



**City of Livermore
2024 State and Federal Legislative Platform**



The City of Livermore (“City”) 2024 State and Federal Legislative Platform (“Platform”) highlights the position of the City Council on important issues that align with community goals and policy documents such as the General Plan. City staff monitor bills introduced into the California Legislature and United States Congress. The Platform provides staff direction and allows the City, on the City Council’s behalf, to respond quickly in support of or opposition to bills and other legislative or administrative actions in time-sensitive situations. The City Council delegates its authority to the mayor to sign support or opposition letters, consistent with the Platform. Additionally, the Platform enables staff to communicate on behalf of the City to state legislators and federal elected officials.

The Platform is developed through review of City needs and issues, staff input, and review of League of California Cities priorities and strategies. City Council adopted the first Platform in 2013. At its April 13, 2015, meeting, City Council directed staff to use the Platform as a guide for federal bill tracking and action, too. Typically, the City Council reviews and updates the Platform annually.

The 2024 City of Livermore Platform categories are:

- Community-Focused Governance
- Fiscal Stability
- Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- Planning and Sustainability
- Building Safety
- Infrastructure
- Job Creation and Economic Development
- Libraries
- Public Safety and Emergency Management
- Science, Technology, and Innovation
- Transportation and Parking
- Water

The State and Federal Legislative Platform evolves as City needs adjust, new issues arise, and conditions at the regional, state, and federal level change. Platform adjustments, whether due to federal policy changes or state policy reactions, may be considered at a future City Council meeting or at the next annual review in 2025.

Once approved by the City Council, the 2024. State and Federal Legislative Platform will be posted on the City’s website at www.LivermoreCA.gov/Legislation. Staff also provides the City Council with periodic updates on letters sent, bill progress, and legislative developments.

When appropriate, the City of Livermore joins its Tri-Valley neighbors to advocate for issues and funding at the regional, state, and federal levels. The cities of Livermore, Dublin, Pleasanton, San Ramon, and the town of Danville develop a Tri-Valley Cities Legislative Framework. The Tri-Valley Framework overlaps many of the items in the City’s Platform and provides another opportunity for advocacy progress and success.

The Tri-Valley Cities Legislative Framework is available to view at www.LivermoreCA.gov/Legislation.

Community-Focused Governance

The City values its ability to create policies that best fit the needs of the Livermore community. It is important to advocate for state legislation that provides framework guidance and allows local implementation.

1. **Support** legislation that enhances or streamlines local governance and allows cities to address the needs of local constituents within a framework of regional cooperation.
2. **Monitor** legislation that affects the ability of City Council to effectively govern.
3. **Monitor** cannabis-related legislation.
4. **Oppose** legislation that would prohibit or limit local governments' ability to contract out for services.
5. **Support** legislation that updates both the Brown Act and Public Records Act regarding electronic records and activities that support local decision-making without significant fiscal impact and new regulations that require staff resources.
6. **Oppose** legislation that requires or expands state involvement in City financial audits, fiscal monitoring, general oversight, or assistance by the State Treasurer, State Controller, or other state agencies.
7. **Support** a wording change in the Communications Act of 1934 that removes the distinction between "capital" and "operating" funds in order to provide more local control for community television stations in the use of their public, educational and government (PEG) channel fees with no rise in taxes or a reduction in revenue to the cable industry.

Fiscal Stability

Fiscal stability and financial independence are necessary to provide desired services and programs for residents and local businesses. City Council policy decisions direct staff to ensure the City's long-term financial stability. Unexpected diversion of local funds by the state or federal government erodes the ability of a city to plan and budget for short-and-long term service needs.

1. **Oppose** legislation that imposes unfunded or inadequate state or federal mandates.
2. **Support** legislation that updates the tax structure to enhance local government revenues that have declined due to the expansion of e-commerce, increased

consumption of services rather than durable goods, and innovations in technology.

3. **Oppose** legislation that reduces local government's ability to levy fees.
4. **Monitor** legislation regarding new fees or other revenue-enhancements.
5. **Oppose** legislation that reduces or eliminates payments to cities for use of property and rights-of-way for telecommunications.
6. **Support** legislation that provides sustainable and secure public pensions and other post-retirement benefits to ensure responsive and affordable public services.
7. **Support** legislation that streamlines the Workers' Compensation system.
8. **Oppose** legislation that would remove the federal tax exemption for municipal bonds.

Affordable Housing and Homelessness

The availability of a suitable living environment is essential to quality-of-life. It is important to support adequate and affordable housing opportunities and housing-related service needs.

1. **Support** regional solutions that balance housing, transportation/transit, and jobs together. Building housing without adequate transportation infrastructure may exacerbate, not alleviate, the affordable housing crisis.
2. **Support** legislation that protects existing affordable housing stock, including rental apartments, deed-restricted units, and mobile homes, and promotes affordable housing that includes long-term affordability agreements.
3. **Support** legislation that ensures: 1) incentives and density bonus provisions are directly linked to the level and percentage of affordable units provided for each project; and 2) that density bonus incentives, concessions, and waivers cannot be used to reduce the quantity of required affordable units.
4. **Support** legislation that enables cities to develop locally appropriate plans that meet state objectives in a manner that is compatible with existing community character.
5. **Support** legislation that facilitates accessory dwelling units and encourages development of "missing-middle" housing that is compatible with suburban community character.

6. **Oppose** housing legislation that is not accompanied by funding that can support expanded transportation, transit, and infrastructure, including planning, and capital improvement programs and funding to support new school facilities.
7. **Oppose** housing legislation that results in a net loss of local funding.
8. **Support** housing legislation that promotes the development and enhancement of a diverse workforce, as long as the legislation does not create an unfunded mandate or conflict with local land use authority and financial stability.
9. **Oppose** housing legislation that unduly impacts local taxation capacity or diverts financial resources from essential local public services and infrastructure programs.
10. **Support** legislation that increases financial assistance to cities, non-profit organizations, and local partnerships to provide affordable, transitional, special needs, and emergency housing to the homeless, seniors, veterans, and people with special needs.
11. **Support** legislation that increases financial assistance to cities, non-profit organizations, and local partnerships to provide and promote self-empowerment for homeless individuals or families through counseling, job training, and other related services.
12. **Support** legislation that provides financial assistance, improved access to, and expansion of health care, mental health, and drug addiction services for low income and homeless individuals.
13. **Support** legislation that removes fair housing barriers and prevents displacement.

Planning and Sustainability

The City prioritizes comprehensive land use planning that creates complete neighborhoods, promotes a jobs/housing match, strengthens Livermore's economic and fiscal base, provides housing choice, promotes local control with public input, streamlines the permitting process, conserves wildlands, promotes environmental stewardship while reducing the City's environmental footprint, and generally improves the community's quality of life.

1. **Oppose** legislation that diminishes cities' decision-making authority over land use decisions, zoning, or permit process and timelines.
2. **Support** legislation preserving or enhancing the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.
3. **Support** land use patterns that maintain safe neighborhoods, bolster economic prosperity, provide local jobs, preserve open space, protect the environment, and enhance overall quality of life.

EXHIBIT A

4. **Oppose** state or federal efforts to further erode local government authority regarding the location or permit review of small cell wireless equipment, cellular towers, transmission sites, or other devices on public infrastructure or in the public right of way.
5. **Support** funding and incentives for smart growth and sustainable development.
6. **Support** CEQA-reform legislation that improves the cost-effective and timely delivery of projects and decreases the ability for spurious lawsuits.
7. **Support** RHNA- and APR-reform legislation that adequately provides necessary housing while reducing municipal administrative burden.
8. Support tax rebate programs, like the Williamson Act or Mills Act, to promote agriculture, open space preservation, historic preservation, and good design.
9. **Support** legislation or grant opportunities for cities that provide funding for developing or enhancing alternative vehicle fueling stations.
10. **Support** rebate programs, tax credits, and other financial incentives that encourage property owners to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy systems, greenhouse gas-reducing technology, and alternative vehicle fueling stations in parking areas.
11. **Monitor** state and federal legislation related to climate adaptation.
12. **Support** measures that increase funding to local governments for landfill diversion programs such as food recovery, composting, and recycling.
13. **Support** Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation to encourage manufacturers to design environmentally friendly products by holding producers responsible for the costs of managing their products at end of life.

Building Safety

The City prioritizes protection of public health, safety and welfare by proper building design and construction practices.

1. **Support** legislation that increases the safety of buildings, reduces potential hazards and protects against fire and structure collapse.
2. **Support** legislation for seismic earthquake retrofits to protect individuals and structures.
3. **Support** legislation that contributes to the quality and durability of construction methods and materials
4. **Oppose** legislation to restrict number of inspections needed to verify safety of the built environment and other components.

5. **Support** measures to streamline photovoltaic and electrical vehicle charging permitting and installation.
6. **Support** legislation that contributes to the wellbeing of a community, preservation of life safety, and property maintenance.
7. **Support** legislation that promotes barrier removal and sustainable practices in the built environment.
8. **Oppose** legislation that establishes unrealistic timeliness for building project review that will potentially create an unsafe built environment.

Infrastructure

The condition of a city's infrastructure affects the community's quality-of-life. Sewer and water systems, sidewalks, and roads are subject to a wide number of regulations and must be maintained or replaced to ensure the health of the community.

1. **Support** state and federal legislation that would expand connectivity and access to digital resources.
2. **Oppose** legislation regarding infrastructure such as sidewalk repair that increases a city's unfunded infrastructure liability.
3. **Support** state and federal legislation that provides additional funding and/or preferred financing for local critical unmet infrastructure needs.
4. **Support** legislation that reduces or streamlines state and federal permitting requirements.
5. **Support** legislation that enhances the reliability of water transmission and storage through the Delta to the Tri-Valley.
6. **Support** legislation that provides new funding methods for flood control and stormwater management.
7. **Support** legislation that would acknowledge an adopted California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document can be substituted for a federal National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) document for infrastructure projects.
8. **Monitor** legislation that alters the state's agency permitting requirements and how they impact the timeliness and viability of natural resource projects planned by government agencies and special districts at the local and regional level including Fish and Game endowments.

Job Creation and Economic Development

The City encourages and supports business through strategic economic development initiatives. Fostering a strong business environment requires job creation, educational opportunities, and workforce development programs.

1. **Support** legislation that enhances or expands community and economic development tools and funding to address development and revitalization needs.
2. **Support** legislation or grants that focus on downtown development.
3. **Support** legislation that promotes and funds workforce development and re-training efforts focused on high-skilled jobs required by emerging industries.
4. **Support** legislation that encourages entrepreneurship, facilitates resource-sharing models, or otherwise reduces barriers to entry for small business.
5. **Support** legislation that provides insurance or loan guarantees for small business loans during recessionary periods.
6. **Support** legislation or grants that focus on walkable, transit oriented, and complete districts with access to jobs and services.

Libraries

The Livermore Public Library connects people with information and education, and inspires experiences that support lifelong learning, personal growth, and enhanced quality of life. With strong community support, the Library offers programs, materials, materials, and services most valued by residents.

1. **Support** legislation that increases financial assistance to cities to fund and promote local library programs and literacy services.
2. **Support** legislation that seeks to close the digital divide through funding local library efforts to provide broadband internet and technology through devices such as hotspots, computers, and tablets, for community members to access.
3. **Support** legislation and funding efforts relating to early literacy, school readiness, adult literacy, career development, vocational support, and assistance to vulnerable and under-served populations.
4. **Oppose** censorship and efforts to limit the public's intellectual freedom and access to information and resources.
5. **Support** the enhancement of inclusivity, efforts to offer open and unfettered access to information, the exchange of ideas, and the welcoming of all people to express themselves regardless of their politics or beliefs.
6. **Support** legislation that fosters growth during the transformation of libraries and library services in a dynamic and increasingly global digital information environment.
7. **Support** legislation that protects the privacy of patrons and their associated library records and data.
8. **Support** legislation that enhances equitable, diverse, and inclusive initiatives and opportunities.

Public Safety and Emergency Management

Effective public safety significantly enhances a community's quality-of-life. Maintaining a strong safety presence requires ongoing local, regional, state, and federal support.

1. **Support** legislation and grants that fund police and fire equipment upgrades, training, and capital improvements.
2. **Support** legislation that promotes and funds emergency management and recovery efforts.
3. **Support** legislation that maintains and increases grant funding for the Community Oriented Police Services (COPS) hiring program.
4. **Monitor** legislation pertaining to unmanned aircrafts (drones) and Federal Aviation Administration regulations.
5. **Support** legislation to increase penalty for prohibited persons in possession of firearms and use of firearms in the commission of a crime.
6. **Support** legislation that penalizes individuals who engage in drug and/or distracted driving activities.
7. **Support** legislative efforts to address the negative impacts of Proposition 47 (Reduced Penalties for Some Crimes, 2014) and Proposition 57 (Parole for Non-Violent Criminals and Juvenile Court Trial Requirements Initiative, 2016) and provide local law enforcement with tools to reduce criminal activity.
8. **Support** legislation that would provide funding and increase access to mental health care, response to mental health related calls for service, and drug/ alcohol treatment programs.

Science, Technology, and Innovation

As the only City in the United States with two national laboratories, science, technology, and innovation play an important role in the Livermore economy, workforce, and community values. Additionally, the City partnership with the labs and i-GATE fosters innovation, job creation, and economic development opportunities.

1. **Support** legislation that advances or encourages innovation, entrepreneurship, start-ups, small business opportunities, and/or workforce development.
2. **Support** legislation that encourages the expansion of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs in K-12, higher education, libraries, and community-based organizations.
3. **Support** legislation that encourages and supports the transfer of technology from the national laboratories.

4. **Support** legislation that provides competitive grants, state partnerships, or other resources to encourage innovation and the science, technology, and innovation economies.
5. **Support** legislation that improves the abilities of the federal laboratories to update or expand their infrastructure.

Transportation and Parking

Regional and local transportation play a key role in a community's economic vitality and quality-of-life.

1. **Support** legislation that reduces congestion along Tri-Valley area freeways or reduces truck traffic along I-580 through roadway or rail improvements.
2. **Support** legislation that enhances the ability of local agencies to finance local transportation programs and facilities.
3. **Support** legislation that facilitates connectivity between major regional rail/transit systems.
4. **Support** legislation that provides incentives for rail and multimodal transit stations and transit-oriented development projects.
5. **Oppose** legislation mandating "one-size-fits-all" parking space requirements for future housing, entertainment, or retail developments or impinging on how parking spaces can be used.
6. **Support** legislation that provides incentives for shared public/private partnerships.
7. **Monitor** legislation that defines "high quality transit" for purposes of transit-oriented development as anything with service headways above hourly. Review on case-by-case basis to determine any impacts and/or benefits.
8. **Support** legislation to encourage the sale of unleaded fuel and assistance to pilots for Supplemental Type Certificate acquisition for non- American Society for Testing and Materials unleaded fuels at airports nationwide.

Water

Water, both quantity and quality, is essential to residential quality-of-life as well as agricultural and economic vitality and growth.

1. **Oppose** legislation that imposes a state tax or fee on customers of a public water system for drinking water.
2. **Monitor** legislation developing new water conveyance systems such as peripheral canals or tunnels (as mentioned in the proposed Bay Delta

Conservation Plan) to deliver adequate water to the Tri-Valley and the Silicon Valley.

3. **Support** legislation that expands the production and use of recycled water or increases local control of water supplies.
4. **Oppose** legislation that expands statewide mandatory water conservation and/or rationing unless the conservation measures are triggered in response to specific local water supply conditions.
5. **Support** legislation that allows direct and indirect potable water reuse.
6. **Oppose** legislation that allows the State Water Resources Control Board or Regional Water Quality Control Board to establish more stringent, clean water objectives unless the legislation provides a demonstrated water quality benefit as well as the means for jurisdictions to achieve the objectives.
7. **Support** regulations to protect drinking water from the impacts of hydrological fracturing (hydro-fracking) related to oil and gas exploration and extraction.
8. **Support** legislation and programs that make water, sewer, and/or storm services more affordable for customers.