

2014 Legislative Platform for State and Federal Advocacy

Roseville City Council



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BACKGROUND

The state and federal priorities defined within this legislative platform reflect the City Council's goals and priorities as well as its position on issues that are currently, or are anticipated to be, the focus of future legislation and regulation at the state and federal levels. Council's adoption of this platform authorizes the City's active participation to influence state and federal decision-making on legislative, administrative, regulatory and funding issues and to support judicial advocacy consistent with the City's priorities.

Using this document as a guide, the City will adopt positions on specific legislation, regulations and budget proposals, and respond to requests for *amicus curiae* support when the outcome of a pending lawsuit is likely to significantly affect a priority concern of the City. The Mayor will sign letters of support or opposition based on the City's identified interests; the Mayor and other Council Members will advance City interests through individual and regional advocacy efforts; and the Mayor will act on requests from the City Attorney to join in friend-of-the-court briefs.

Staff recommends that the Legislative Platform be updated annually to be responsive to changes to the state and federal legislative and regulatory environments and to reflect the interests unique to Roseville and interests that may also be common to cities throughout the State.

Effective Platform Implementation

An assortment of internal and external resources is used to effectively administer the City's legislative platform. The resources and processes used include the following:

- City staff works collaboratively with our federal and state lobbyists to understand and develop strategies to influence legislation. The City's federal lobbyist also works closely with staff to help identify funding resources for departmental projects and will review grant applications before they are submitted. Staff will scrutinize grant requirements for matching funds, environmental review or otherwise unrequired activities to ensure they have a reasonable correlation to the value of the funding and the benefit being derived from the grant.
- In addition to the City's lobbyists, city staff interacts and participates with organizations such as The League of California Cities, Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), North State Water Alliance, Northern California Power Agency (NCPA), California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), Roseville Chamber of Commerce, etc. on issues that are important to the City. Belonging to these organizations and partnering with them on critical issues allows the City to have a stronger voice on issues and a greater potential to impact key policy and legislative matters.
- Government relations staff works with staff from each department on legislation, regulations, and project funding opportunities that are important to City departments. During the course of the legislative year, staff monitors legislation, develops priority lists of legislation for each department, and makes recommendations on letters of support/opposition as the bills progress through the legislative process.
- Government relations staff works closely with legislative staff at the state and federal levels to ensure the City's position on legislation and critical concerns is clearly understood by Roseville's elected representatives. The development of this relationship and exchange of information with the City's representatives continues throughout the year.

Working collaboratively with the Council's Law and Regulation Committee and the City's internal and external partners ensures that the City's has the greatest ability to influence legislation and policies that are crucial to the City. The City has successfully used this process of proactive advocacy and coalition development to take positions on legislation in a manner that is effective in advancing the legislative platform.

PROPOSED PRIORITIES FOR 2014:

Staff submits the following as the foundation of priorities for 2014:

Citywide legislative principles

1. The City of Roseville believes in local control and the ability of the City Council to make decisions that address the needs of residents and businesses within the local jurisdiction they directly serve. In general, the City of Roseville will oppose legislation that erodes local control and will support legislation that increases control at the local level.

2. The City of Roseville also believes in fiscal responsibility and requires financial flexibility to carry out its mission and objectives for the community. The City will oppose legislation that hinders financial flexibility and will support legislation that encourages financial flexibility.
3. Oppose legislation that requires the City to provide a service or benefit without appropriate and full funding.
4. Oppose legislation that would negatively impact the City's sales and/or property tax revenues.

Federal funding: City requests – legislative and administrative funding opportunities

Continue previous efforts to secure funding for infrastructure improvements.

1. Washington Andora Widening Project
2. Aquifer Storage & Recovery Project Operational Plan & Needed Infrastructure (ASR)
3. Waste to Energy Project

Federal funding: Promoting economic stimulus and infrastructure investment

The City will support legislation and measures that fund:

- a) Projects that provide jobs especially in the areas of energy, water, transportation, public safety and community development.
- b) Assist in business expansion and formation.
- c) The City will support participation in regional efforts to identify federal funding opportunities.

Federal and State Legislative platform:

Citywide Platform:

1. Oppose state and federal actions that produce incompatible consequences and/or have an adverse impact on the City's ability to comply with state and federal regulations and/or legislation. The City will inform the community when these situations occur.
2. Support legislation that would further the stated missions of the City's departments and oppose legislation that would impede the ability of each department to effectively meet their operational objectives.
3. Support legislation and regulations that preserve city assets, infrastructure and projects.
4. Support legislation and policies that protect our residents and businesses from inconsistent, unnecessary and costly special district, state and federal regulations, mitigation requirements and permits.
5. Oppose legislation and regulations that would negatively impact or divert any City revenues to the state or any other entity.
6. Support legislation that would require the State to pay for mandates that are unfunded.
7. Oppose legislation that would impose significant compliance costs to the City and where a public benefit has not been identified to justify the costs.

Functional Service Departments

Administrative Services Goal: To protect the ability of the City to make decisions unencumbered by onerous policies and regulations that are costly and/or restrictive in how they must be implemented regarding areas of finance, human resources, city clerk, information technology and central services. Ensure the City positions regarding pension reform are clearly articulated by providing input and expertise in response to future legislative efforts.

We take the following approaches to accomplish this:

Administrative Services Platform:

1. Support legislation and measures that protect the City's rights in the collective bargaining process.
2. Support legislation, policies and regulations that simplify administration of public records, election code and Brown Act provisions and provide full cost recovery.
3. Oppose legislation that diminishes enacted workers' compensation reforms and cost controls.
4. Support legislation that reforms unemployment insurance.
5. Support efforts that engage and include local government participation in future pension reform discussions and legislation.

Information Technology Platform:

1. Support legislation and regulations that ensure emergency communication capabilities and interoperability for public safety agencies.
2. Support legislation and policies that increase the ability to manage technology and security risks and compliance requirements and that provide funding for these types of activities.
3. Support legislation and policies that encourage streamlining of business processes for responding to open records requests and that provide funding for these activities.
4. Support legislation and cost effective Environmental Technology initiatives.
5. Oppose legislation that would restrict procurement practices or impact vendor interaction.

Community Development Goal: To create an attractive, vibrant, well-planned city demonstrated by a balanced land use with desirable neighborhoods, prosperous businesses, excellent schools, convenient public services and open space and recreation amenities all linked by superior transportation systems that include well maintained streets, sidewalks, bike paths and transit in a cost effective and financially sustainable manner. To monitor and act on legislation that would restrict local control or impose new regulations that require increased costs and greater demands on the City's general fund.

We take the following approaches to accomplish this:

Public Works and Transportation Platform

1. Support reauthorization of the nation's highway and transit laws.
2. Oppose legislation that reduces or eliminates transportation revenues for transportation purposes.
3. Support legislation that provides additional funding for local roadway maintenance, transportation and infrastructure.
4. Support measures that ensure reasonable and fiscally responsible accessibility of all public and private transportation services.
5. Oppose legislation that reduces the ability to use high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes by transit, para-transit and other high occupancy use vehicles.
6. Support legislation, policies and regulations that allow the use of Medi-Cal funds for transportation purposes and support Medi-Cal policies that promote the use of transit/Para transit as Medicaid providers.
7. Support legislation that provides tax incentives for people who use public transit and other alternative forms of travel to a personal vehicle.
8. Support legislation that provides funding for cities to comply with State-mandated flood protection levels.

Planning Platform

1. Support legislation that strengthens local control in the areas of transportation and land-use policies and assists local governments to integrate new growth.
2. Support legislation, policies and regulations that ensure local governments maintain local land use control.
3. Support legislation that ensures local control and flexibility in determining reduction measures for greenhouse gas requirements.
4. Support legislation and regulations that require agencies to consider the economic impacts and equities of mitigation measures regarding permits for water supply, flood control, air quality, water quality and sustainability. (This list is representative and not intended to be exhaustive.)
5. Oppose legislation for new wetlands regulations that duplicates similar requirements at the federal level.
6. Support Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Section 214 permanence and the ability to process public/private projects through WRDA.
7. Support legislation for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reform that streamlines the environmental review process and reduces opportunities for "green mail" lawsuits.

Parks, Recreation & Libraries

1. Support legislation and measures that fund recreation, fitness and wellness and prevention programs for youth and adults.
2. Support legislation that protects funding for the State Library Fund.
3. Support legislation and new measures for park, recreation and library programs and services and special events.
4. Support new initiatives that provide funding for park and public facilities development, rehabilitation and operations.
5. Support full funding of state parks, recreation, bike trails, open space and library grants, including, but not limited to, the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
6. Support legislation and budgets that fund development of capital park and open space improvements or rehabilitation.
7. Support legislation that funds on-going operational values for recreation and library programming including, fitness, wellness, enrichment, maintenance and books/technology for youth and adults.
8. Support legislation that addresses fair and appropriate use of park and library resources as it relates to homeless rights.
9. Support legislation that defines appropriate penalties for incidents of vandalism and property theft.

Public Safety Goal: To protect and enhance the safety and quality of life of our residents, businesses, customers and partners by providing exceptional responses to all service requests, promoting programs that minimize risk and maximize the safety for our entire community and by delivering community risk reduction programs and exceptional solutions as a cohesive team.

We take the following approaches to accomplish this:

1. Oppose legislation that would decrease state and federal funding for programs and services including Homeland Security.
2. Support legislation that ensures flexibility for and local control of all grant resources and funding for public safety technology and mandatory reporting systems.
3. Protect ability to adopt local amendments to fire and building codes.
4. Oppose legislation that would reduce or eliminate funding for disaster mitigation.
5. Oppose reductions to the levels of state and federal funding opportunities for public safety programs and/or services.
6. Oppose regulatory policies that negatively affect either the police or fire departments.
7. Support legislation that provides municipalities with local control to provide para-transport and community para-medicine services.
8. Support legislation that provides adequate funding to cities for realignment services and oppose legislation that reduces or eliminates funding for those services.

Economic Development Goal: To create a vibrant business and community environment that enhances the quality of life for our residents and provides outstanding potential for our businesses and partners to flourish. To provide exceptional facilities, programs, services and affordable housing opportunities in a safe environment by maintaining neighborhoods and commercial districts. To create a vibrant economic development environment by forming effective partnerships for the purposes of supporting legislation that encourages and assists with the development of businesses and manufacturing and to maximize social and economic opportunities.

We take the following approaches to accomplish this:

Housing and Community Investment Platform

1. Support legislation that fully funds the federal Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8), Neighborhood Stabilization and Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs.
2. Support legislation and measures that create new State incentives for affordable housing and infill development.
3. Support legislation that increases flexibility in the State housing element process and streamlines environmental statutes.
4. Support appropriation of adequate funding for housing programs including CDBG and HOME.
5. Support streamlining of the requirements for the types of projects that can be funded with State and federal funding.

Economic Development Platform

1. Oppose legislation and measures that create competitive disadvantages for local businesses.
2. Support legislation and measures that allow the City to grow the current economic base by providing the tools and resource needed for businesses to expand and flourish.
3. Support legislation, funding and policies that promote ROP, trade schools, investment in Research and Development technology and tax incentives for manufacturing.
4. Support legislation, policies and regulations that require economic analysis and/or scientific validation of changes to state policies or regulations before modifications can be enacted.
5. Support legislation that promotes the state as an economically viable and strong destination for businesses to locate.

Electric and Environmental Utilities Goal: To protect local control over how utilities provide service to their customers; protect our customers from state and federal legislation, policies and regulations that have no clear benefit relative to cost; and, to oppose legislation, policies and regulations that create unfunded mandates and compliance requirements that negatively impact the utility's ability to provide their services and products in the most safe, reliable and cost effective manner.

We take the following approaches to accomplish this:

Electric Platform

1. Support legislation, policies and regulations that ensure utility regulation and new environmental laws protect local authority and the ability to serve customers and consider cost/rate impacts.
2. Support legislation that develops cost-effective renewable energy resources.
3. Support legislation and regulations that streamline permitting for new generating facilities.
4. Support legislation that provides for multiple approaches to meet energy peak usage.
5. Support newly formed joint-power action groups and new municipal power entities.
6. Oppose legislation that establishes market-based rates for users of federal hydro-electric power.
7. Support legislation that preserves public tax-exempt financing.
8. Oppose legislation that would reduce funding for energy programs.
9. Support legislation that streamlines the regulatory requirements at all levels regarding federal reliability standards and state environmental regulations.
10. Support legislation that would improve the process used for evaluating reliability compliance including; refocusing the process on issues that pose the greatest risks to reliability of the grid; and, reduces regulatory burdens on users, owners and operators.
11. Oppose legislation that makes changes to renewable energy regulations without comprehensive analysis, including a cost/benefit analysis, and stakeholder input before enactment.
12. Support legislation and efforts that ensure future changes to transmission system improvements and/or requirements include allocations of the costs for those activities to the parties that impact the systems and/or stand to benefit from those improvements. (The Beneficiary Pays Principle)
13. Support legislation and reform efforts that require a comprehensive cost/benefit analysis for meeting new environmental regulations.

Environmental Utility Legislative Platform

Roseville's Environmental Utilities Department provides water, wastewater, solid waste and recycled water utility services to Roseville's residents and businesses. The department is also responsible for oversight of the city's stormwater quality management program. Our mission is to operate a progressive, self-sufficient group of utilities that are looking for opportunities to serve the public in an environmentally friendly and fiscally responsible way. There are many external factors that influence how Environmental Utilities operates, how much our services cost and the quality of service we provide to our rate-paying customers are critical internal factors.

Policy Positions

Solid Waste Management: Goal: To provide efficient and cost effective solid waste management that is financially sustainable and good for the environment; and that allocates collection and disposal costs appropriately.

Solid Waste Platform:

1. Support efforts to enact a comprehensive statewide Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law that allocates end of life disposal costs with the producer of the product consistent with Council direction as outlined in Resolution 10-278.
2. Support product-by-product EPR laws in-lieu of a statewide comprehensive EPR law consistent with Council direction as outlined in Resolution 10-278.
3. Oppose efforts to increase recycling diversion rates if determined to not be cost effective, relative to the benefits that could be achieved.
4. Support recycling market development by the state and federal government for recyclables, green waste, food waste, sewage sludge and other organics. Oppose mandated material disposal bans or restrictions in circumstances where there is an insufficient capacity within the private recycling market to handle these materials in a more beneficial way besides landfilling.
5. Support efforts to streamline the permitting and construction of facilities that allow the city to transform usable waste into energy/beneficial byproducts; and efforts to provide state and federal funding for any potential city waste to energy projects.
6. Support efforts to reuse waste in a beneficial way if cost effective relative to benefits.
7. Support efforts to empower local governments to safely collect and dispose of pharmaceuticals.
8. Support efforts that protect solid waste worker safety.

Water Supply and Delivery: Goal: To protect local water rights, allocate costs appropriately statewide for water infrastructure improvements (Delta) and protect ratepayers from state and federally mandated efforts that have no clear local benefit relative to cost. To monitor and act on legislation that would be detrimental to running a financially sustainable water utility or affect quality of service provided.

With respect specifically to water supply reliability for Roseville, the Roseville City Council adopted the following policy statement which will guide staff with respect to protecting Roseville's water supply reliability:

"The City of Roseville seeks to establish and maintain long-term legal and operational water supply reliability assurances from the State of California and the Federal Government. These assurances would protect Roseville's water supply in light of climate change projections, Bay-Delta requirements, and new operations, as a statewide water supply solution is pursued.

Specific legal and operational assurances would ensure, even with climate change and other statewide water system demands, that, except due solely to drought in the American River basin, Folsom Reservoir never be drawn down below 392 feet in elevation (the level from which Roseville can meet its peak demands); and, that the City of Roseville never be subject to more than a 25 percent cut in its Central Valley Project (CVP) contract water supply; and that CVP deliveries to Roseville and other Folsom Reservoir diverters have priority among CVP project deliveries from the reservoir. Additionally, any costs related to water supply system improvements to be borne by

Roseville shall show a clear benefit to the City within the spirit of the “beneficiary pays principle.”

Legal and operational assurances will be sought in all state and federal water supply solutions and projects that affect the City’s water supply such as the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and operation of Folsom Reservoir. These specific legal and operational assurances will provide the basis for a stable and consistent water supply that the Roseville community and local economy can rely upon to continue its long history of success.”

Water Supply and Delivery Platform:

1. Safeguard Roseville’s water supply contracts from outside interests.
2. Support efforts that allocate the costs for Delta and statewide water infrastructure improvements to the parties that either impacts the Delta and/or stand to benefit from those improvements; known as the ‘Beneficiary Pays Principle.’
3. Support delta solutions that utilize sound science.
4. Encourage proactive and participatory approaches to developing delta solutions.
5. Support efforts that help local governments maintain water efficiency programs that meet state objectives, are cost effective, and make sense for the local conditions.
6. Support state and federal efforts to increase water efficiency ratings for common consumer products that use water.
8. Engage in discussions regarding water regulatory requirements that would add cost to the operation without a corresponding perceived benefit.
9. Protect the city’s land use authority and their right to make land use decisions with respect to water supply.

Water Quality: Goal: To protect and improve the environmental integrity of local waterways in a cost effective manner.

Water Quality Platform:

1. Oppose efforts to impose additional state mandated stormwater program requirements without commensurate funding for those programs.
2. Monitor and engage in the new EPA stormwater rulemaking efforts and in the statewide trash and bio-objectives policies.
3. Support efforts to evaluate cost of compliance and ways to reduce costs to dischargers.
4. Support legislative efforts to reduce potential of third party lawsuits pertaining to water quality issues.
5. Support legislation that revises the State Constitution to allow for stormwater programs to establish a funding mechanism that is similar to that of the utilities under the Proposition 218 reforms.
6. Support efforts to require pesticide manufacturers to produce products that are less harmful to the environment.
7. Support efforts to implement statewide Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) principles so that manufacturers design their products in a way that has less of an environmental impact upon local waterways (example: car brake pads).
8. Oppose efforts to increase whole effluent toxicity testing for recycled water, stormwater and wastewater when it is not cost effective, has no clear benefit and/or is not based on sound science.
9. Oppose efforts to add contaminants of emerging concern for regulation and testing for recycled water, stormwater and wastewater when it is not cost effective, has no clear health benefit and/or is not based on sound science.

10. Actively track and respond to proposed changes in Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR's) from the State Water Board and Regional Water Boards.
11. Participate in the Basin Plan Amendment to limit requirements related to salt or salinity management.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) and Sustainability: Goal: To protect the environment within our community, balancing benefits with cost to our utility ratepayers.

GHG and Sustainability Platform:

1. Support efforts that reduce greenhouse gas emissions for our utilities where the benefits of the GHG reduction measures are balanced with cost.
2. Support efforts that allow local governments to develop practical local solutions to reduce and manage locally generated GHG emissions.
3. Oppose statewide or federal greenhouse gas emission estimating, monitoring and reporting mandates affecting city utilities unless there is a clear need that provides demonstrated benefits to the environment.

REGULATIONS AND PERMITS: Goal: To protect our ratepayers from redundant and costly state and federal regulations and permits.

Regulations and Permits Platform:

1. Support legislative reform efforts that require a cost benefit analysis for new regulations.
2. Support legislative reform efforts that require a cost benefit analysis be completed as part of any permit writing process.

DEVELOP OUTSIDE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: Goal: To develop outside state and federal funding opportunities for Roseville projects and programs.

Outside Funding Opportunities Platform:

1. Develop relationships and funding opportunities through actively promoting Roseville projects that provide a mutual benefit for our funding partners.

Critical Concerns

- **Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)** - The BDCP has significant implications to the City's water supply and could interfere with future residential and commercial development undermining the city's ability to move forward with future land use decisions.
- **Delta Flow Criteria** - The City has significant concerns regarding the implications the proposed changes to the Delta flow criteria presents to the City's water and energy needs and the potential it presents for utility rate increases.
- **Cost Effective Utilities** - The ability to provide reliable and cost effective utilities to the residents and businesses of Roseville continues to be a central concern for the City as new state and federal mandates are proposed that would increase the cost of operating the utilities.
- **Federal Funding for Infrastructure & Transportation Projects** – Loss of federal funding for these types of projects and improvements would impact the City's ability to upgrade and maintain roadways and meet future infrastructure and transportation demands.
- **Cybersecurity** – New state laws that will take effect January 2014 and potential future federal cybersecurity laws will have implications for the City and the community. Costs for implementing new cybersecurity requirements will very likely be significant.
- **Changes to Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Tax Bonds** - The City has significant concerns regarding the affects proposals to alter the tax treatment of municipal bonds, including proposals to cap the exclusion for such interest, will have on local governments. The impacts of such a change would have a damaging impact to Roseville's budget, its utility customers and the community at large.
- **Modifications to Government Operated Mortgage Programs** – The City will remain active in understanding the changes being considered at the federal level to modify government operated mortgage programs, tax-deductions and to write new banking regulations regarding mortgage related lending programs. These all have the potential to impact the fragile housing recovery throughout the region and the state.