



2026 State and Federal Legislative Platform

Adopted by the City Council on January 20, 2026

The Legislative Platform provides a streamlined process through which the City Council, City Manager, City staff, and the City's legislative advocates can act in a timely manner in response to legislative proposals. Legislation that is consistent with the Legislative Platform are reviewed, approved and signed by the Mayor or City Manager. In addition, legislative positions that are deemed time-sensitive and are consistent with the Legislative Platform may be approved and signed by the City Manager when the Mayor is unavailable. Once approved, a position letter is sent to the bill's author, the City's legislative advocate, and other stakeholders as deemed appropriate by staff, and a copy of the letter is distributed to the City Council.

Additionally, to remain nimble throughout the Legislative Session and respond to amendments, the City Manager or his/her designee may sign and submit position letters so long as the position is consistent with the position taken by Cal Cities and/or other City affiliated organizations, even if the scope of the legislation is not already incorporated into the City's Legislative Platform.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Preserve Local Control

Preserve and protect the City's powers, duties and prerogatives to enact local legislation and policy direction concerning local affairs and oppose legislation that preempts local authority. Local agencies should preserve authority and accountability for revenues raised and services provided.

2. Support Funding Opportunities

Support opportunities that allow the City to compete and receive its fair share of regional, state, and federal funding for City projects and priorities. Opportunities include, and are not limited to, state and federal stimulus funding for state and local governments, economic development and job training, transportation, cultural arts, parks and recreation, energy efficiency, public safety, and public health.

3. Promote Fiscal Stability

Support measures that promote fiscal stability, predictability, financial independence, and preserve the City's revenue base and maximum local control over local government budgeting. Oppose measures that shift local funds to the County, State or Federal Governments and/or make cities more dependent on the County, State or Federal Governments for financial stability, such as mandated costs with no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits.

CITY OF BREA POLICY PLATFORM POSITIONS

City Governance and Finance

1. Support stability, predictability, and independence in local government budgeting.
2. Support increases in local flexibility for use of state, federal and regional funding opportunities.
3. Support the continuation of the tax-free status of municipal bonds.
4. Encourage the County of Orange to make available more detailed auditing and reporting information regarding property tax and assessment appeals filed on property within city limits.
5. Support modification of the tax system to reflect the change in the State's economy from a manufacturing base to a service and information base.
6. Support the preservation and enhancement of the City's ability to generate revenues from all types of sales.
7. Support supplements to local funds to comply with mandates created by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act.
8. Support generation, protection and timely allocation of local funding distributed by the state and federal government.
9. Support policies that add additional flexibilities and reduce burdensome requirements within the Brown Act.
10. Support local sales and use tax reform to create an equitable distribution structure that appropriately captures and allocates online sales tax.
11. Support measures that apply general communications taxes, such as UUT, to all communications providers across including, but not limited to, providers of cable, video services, wireless, wire line (telephone lines), and satellite.
12. Support maintaining local discretion and authority over transfer taxes and other locally approved revenue measures, opposing any state efforts to preempt, delay, or undermine their implementation.
13. Support policies that affirm cities must retain the fiscal autonomy necessary to fund essential community services, infrastructure, and housing initiatives approved by their voters.
14. Oppose policies that would increase the voter threshold for local revenue measures or would increase the potential for litigation over local taxes and fees.

Economic Development

1. Support legislation that provides financial incentives (state grants or tax incentives) for modernization of land use principles.
2. Support efforts to facilitate the production of affordable housing and workforce housing, including infill housing incentives, grants to local agencies and private developer partnerships.
3. Support legislation that clarifies and narrows the prevailing wage standard for economic development, public works, and affordable housing projects.
4. Support increasing the State's minimum threshold for public works projects that require prevailing wage.
5. Support efforts to assist local business growth and economic development post Redevelopment.
6. Oppose efforts to cut funding from Community Development Block Grant and other federal grant programs.

Environmental Sustainability

1. Support efforts that encourage and incentivize regional coordinated planning activities for sustainable water resources, infrastructure, and planning.
2. Support limiting local government liability as a third party to superfund cleanup litigation.
3. Support Federal, State, and regional efforts to encourage and fund acquisition, preservation, and management of open space.
4. Support legislation that revises the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for purposes of expediting projects.
5. Support policies and guidelines to facilitate alternative building methods, materials and technologies.
6. Support incentives and pricing strategies as a preferred alternative to traditional command and control regulations for meeting state and local emission reduction objectives for all sources.
7. Support strategies that clearly demonstrate and provide for the most cost-effective means for meeting air quality goals.
8. Support the expansion of infrastructure to support recyclable materials, the reuse of recyclable materials, as well as increase waste diversion rates and support "green" projects that do not place an undue burden on local government.

9. Support financial incentive mechanisms to cities and businesses to fund public and private capital for organic waste diversion and recycling infrastructure in order to comply with the Organic waste procurement mandates.
10. Support efforts to mitigate traffic congestion, leading to improved mobility and air quality, without incurring excessive public and private costs associated with their implementation.
11. Oppose efforts by other governmental agencies to enlist cities as implementers of their environmental mandates.
12. Oppose any new or more restrictive water reduction measures by the state that do not consider new development and regulatory water requirements.

Housing and Land Use

1. Support housing element reform that provides local government the greatest flexibility to achieve realistic goals and support incentives for smart growth as well as funding for mandated General Plan Housing Element Updates and related processes.
2. Support reduction of housing density requirements to qualify for state grant funding.
3. Support legislation that preserves local discretion in the assessment, collection, and usage of development fees for projects including, but not limited to, water, wastewater, transportation, and other critical infrastructure needs.
4. Support funding and tax incentives for the identification, acquisition, maintenance, adaptive reuse and restoration of historic or vacant sites and structures.
5. Support legislation to allow local jurisdictions to work with others to fulfill RHNA requirements in order to meet regional demand.
6. Support legislation that preserves local flexibility in the adoption and implementation of health and safety standards contained in the building codes, including the preservation of local control over developments in fire-prone areas to safeguard human health and safety and mitigate wildfire risks.
7. Oppose legislation which weakens the City's position for land use controls due to potential claims of partial takings and any requirements for compensation of such claims.
8. Oppose actions that redefine the annexation process to require so-called "revenue neutral" annexations.
9. Oppose County of Orange processing of development projects within Brea's Sphere of Influence and any development agreements or other entitlements in sphere of influence areas that do not conform to City standards. Promote County of Orange compliance with existing Memorandum of Understanding regarding development within the Sphere of Influence.

Human Resources

1. Support workers' compensation reform that requires formulas to rely on more evidence of work-related causation to determine compensability, higher thresholds for compensation, or a proportionate exposure formula.
2. Support reform and responsible changes to the CalPERS medical insurance program and CalPERS Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Program (PEMCHA) to address rising costs of premiums and the City's future liability for retiree medical insurance.
3. Support easing applicability of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) on public agencies.
4. Support reforms to CalPERS that promote Investment Restrictions that are similar or the same as those adopted by Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS).
5. Support legislative proposals that establish Defined Contribution Retirement Plans for new hires within CalPERS retirement programs.
6. Support fiscally responsible adjustments to CalPERS projected investment returns based on historical performance and conservative market projections. Advocate for CalPERS to adopt wiser investment strategies, prioritizing diversified, sustainable, and prudent investment practices that ensure long-term stability and minimize risk to taxpayers and public employees.
7. Support state and federal policies that authorize and expand the distribution and administration of opioid overdose reversal medications, including naloxone, by local agencies and their partners. The City further supports statutory clarity and liability protections that shield local governments, employees, contractors, first responders, and community-based partners from civil and criminal liability when acting in good faith to possess, distribute, or administer naloxone pursuant to authorized public health programs.
8. Oppose legislation that expands or extends any public safety presumptions of occupational injury or illness and support legislation that repeals the presumption that the findings of a treating physician are correct.
9. Oppose the imposition of compulsory and binding arbitration with respect to public employees upon local government.
10. Oppose efforts that restrict the investment ability of CalPERS based on social or political statements.
11. Oppose the imposition of mandated employee benefits that are more properly negotiated at the bargaining table upon local government.
12. Oppose the imposition of Federal or State mandates on the collective bargaining process.
13. Oppose making disciplinary proceedings for public safety employees similar to criminal proceedings thus rendering it impossible for employers to prove an administrative violation.

Public Safety and First Responders

1. Support measures that encourage community safety, well-being and emergency planning.
2. Support legislation that promotes recruitment, retention, resources, and elevated hiring and training standards across law enforcement and fire departments, with a focus on high-risk and high-need areas.
3. Support legislation that funds innovations in law enforcement technology that integrates data sources, increases efficiency, and facilitates solvability and reduction of crime.
4. Support legislation for consistent funding for advanced firefighting equipment, including SCBA's, thermal imaging devices and specialized apparatus for more effective incident assessment and control.
5. Support increased State support for local services related to homeless and youth violence prevention programs through the North Orange County Public Safety Collaborative.
6. Support policies and funding that provide resources to combat organized retail, cargo, and vehicle theft operations.
7. Support legislation that provides the necessary funding for Proposition 36 programs.
8. Support clarifying legislation related to recreational marijuana, including DUI drugs presumed intoxication and state funding for research and identification of intoxication measurement devices.
9. Support increased funding and State reimbursements for law enforcement training costs related to homelessness, mental illness, de-escalation, use of force, and public record act requests.
10. Support initiatives for specialized fire simulation training, hazardous material response and advance emergency medical services training to ensure the highest level of readiness and service.
11. Support State adoption of building and fuel modification requirements through the code adoption process, which preserves local agencies' authority to make amendments based on local conditions and maintain local enforcement capabilities, rather than through legislation that mandates uniform standards and removes the ability to address local topographic, climatic, and geographic factors.
12. Support legislation that secures funding for police and fire department mental health programs, with a focus on post-incident trauma resources, peer support and access to licensed professionals to support long-term resilience.
13. Support enhanced emergency preparedness and response initiatives by securing funding and legislation that prioritizes community resilience programs, modernizes emergency operations equipment, and ensures rigorous training for first responders.

14. Support comprehensive disaster readiness education and drills to prepare both residents and first responders, promoting community awareness and resilience through regular, coordinated practices.
15. Support policies that create restrictions on the early release of state inmates from incarceration for the purpose of alleviating overcrowding, and limit parole hearing opportunities for state inmates serving a life sentence or paroled inmates with a violation.
16. Support clarifying legislation to further define 'non-violent' offenses.
17. Support legislation that increases safety of all modes of transportation, including electric bikes.
18. Support legislation and funding that promotes e-bike safety through improved rider education, clearer equipment and classification standards, enhanced data collection on collisions, and infrastructure investments that protect pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists while maintaining local authority to regulate safe operations within the community.
19. Oppose legislation which would interfere with the ability of law enforcement to remove individuals, either in person or in a vehicle, from public facilities, property, or streets.
20. Oppose legislation that places burdensome restrictions on law enforcement and limits their ability to protect public safety.
21. Oppose legislation that imposes new mandates on law enforcement agencies without providing corresponding funding.
22. Oppose restrictions on access to social media material for the purposes of law enforcement personnel background investigations.
23. Oppose legislation that serves to impact eligibility for local jurisdictions for disaster response and recovery assistance.
24. Support legislation which grants law enforcement access via proper legal process to electronic data held by private corporations for use in criminal investigations.
25. Support clarifying legislation which would prohibit the use of marijuana by peace officers.
26. Support legislation which would prohibit the use of Artificial Intelligence to impersonate another person.
27. Support legislation that preserves public safety's ability to employ new technology, such as Artificial Intelligence, to assist personnel in detecting and investigating criminal activity, while strictly protecting the rights and privacy of the public.
28. Support legislation that preserves and enhances the ability of public safety to lawfully retain, manage, and utilize data.
29. Support legislation and funding programs that assist local jurisdictions with the modernization, seismic strengthening, and replacement of aging fire stations and essential-services facilities.

30. Support dedicated funding for firefighter cancer, cardiac, and behavioral health early-detection programs, including annual screenings, lab work, and wellness diagnostics to reduce occupational illness.

Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts and Community Services

1. Support efforts that facilitate the provision of quality, affordable "dependent care" for both children and seniors.
2. Support Federal and State funding opportunities and/or legislation that provides for senior citizen nutrition programs, prescription drug benefits, transportation, adult day care, technology improvements, education, and emergency education for seniors.
3. Work to strengthen policies and support the creation of more affordable, innovative, inclusive, and quality parks and recreation, open space, the acquisition of open space, bike lanes, and non-motorized trails.
4. Support continued State funding for local art, visual and performing arts, cultural, and music programs, as well as funding for facilities and programs for the City's youth, adults, and seniors.
5. Support funding for local and regional collaboration that supports equitable access for connected multimodal networks.
6. Support increasing opportunities for California's multi-generational residents to participate in civic engagement activities.
7. Support the County of Orange response to homeless issues, such as shelters and housing programs.
8. Support equitable, transparent, and data-driven distribution of state and county homelessness funding that ensures North Orange County Service Planning Area (SPA) cities, including Brea, receive fair access to resources needed to sustain their collaborative regional outreach, shelter, and service delivery systems.

General Issues

1. Support measures that create or expand home rule authority as it applies to the cable, video and telecommunications industry and franchising processes.
2. Support policies and funding that expand access to broadband.
3. Support measures that require companies providing communication services to a local community to provide or support Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) access to new networks, including PEG equipment, funding, and support.

4. Support measures to reform California's tort system to curtail unreasonable liability exposure for public agencies and restore the ability of public agencies to obtain affordable insurance.
5. Support legislation to extend the protections limiting local government liability for property damage caused by hillsides and mudslides.
6. Oppose any state or federal effort by the wireless industry that would force local governments to lease out publicly owned infrastructure, eliminate reasonable local environmental and design review, and eliminate the ability for local governments to negotiate fair leases or public benefits for the installation of "small cell" wireless equipment on taxpayer-funded property.
7. Consider the League of California Cities' Policy and Guiding Principles when taking into consideration supporting or opposing legislation.