

**CITY OF OJAI
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 21-08**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OJAI
CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE A 2021
LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

WHEREAS, the Ojai City Council historically promotes legislative actions consistent with the goals and functions of the City of Ojai; and

WHEREAS, such legislative actions are typically included within a city's adopted Legislative Platform; and

WHEREAS, the City adopted a Legislative Platform at its February 25, 2020 Regular Meeting via Resolution No. 20-09; and

WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to efficiently pursue legislation that reflects the Legislative Platform and the goals of the City; and

WHEREAS, such platforms are typically updated annually for each year's legislative session and to reflect any changes in the issues of concern to the City; and

WHEREAS, not updating the platform annually could delay important actions necessary to assist in the passage or defeat of legislation; and

WHEREAS, the existing platform does not reflect the City's position on supporting access to federal and state resources that would aid in local recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Ojai, California, that:

SECTION 1. The City Council does hereby direct that under the section of the City of Ojai Legislative Platform titled, "Planning, Housing and Community Development," on Page 4, the statement, "Mandating building requirements with a single power source" be moved from the category, "The City Opposes" to the category, "The City Monitors."

SECTION 2. The City Council does hereby direct that the City of Ojai Legislative Platform be updated to include new language under Item No. 8 in the Section titled, "Public Safety, Emergency Preparedness" on Page 5, to read that the City supports "Maximum and fast access to federal and state resources to address short-term and long-term recovery needs resulting from natural and catastrophic disasters including domestic terrorism and pandemics and other public health emergencies including the COVID-19 outbreak."

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SECTION 3. The City Council does hereby adopt the Legislative Platform for 2021, which is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by this reference.

SECTION 4. The City Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to make statements and write letters necessary to support legislative actions consistent with the City's adopted Legislative Platform. Should the Mayor be unavailable to sign a City advocacy letter, the City Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to designate the Mayor Pro Tempore or the City Manager to sign and issue the letter in the Mayor's absence. All correspondence prepared on the City's behalf will be copied to each City Council member.

SECTION 5. The recitals provided in this resolution are true and correct and are incorporated into the operative part of this resolution.

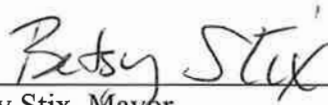
SECTION 6. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this resolution is, for any reason, held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions of this resolution. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this resolution, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 6. The City Council finds the adoption of this resolution is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED This 9th day of March, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: Blatz, Francina, Haney, Stix, Weirick
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None




Betsy Stix, Mayor

4 - 2 - 2021

Date signed

ATTEST:



Gail Davis, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Matthew Summers, City Attorney

City of Ojai

Legislative Platform for 2021

Adopted by the Ojai City Council on March 9, 2021

Purpose

The City of Ojai's Legislative Platform defines the City's positions on issues with potential to impact the City. It provides a framework for evaluating state and federal initiatives against those interests.

Staff will use the platform as a guideline to monitor legislative proposals throughout the year and communicate the City's position to legislative representatives in a timely manner. Proposed legislation consistent with the City's platform may be supported, and legislation inconsistent with the platform may be opposed.

The platform does not preclude consideration of additional legislative and budgetary issues that may arise during the legislative session. Council may wish to provide additional direction should such issues arise. The platform supplements other City Council-established policies and goals, reflected in other policy documents.

The Council will annually adjust this program to guide advocacy efforts on legislative issues and project needs.

Guiding Principles

The following are the guiding principles for this legislative program:

1. Preserve Local Control and Sound Administration

The City supports initiatives that would provide a greater share of state and federal funding to Ojai. It opposes proposals that would reduce the City's share of total funding.

The City supports initiatives that would reduce or eliminate cumbersome, contradictory regulatory/oversight requirements of state or federal programs.

II. Promote Fiscal Stability

The City supports initiatives that promote local fiscal stability, financial independence and preserves the City's revenue base.

The City supports initiatives that would limit or minimize the City's exposure to tort/liability claims.

The City opposes initiatives that would impose new unfunded mandates on the City; shift local funds to the state or federal governments, or mandate costs with no guarantee of reimbursement or offsetting benefits.

III. Support Funding Opportunities

The City supports initiatives that would provide cities with greater decision-making authority over the use of state or federal funds and provide for direct grants or mandatory pass-through allocations.

IV. Enhance Quality Of Life

The City supports initiatives that would enhance public safety, quality of life and quality of environment.

Legislative Platform

Listed by Subject Area

Administrative Services and General Governance, Revenue and Taxation, Community Services, Employee Relations

Administrative Services/General Governance

The City supports:

1. Local government action and control, rather than the imposition of regional, state or federal upon local governments.
2. Maximum flexibility for local governments in contracting and contract negotiations.
3. The principles of the open meetings provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act at all levels of government.
4. Facilitating local governments' ability to determine the appropriate type of election for their jurisdictions.
5. Continuous process improvement for all state and federal agencies.
6. Funding opportunities provided to local jurisdictions through statewide bond efforts.

The City monitors:

7. Local, state and federal legislation pertaining to e-cigarettes and cannabis.

Revenue and Taxation

The City supports:

8. Preservation and enhancement of the City's ability to generate and retain sales and use tax revenue and local point-of-sale revenue allocations.

The City monitors:

9. Proposition 13 and city and county tax apportionment proposals.
10. All proposals that include an unfunded mandate.

The City opposes:

11. Any amendment to the redistribution of sales and use taxes which would negatively affect cities' ability to provide services and thereby cause a negative fiscal impact.
12. Any legislation that would increase the City's dependence on the state for financial stability and policy direction.
13. Any legislation that would alter the manner by which transient occupancy taxes are calculated and collected.

Community Services

The City supports:

1. Access, enhancement and local control regarding parks and recreation facilities, open space, bike lanes, after-school programming and senior services.
2. Initiatives and funding opportunities that help cities promote and maintain historic preservation, the arts and cultural resources.
3. Full funding of library services.

Employee Relations

The City supports:

4. Pension reform measures that controls or decreases employer liability or increase transparency in reporting without imposing undo hardships or administrative burdens on local government.

The City opposes:

5. Reducing local control over employee relation issues or mandating new or enhanced local government employee benefits.
6. Compulsory and binding arbitration with respect to employees.

Planning, Housing and Community Development, Economic Development

Planning, Housing and Community Development

The City supports:

1. Strengthening local agencies' ability to prepare, adopt and implement plans for orderly growth, development, beautification and conservation of local planning areas.
2. Creating efficiencies with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and limiting delays in the local planning and development process.
3. Allowing state agencies and local governments to retain full authority to reject projects or to condition project approvals and impose mitigation measures.

4. Developing and enhancing safe, affordable and accessible housing within the City for all economic segments of the population.
5. Expanding federal housing assistance programs that promote housing stability, and therefore allow more people in need to participate in such programs.
6. Community development policies and guidelines to facilitate alternative building methods, materials and technologies.
7. Initiatives to house chronically homeless individuals and families.
8. Community development policies and guidelines to facilitate alternative building methods, materials and technologies.
9. Reducing pet overpopulation through pet sterilization, more effective lost pet re-homing from local shelters, close regulation of “puppy mills” to ensure basic humane animal care and related humane animal treatment and regulation.

The City monitors:

10. Local, state and federal actions related to medical and recreation marijuana regulatory changes.
11. Mandating building requirements with a single power source.

The City opposes:

12. Withholding funds dedicated to transportation unless proposed housing goals are met.

Economic Development

The City supports:

1. Preserving and enhancing a positive business climate that expands and diversifies the City's economic base.
2. Working with neighboring cities, the county and other government agencies to leverage resources and to strengthen economic clusters within our region.
3. Initiatives that help the workforce adapt to economic changes due to technological advances, including educational opportunities in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.
4. Initiatives to provide financial assistance and economic incentives that promote the use of renewable energy.

The City Opposes:

5. State, county or federal policies that prohibit community business liability.

Public Safety, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Quality

Public Safety, Emergency Preparedness

The City supports:

1. Enhancements to community safety and well-being, including initiatives which support state and federal reimbursement of security- or disaster-related expenses.
2. Funding to assist local law enforcement, fire and emergency services in providing services.
3. Improved emergency preparedness and response systems, including modernizing public safety technology and infrastructure.
4. Funding for wildfire prevention efforts such as removal of dead trees and non-fire resistant species such as palms.
5. Ensuring financial viability of the Ventura County Fire Protection District and the public safety services it provides. This includes forward planning, local government reimbursement; prevention measures, and response enhancements to “all-hazard” emergency incidents.
6. Continued federal funding to offset local costs associated with planning for and responding to the medical/health consequences of disasters, terrorism, or other public health emergencies. Such funding formulas should consider proximity of jurisdictions to high-profile incidents rather than be based solely on the presence of such incidents within jurisdictional boundaries.
7. Initiatives to include insurance companies in wildland fire mitigation efforts.
8. Maximum and fast access to federal and state resources to address short-term and long-term recovery needs resulting from natural and catastrophic disasters including domestic terrorism and pandemics and other public health emergencies including the COVID-19 outbreak.
9. Local control for the regulation of cultivation, storage, manufacture, transport and use of medical cannabis.
10. Initiatives that increase resources and local authority for abatement of public vandalism, especially tagging and graffiti.

Environmental Quality

The City supports:

11. Financial and operational incentives for emerging renewable energy and recycling technologies to support local government efforts to minimize costs and environmental impacts.
12. Cost-effective strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage the use of grants, loans and incentives to assist cities in implementing greenhouse gas reduction and air quality improvement programs.
13. Financial and technical assistance to enhance local water supplies and promote resource sustainability.
14. Cost reductions for alternative fuel vehicle purchases for cities equivalent to the tax rebate afforded to private consumers.
15. Energy conservation, energy renewal development, farmland and habitat preservation and alternative transportation modes.
16. Initiatives to streamline and coordinate hazardous materials regulations.
17. Reduced reliance on the most toxic pesticides, herbicides and rodenticides and public education on safe pesticide use.

Transportation and Public Works, Communication Technology

Transportation and Public Works

The City supports:

1. Increased state and federal funding for local infrastructure and transportation projects, including road resurfacing, local transit, bicycle lanes, sidewalks, trails where appropriate, and transit development and that enhances pedestrian and bicycle safety.
2. Enhancing the ability of local agencies to finance local transportation programs and facilities.
3. Joint-planning efforts and with neighboring cities and the county to address traffic congestion and related matters.
4. Reallocation of state or federal transportation dollars to fund local transit projects.
5. Situating commuter public transportation hubs in populated areas where there would be a large public benefit.
6. Providing further fuel efficiency requirements for light trucks, sport utility vehicles, heavy trucks and trains.

Communication Technology

The City supports:

7. Cybersecurity strengthening for the public, government and business.
8. Improved broadband availability, accessibility, competition and performance.
9. Undergrounding of utilities to remove a common source of ignition and to help prevent wildfires and loss of utility services during disasters.
10. Legislative initiatives that grant local governments the ability or tools to prevent way-finding apps from negatively impacting local neighborhood streets, including congestion, safety and wear and tear.

The City Opposes:

11. Any erosion of local governments' ability to regulate wireless facilities.