



City of Red Bluff

Legislative Policy and Procedures – June 7, 2011

BACKGROUND:

To promote a structured and proactive policy concerning state, and federal legislative issues, the following Legislative Policies and Procedures will be utilized to assist the City Council and City staff in addressing pending legislation and to generate a consistent voice on issues of concern to the City of Red Bluff.

Policy Defined:

The **Legislative Policy** provides the overriding standards with respect to legislative priorities, and will provide the public and staff with clear direction on issues the City will monitor during the legislative session. Legislative inquiries and responses will be administered consistent with this approved policy, set by the City Council.

The City Council will annually review its **Legislative Policy** to keep it current on legislative issues.

Procedures Defined:

The established **Legislative Procedure** is the process by which the City will **track** and **respond** to legislative issues in a timely and consistent manner.

LEGISLATIVE POLICY

It is the policy of the Red Bluff City Council to:

FINANCE

A. State and Federal Mandates

1. *Support* legislation requiring the State and Federal Government to provide full cost reimbursement to cities for all mandated programs and for all programs resulting in revenue losses.
2. *Oppose* legislation that imposes federal or state mandated costs for which there is no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits.

B. Long Term Financing of Local Agencies

1. *Support* legislation to stabilize local government financing, to increase funding to local agencies and to permit the most cost-efficient management of state-mandated programs.
2. *Support* legislation which preserve and enhance the City's ability to generate revenues from all types of sales.
3. *Support* legislation to protect and preserve local control over locally imposed taxes (such as transient occupancy tax and franchise fees).
4. *Support* extending sales tax to E-Commerce as a means of fairness to "Main Street".
5. *Oppose* legislation which shifts revenue from local government to the state for any purpose.
6. *Support* legislation that further protects local government revenue from being taken, confiscated, borrowed diverted or otherwise used to fund state government operations and responsibilities.
7. *Oppose* any measure that mandates procedures that would make local government more dependent on the state for financial stability or reduces local discretion in the use of local government revenues.

EMPLOYEE ISSUES

A. Workers' Compensation

1. *Support* legislation to reform workers' compensation formulas to rely on more evidence of work-related causation to determine compensability.
2. *Support* legislation reforming the workers' compensation system to reduce employer cost through the reduction of system abuse.
3. *Oppose* legislation to increase employee benefits without system reforms to offset increased employer costs.
4. *Oppose* legislation providing presumptive eligibility for award of benefits for workers' compensation or other health benefits.

B. Unemployment Compensation

1. *Oppose* legislation which would increase employer liability for unemployment compensation or which would reduce local discretion to manage this risk.

C. Labor Relations

1. *Oppose* legislation impeding local administration of labor relations.
2. *Oppose* legislation which would require, impose or expand compulsory binding arbitration for public employees.
3. *Oppose* legislation which would increase the cost of administering benefits or mandate that a special group health and welfare benefit be provided to all employees.
4. *Oppose* legislation which reduces the local control over public employee disputes and/or imposes regulations from an outside agency.
5. *Oppose* any measure that seeks to impose federal or state mandates on the collective bargaining process.

D. Personnel

1. *Support* reform to medical insurance programs to address cities' future liability for retiree medical insurance.
2. *Support* measures that would lessen the impact of CalPERS investment losses on employer rates.
3. *Oppose* measures that impose federal or state local government mandated employee benefits that are more properly negotiated at the bargaining table.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

1. *Support* measures that requires any company providing communication services to the local community to provide or support the Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) access to new networks, including PEG equipment, funding and support.
2. *Oppose* measures that create/grant powers to sub-regional or regional bodies which may result in infringement on clearly local concerns, unless there is an agreement to do so by all affected local entities.
3. *Oppose* additional burdensome amendments to the Brown Act; however, in recognition that many open meeting laws have been beneficial at the local level, support similar application to the state legislature.
4. *Support* measures that create or maintain local governmental authority as it applies to the cable, video and telecommunications industry and franchising processes.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Police

1. *Support* legislation that would strengthen state graffiti law and provide local government revenue and resources for graffiti abatement.
2. *Support* legislation that would provide funds for local law enforcement technology.
3. *Support* legislation that would provide funds for additional equipment, services, or personnel (COPS bill).
4. *Oppose* legislation which would weaken the authority of local law enforcement to control the issuance of concealed weapon permits.
5. *Support* legislation which would provide a greater share of seized assets to localities.
6. *Oppose* legislation that could transfer state prison responsibilities to local agencies without additional resources to manage the new duties.

B. Fire/Emergency Services

1. *Support* legislation protecting local discretion regarding building and fire code standards.
2. *Support* legislation that provides funding for local emergency operations including equipment, services, and personnel.
3. *Support* legislation protecting or increasing municipal discretion regarding the provision of emergency medical services.

C. Homeland Security

1. *Support* legislation that would require transfer of information to local officials regarding threats to local safety as threats occur.
2. *Support* legislation that would provide funding for Homeland Security measures.

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS

A. Traffic/Roads/Highways

1. *Support* measures that recognize, strengthen and protect local control over the public rights-of-way.
2. *Support* state-local partnerships to fund regional transportation projects.
3. *Support* legislation to retain local control over public rights-of-way.
4. *Seek and support* legislation to provide funding for traffic congestion relief projects in the I-5 corridor.
5. *Support* legislation which provides equitable amounts of state and federal funding for roads and highways, and facilitates timely construction of local transportation projects.

B. Water/Wastewater

1. *Support* legislation that provides additional flexibility to increase and stabilize the water supply.
3. *Oppose* legislation that imposes more stringent requirements on wastewater discharge and storm drain runoff without providing funding.
4. *Oppose* measures that impose unreasonable or unfunded water testing and treatment requirements.
5. *Support* legislation to provide funding for flood control and habitat restoration on the Sacramento River and local creeks.

C. Solid Waste and Recycling

1. *Support* legislation which sets reasonable and flexible recycling standards.
2. *Support* legislation encouraging active development of markets for recycled goods.
3. *Support* legislation which reduces local government's Superfund liability for solid waste.

ENVIRONMENT

1. *Support* strategies that clearly demonstrate and provide for the most cost-effective means for meeting air-quality goals.
2. *Support* legislation which allocates state and/or federal funds for the compliance of federal and state air-quality standards.
3. *Support* legislation that provides funding for alternative fuel vehicles.
4. *Oppose* measures that provide only minimal improvements in air and water quality while incurring excessive public and private costs associated with implementation.

REGIONAL GROWTH MANAGEMENT

1. *Support* legislation that produces additional resources, including adequate funding, to local agencies to address regional growth issues.
2. *Oppose* legislation that would impose state-mandated development standards or procedures that are contrary to the City of Red Bluff General Plan or local land-use policy.

COMMUNITY/RECREATIONAL/ SOCIAL ISSUES

1. *Support* federal and state funding opportunities for cultural arts programs, libraries, parks, recreation and human service, open space, and facility development/renewal.
2. *Support* measures that promote volunteerism.
3. *Support* federal and state funding opportunities that promote the ability to provide public access to technology at community facilities.
4. *Support* measures to increase federal and state funding for Senior Nutrition Programs.
1. *Support* funding for completing links in the Bike and Pedestrian trails within the vicinity of Red Bluff.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES

1. The City Manager is authorized to take a position on a legislative issue that is consistent **with the Council adopted City of Red Bluff Legislative Policy.**
2. If there are mitigating factors where Council may want to take a position that varies from the approved Policy, or, if it is a matter that is not inherent in the Policy, the measure shall go to the full City Council for direction.

3. The City Manager, or his designee, shall review all requests for a letter on legislative issues to determine if the legislation aligns with the City of Red Bluff Legislative Policy.
4. Department Heads shall coordinate the initiation and development of legislative letters with the City Manager.
5. If the matter aligns with approved Policy, City response shall be supplied in the form of a letter to the legislative body considering the bill/measure.
6. When a letter is sent to a state or federal legislative body, City Councilmembers, the City Manager, and state legislators representing the City of Red Bluff shall be included as a courtesy copy “cc” on the letter. The League of California Cities shall be provided a copy of all legislative letters.