

STAFF REPORT

Date: March 22, 2023

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Presentation, discussion, and potential adoption of the City of Reno 2023-2024 Federal Legislative Platform.

From: Calli Wilsey, Director of Policy and Strategy

Department: City Manager's Office

Summary:

Staff is requesting Council approval of the City of Reno 2023-2024 Federal Legislative Platform. The City has developed federal platforms since 1999, and the document is used throughout the year to guide decision making and the pursuit of federal funding and policy opportunities. The proposed 2023-2024 Federal Legislative Platform proposes minimal changes compared to the 2022 platform. The vast majority of the City's platform continue to remain relevant, and most language is carried forward, including support for federal programs that are vital to the Reno community and support the City's strategic goals.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Economic Opportunity, Homelessness, and Affordable Housing
Economic and Community Development
Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Environmental Sustainability
Arts, Parks, and Historical Resources
Public Safety

Previous Council Action:

April 13, 2022 – Council adopted the 2022 Federal Legislative Platform
July 29, 2020 - Council adopted the 2020-2021 Federal Legislative Platform

Background:

Between November 2022 and February 2023, Chris Giglio of CapitalEdge, the City's federal lobbying consultant, and City government affairs staff met with individual Council members and department directors to discuss the City's federal priorities. The updated federal platform reflects these discussions as well as the Council adopted 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. Generally, the

platform attempts to offer some direction to the federal government with regard to the potential consequences of their actions on local governments and the community, as opposed to taking positions on specific executive orders or legislation.

Discussion:

The proposed 2023-2024 Federal Legislative Platform proposes minimal changes compared to the 2022 platform. The vast majority of the City's platform continue to remain relevant, and most language is carried forward, including support for federal programs that are vital to the Reno community like the Community Development Block Grant program, the Low Income housing Tax Credit program, and homeless assistance programs. The proposed platform carries forward policy positions on public lands legislation, immigration, and preemption on issues local authority. The advocacy document continues support for federal actions that are pertinent to the City's strategic goals, including housing affordability and community sustainability and resiliency. The platform highlights key infrastructure needs related to transportation, water, sewer, and stormwater projects and identifies areas that would benefit from federal assistance, such as public safety and parks and recreation.

The notable areas of change in the proposed draft are:

- Recognition of the potential impacts of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), including support for implementation of the federal tax credits for investments in industries that lower greenhouse gas emissions;
- Support for waivers to Buy America requirements in limited circumstances when domestic materials are either not available at all or not available in a timely manner, resulting in significant cost increases; and
- Transitioning the platform to a standard two-year document. Staff will continue to schedule annual federal briefings to check in with Council members and departments. If significant changes are requested or needed, staff will bring forward an interim update for Council approval. Staff will continue to update the designed document annually to ensure the City's fast facts information and contact information remain up to date.

Financial Implications:

None at this time

Legal Implications:

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

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council adopt the 2023-2024 Federal Legislative Platform.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

2023-2024 Federal Platform_Proposed_Redline

2023-2024 Federal Platform_Proposed_Clean