

STAFF REPORT

Date: January 22, 2025

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Jackie Bryant, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Presentation, discussion, and potential direction to staff regarding the City of Reno's 83rd (2025) State Legislative Session Platform.

From: Nic Ciccone, Government Affairs Manager

Department: City Manager's Office

Summary:

In preparation of the 83rd (2025) Regular Session of the Nevada Legislature, staff has prepared the State Legislative Platform for Council discussion and potential adoption. The plan outlines the policy positions and legislative processes to guide the government affairs team during the session.

General principles included in the Platform include support for: measures that empower local entities to make determinations about regional approaches to service delivery; enabling language that allows for increased flexibility and discretion at the local level; and, increasing the number of alternatives available to local government bodies to funding and provision of services at the local level.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Fiscal Sustainability

Economic Opportunity, Homelessness, and Affordable Housing

Economic and Community Development

Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Environmental Sustainability

Arts, Parks, and Historical Resources

Governance and Organizational Effectiveness

Previous Council Action:

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

Background:

The Legislative Platform provides guidance to the City's legislative team on issues that may arise during the session and outlines the City's legislative process. The platform is meant to be general in its guidance and not prescriptive due to the fast-paced nature of the legislative session. The plan is broken into two components as summarized below. The draft plan is attached for Council's review.

Part 1: Legislative Platform

The draft legislative platform includes general principles for legislation that give guidance to staff as to the City's interest in potential legislation on various topics and policy issues. The City's legislative team will use these principles to help determine the City's position on various policy issues that may arise during the legislative session.

Part 2: City of Reno Values Statement

This section outlines the City's processes that will be used during the legislative session. The document includes Council value statements from prior iterations as well as language that reflects that the majority position of the Reno City Council is the only position that will be communicated to legislators.

Discussion:

Every two years, the Reno City Council adopts a State Legislative Platform. The platform provides staff and Council with general guiding principles to assist in forming the City's position on pieces of legislation. Legislative sessions are limited to 120 days by the Nevada Constitution. Due to this fast-paced nature, the legislative team will use the adopted principles to guide legislative advocacy activities and determine positions, as appropriate, on policy issues. For policy issues not addressed by this platform, the topic may be brought before the City Council for direction.

The redlined 2025 State Legislative Platform is attached for your reference. The government affairs team recommends the following additions to the platform:

Artificial Intelligence

- The City supports responsible AI use to improve efficiency while addressing risks like bias, privacy, security, and public trust, and is looking forward to working with legislators to create ethical and transparent guidelines.

Redevelopment --> Economic Development

- The City supports legislation that provides additional tools for local governments to address blighted areas and vacant properties.

Affordable Housing & Workforce Housing

- The City supports additional state solutions that provide financing tools and resources to facilitate the development of workforce housing for individuals and families earning up to 120% of the Area Median Income (AMI).
- The City supports legislation that provides alternative funding mechanisms to replenish the costs associated with City-subsidized affordable housing projects.

Moving the following statement from Fiscal Sustainability --> Mental Health

- The City supports legislation that provides funding for mental health services for the community at the local level and for policing efforts.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications at this time.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council adopt the 2025 State Legislative Platform.

Proposed Motion:

I move to adopt the 2025 State Legislative Platform.

Attachments:

City of Reno – 83rd Nevada Legislative Session Platform (Redline)

City of Reno – 83rd Nevada Legislative Session Platform (Clean)