

**City of Livermore
2013 State Legislative Platform**

**(Adopted by City Council on
February 25, 2013)**

Introduction

The 2013 State Legislative Platform guides City officials and staff when monitoring legislative activities. City staff regularly monitor state legislative developments, bill introductions and revisions, committee progress and eventual passage or veto on items impacting Livermore's services and quality of life. The State Legislative Platform provides direction to staff regarding particular Council areas of interest, and allows the City to quickly respond in support of or opposition to issues in time-sensitive situations. The platform also allows staff to connect and communicate with State legislators regarding issues and impacts from the City's perspective. Staff also review and analyze information from the League of California Cities that strives to protect the interest of cities in general. Staff coordinates League activities and pay particular attention to Livermore's needs and interests.

The State Legislative Platform is an evolving document. Changing City needs and conditions – as well as those at the regional, state or federal level – require document review and update. The 2013 Legislative Platform is posted on the City's website at <http://www.cityoflivermore.net> under "City Council". The City Council's monthly "State Legislative Update" memo from staff documents important legislative activities and staff actions.

City Local Control

Local control is a core tenet for the City of Livermore; the solutions to most problems are best handled by our accountable, elected local officials with community input. State legislative solutions are often "top-down" designs that are ill-matched to the variety of local circumstances throughout California. Consequently, local control is a foundational need that often prompts City action when threatened by legislation or regulation on any topic.

1. **Oppose** any legislative attempts to restrict local authority or decision-making.
2. **Support** legislative changes in the 2/3 voter thresholds for particular election types such as parcel or special taxes.
3. **Support** legislation that updates both the Brown Act and the Public Records Act regarding electronic records and activities that allows for local decision-making. In addition, a City should not incur additional costs in dollars or staff resources to comply with any new regulations.

Climate and Sustainability

Regulations in this category are broad and include those activities aimed at reducing the impact of current and future development on the environment through reductions in greenhouse gases, emissions, solid waste generation, and energy consumption. The City is subject to a number of regional and state policies relative to climate and sustainability. In 2012 The City adopted a Climate Action element into its General Plan.

1. **Monitor** all CEQA legislation and **support** efforts to eliminate redundant, costly and cumbersome mandates and restrictions.
2. **Monitor** climate change, alternative fuels, and SB 375 related legislation and their potential impacts.

Energy, Science, and Innovation

As the only city in the United States with two national laboratories, energy, science and innovation play important roles in the local economy, workforce, and community values. Monitoring efforts in this area also align with the City's involvement with the i-GATE iHub – the Innovation for Green Advanced Transportation Excellence Innovation Hub. There is cross-over between desired legislative efforts in this category and the Job Creation/Economic Development category.

1. **Support** legislation and grants that would provide funds for projects that demonstrate cost effective, environmentally friendly, cutting edge technologies in transportation and renewable energy as long as the legislation does not conflict with the City's fiscal stability.

Fiscal Stability

Cities require fiscal stability and financial independence in order to provide the desired services and programs for residents and local businesses. Unexpected diversion of local funds and interference from the State erodes the ability for local government officials to plan and budget well for short and long term city operations. Such State actions impede staff decision-making and action to achieve Council Goal #2-- Long-term Financial Viability of the City.

1. **Oppose** legislation that imposes state mandates with no or inadequate funding to implement or maintain.
2. **Oppose** legislation that creates State involvement in City financial audits, fiscal monitoring, general oversight, or required technical assistance whether by the State Treasurer, State Controller or any other state agency.
3. **Oppose** legislation that allows for state involvement in city bankruptcy affairs.
4. **Monitor** possible revisions to Proposition 13.
5. **Monitor** possible modifications to present commercial property tax reassessments such as ownership transfer transparency and/or "split roll" calculations.
6. **Support** legislative efforts to amend and clean-up language to 2011 AB 1x 26 that eliminated redevelopment agencies.
7. **Support** legislation restoring Vehicle License Fee (VLF) funds to cities.

Housing and Planning

Housing is a fundamental element for a community's quality of life. Land use planning envisions and designs the opportunities for housing. Consequently, housing and planning directly contribute to Council Goal #5 -- Quality of Life.

1. **Support** housing measures that promote the development and enhancement of safe and decent workforce, sustainable, and accessible housing within the City for all economic segments of the population as long as they do not conflict with financial stability and unfunded mandates.
2. **Support** land use patterns that maintain safe residential neighborhoods, bolster economic prosperity, preserve open space, and enhance overall quality of life.
3. **Support** funding and incentives for smart growth and sustainable development.

Infrastructure Rehabilitation

While often invisible, the condition of the City's infrastructure also impacts the community's quality-of-life. Health and Safety regulations require proper functioning and condition of sewer systems, sidewalks and water distribution systems. The appearance of a city influences the perception of both a resident or potential business owner about the community.

1. **Monitor** the reintroduction of legislation regarding sidewalk repair funding liability on cities.
2. **Support** the re-introduction of SB 33 (Wolk) that establishes Infrastructure Financing Districts. The definition of infrastructure is *very* broad; it would cover sewers and efforts to revitalize an area.
3. **Support** funding legislation for state and local investment in the physical infrastructure of California including, but not limited to, its roadways, bridges, water delivery and treatment, wastewater and storm water.
4. **Support** CEQA and NEPA reforms.

Job Creation and Economic Development

The Council's 2012-2014 goals directs staff to encourage and support existing and new businesses, expand the City's revenue base, and create jobs. Success in this area results from a multitude of influences in areas such as the overall business climate, domestic and foreign trade, workforce development, education and more.

1. **Monitor** legislation that connects California businesses with trade offices in China and other parts of the world.

2. **Support** legislation that advances innovation, entrepreneurship, start-ups, and small business opportunities and encourages workforce development.
3. **Support** legislation encouraging the expansion of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) programs in K-12 and community college schools.
4. **Support** legislation that encourages and supports technology transfer from the State's national laboratories.

Pension and Other Post-Employment Benefits

Funding for Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) has been a long-standing commitment and matter of great financial concern for the City for many years. OPEB costs continue to need attention as the City moves forward with Council Goal #2 Long-term Financial Viability of the City. Recent pension reform removed some local control on the matter thus impacting this core value.

1. **Monitor** implementation and any additional adjustments regarding 2012 AB 340 (Chapter 296) on pension reform.
2. **Monitor** implementation and any additional adjustments regarding 2012 SB 863 (Chapter 363) regarding workers compensation reform.
3. **Support** any new legislation which provides tools to reduce unfunded liabilities regarding post-employment benefits.

Public Safety

A safe community is one that prospers in many ways, and public safety directly contributes to a high quality-of-life. Police and Fire efforts continually rank the highest in citizen surveys of essential city services.

1. **Support** legislation maintaining and increasing grant funding for the Community Oriented Police Services (COPS) hiring program.
2. **Oppose** legislation restricting local control over the location or activities of medical marijuana dispensaries.
3. **Oppose** efforts by the State to impose booking fees for arrestees brought to jail.
4. **Monitor** ongoing effects and any modifications to the 2011 Public Safety Realignment legislation that moved many public safety and human services from the State to the County with a limited time-frame for state funding.
5. **Support** legislation and grants which provide funding for police and fire equipment upgrades, training, and capital improvements.

6. **Support** legislation that promotes and funds emergency preparedness and recovery efforts for cities.
7. **Monitor** proposed State legislation related to gun control.

Transportation and Parking Development Limits

Regional and local transportation is a present Council goal, and improvement in this area is a high priority for residents based on citizen survey data. Transportation funding is a major barrier to progress in this area. State interference on parking allocations also threatens local control for making sound planning decisions for future Livermore developments.

1. **Monitor** legislation like AB 210 (Buchanan) that would allow Alameda County to seek voter approval via a ballot measure no later than Jan. 1, 2017 for a transportation sales tax measure to fund infrastructure projects. **Support** legislation if Livermore is guaranteed a portion of its fair share.
2. **Support** legislation providing incentives in connection with rail and multimodal transit stations (transit oriented development).
3. **Oppose** the re-introduction of legislation mandating “one-size-fits-all” parking space requirements in future housing, entertainment, or retail developments.

Water

Water is essential to residential, agricultural and economic vitality and growth. Therefore, water issues and disagreements in California deserve attention both with respect to quantity and quality.

1. **Monitor** legislation developing new water conveyance systems such as peripheral canals or tunnels -- mentioned in the proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan -- in order to deliver adequate water supplies to the Tri-Valley and the Silicon Valley as long as there are no adverse effects to water quality or the environment.
2. **Support** regulations to protect drinking water from the impacts of hydrological fracturing (hydro-fracking) related to oil and gas exploration and extraction.