECURITY

The City shall support legislation that:

1. Promotes the use of data and technologies to create efficiencies, promote economic development, enhance public safety, improve transportation and mobility, improve sustainability, increase transparency to public information, enhance quality of life, and help solve other civic challenges.
2. Maintains local control over municipal assets in the deployment of next generation technological infrastructure.
3. Increases the City's capacity to protect against cyber security attacks.
4. Provides funding for programs that seek to expand digital access for residents and businesses.

The City shall oppose legislation that:

5. Limits or removes local review and permitting of emerging telecommunications technologies, such as Small Cell technologies.