



CITY OF RENO

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM & OPERATIONS PLAN

82nd (2023) Legislative Session

This plan shall be in effect for legislative activity related to the 82nd Nevada Legislative Session and any subsequent interim work prior to the 83rd Session. The 82nd Nevada Legislative Session is scheduled to begin on February 6, 2023.

Legislative Platform

General Principles for Legislation

The City of Reno will identify issues and coordinate with other units of local government to enact legislation favorable to local government. The following statements are intended to give general guidance to the City's Legislative Team as to the City's interest in potential legislation on various topics and policy issues.

Local Government Authority and Preemption

- The City will support legislation that allows for increased flexibility and discretion at the local level. The City's position is that cities and towns are voluntarily created by the residents of a community to provide local self-governance.
- The City opposes efforts that would preempt the ability of local governments to set appropriate policy at the local level. The City opposes legislation that would compromise, in any way, the City Council's authority.

Regional Roles, Responsibilities, and Services

- The City supports legislation that would strengthen the role of the City Council or its members on all regional boards, commissions, or other entities.
- The City supports measures that empower local entities to make determinations about regional approaches to service delivery. The City opposes legislation that requires specific consolidation or service delivery approaches.

Fiscal Sustainability

- The City supports legislation that provides funding for infrastructure and other local government services, so long as the distribution of the funds is equitable among local governments and the source of funding does not impose an undue burden on taxpayers.
- The City supports legislation that provides local authority over revenue. Conversely, the City opposes legislation that would limit a local government's ability to manage its revenue sources and expenditures.
- The City supports legislation that increases the number of alternatives available to local government bodies as they make decisions related to funding and provision of services at the local level.
- The City supports legislation that would allow for the provision of services, either by the City alone or in conjunction and cooperation with other units of local government, in a more efficient

and effective manner with no additional burden to the taxpayers or local government(s).

- The City supports changes to Nevada's tax structure that would increase the stability and equity of the system, provided that those changes allow for full funding of the vital services provided by local government.
- The City supports legislation that would prevent diversion of local revenues to the state without the prior approval of the local governing body.
- The City does not support legislation that would shift the responsibility for federally or state mandated programs to cities and/or counties unless the legislation also provides for full funding of the program(s).
- The City opposes the creation or imposition of any new unfunded mandates that may be proposed by the Legislature, including measures which would grant new employee benefits to be paid by local governments.
- The City supports legislation that provides funding for parks and recreation facilities, maintenance, and programs and for open space and greenways, so long as those funds are not diverted from existing local revenue sources.
- The City supports legislation that provides funding for mental health services for the community at the local level and for policing efforts.

Public Works

- The City supports legislation that would give preference to local bidders on public contracts and projects to the extent allowable under federal law.

Redevelopment

- The City would not support any changes to NRS Chapter 279 that would negatively impact the City's existing redevelopment areas or in any way limit the City's ability to utilize the redevelopment tools in NRS Chapter 279.

Collective Bargaining

- The City of Reno will take a position of active neutrality on issues pertaining to NRS Chapter 288 to maintain and place value on the relations the City has with its employees.

Law Enforcement

- The City will continue to engage productively and proactively in discussions surrounding law enforcement reform as the community dialogue around equity and social justice continue.
- The City will actively engage and support legislation designed to provide additional resources to address the growing problem of sideshows, trick driving, or street takeovers.

Open Meeting Law and Public Records

- The City recognizes the need to regularly review and update laws related to government transparency and accountability in the 21st Century. The City will advocate for additional resources to support new requirements on local governments.

Affordable Housing

- The City supports legislation that provides tools and resources, which align with the City's strategic priorities, to address the housing affordability crisis the state and the nation is currently facing.

Homeless Services

- The City supports efforts to address the many impacts of homelessness and the need for increased access and expansion of programs that provide mental health and outreach support.

Sustainability

- The City supports legislation that improves a community’s ability to operate sustainably and be resilient in the face of climate change.

Bill Draft Requests

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 218D.205 specifies that the City of Reno is allocated two bill draft requests (BDRs). The City’s Legislative Team will actively pursue and advocate for the bill concepts endorsed by the Reno City Council on August 10, 2022. The City’s BDR was introduced as Senate Bill 12 by the Senate Government Affairs Committee. Senate Bill 12 amends the Reno City Charter: this bill would eliminate gendered language throughout the Charter; repeals changes scheduled to take effect January 2025 related to number of wards, makeup of elected offices, and other related provisions; and, adds green infrastructure projects to the list of projects types that could be authorized under local improvement law. In lieu of a second BDR, the City’s Legislative Team will actively pursue and advocate for efforts to advance affordable housing legislation that will align with the City’s legislative policy platform outlined here.

Legislative Operations Plan

Communication and Council Updates

The Legislative Team will provide periodic updates to the City Council as a body at regularly-scheduled City Council meetings during key time periods during the legislative session. The meetings are scheduled to take place after major legislative deadlines.

| Approximate Date | Legislative Deadline |
|------------------|---|
| March 8 | Following the deadline for the release of all non-emergency BDRs |
| April 12 | Following the deadline for the release of all non-emergency bills |
| May 10 | Following the deadline for First House Passage |
| May 24 | Following the deadline for Second House Passage |

The Legislative Team will also facilitate informational briefings with City Council members twice a month. These meetings will be an opportunity for the Legislative Team to provide updates on legislation that the City has chosen to prioritize.

Official City Positions on Legislation

Policy Issues

The Legislative Team will use the principles adopted in the *Legislative Platform* portion of this document 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 at bi-weekly regular meetings for direction.

When a subject comes before the City Council for action, the majority vote will be the official position of the City Council. The Legislative Team will communicate only the majority position of the City Council to

the Legislature. The Council will not allow minority positions or opinions to be communicated to the Legislature. Sending mixed messages to the Legislature would be detrimental to the success of the City's legislative agenda.

Individual Council members acting in a private capacity may communicate with legislators and appear before the Legislature regarding issues not related to the City of Reno.

Operational Issues

The Legislative Team will have the authority to make decisions on the City's position on those matters known to be in the best interest of the policy making and management position of the City. Typically, these matters include ministerial changes such as accounting and reporting procedures or practical changes to zoning matters. Functional questions will be directed to the City Manager and/or department managers, as applicable, to determine the best position on issues.

If there is a question regarding the impact of an issue, the City Manager will determine whether or not the item should be brought before the City Council or handled administratively. Such information will be reported to the Council at each City Council Meeting with a legislative relations agenda item and during the bi-weekly briefings.

Appearing Before the Legislature

Any requests for City staff testimony by state officers or departments should be directed to the Legislative Relations Program Manager. They will coordinate the City's testimony and appearances at legislative committee hearings to ensure that the City's position is communicated consistently. The Legislative Team will speak generally to the City's position, but, at times, it may seek the expertise and knowledge of City staff on particular issues. Any member of the Council or City staff who appears before the Legislature will be accompanied by a member of the Legislative Team.

Legislator and/or Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) Requests

All requests from a legislator and/or the LCB should be directed to the Legislative Relations Program Manager. They will coordinate responses and make sure that the legislator's and/or LCB's request is answered in a timely manner. Exceptions to this practice would be when a member of the City staff has been identified as the point of contact on a specific technical issue. It would then be the responsibility of such designee to ensure the Legislative Team is apprised of any such request and response.

Legislative Team

The City's legislative efforts will be led by Nic Ciccone, Legislative Relations Program Manager. He will be responsible for coordinating all legislative issues with the City Council, City management, department heads, and City staff who will be representing the City at the Legislature.

The Office of Policy and Strategy (OPS) will be the lead department on legislative issues. The OPS team will determine specific advocacy approaches and keep Council and others informed during the legislative session. Additionally, the OPS team will coordinate, collect information, prepare, and review fiscal notes.

Each department will be responsible for identifying subject matter experts who will review bills, provide input on proposed legislation and fiscal notes, and recommend positions.

Coordinating with Other Local Governments

The Legislative Relations Program Manager and other members of the Legislative Team, as appropriate, will meet regularly during the session with lobbyists representing the cities of Sparks, Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and Henderson; Washoe County; Clark County; the Nevada League of Cities; and other local government entities (such as Washoe County School District, Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency, the Regional Transportation Commission,

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority, etc.) to discuss strategy associated with bills of common interest.