



DUBLIN
CALIFORNIA

2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM
FEDERAL AND STATE POLICY PRIORITIES
FEBRUARY 2025

Introduction

Many public policies intersect with City priorities, programs, and services. This 2025 Legislative Platform (Platform) outlines the City of Dublin's legislative priorities and positions on these policies to inform residents, representatives, and policymakers. These priorities are applicable to all relevant legislation, policies, programs, grant funding opportunities, ballot measures, mandates, and budgets.

The Mission of the City of Dublin is to promote and support a high quality of life, ensure a safe, secure, and sustainable environment, foster new opportunities, and champions a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion. This Mission shall guide the City's Legislative Platform.

This Platform provides Staff with direction and authorizes them, on the City Council's behalf, to quickly respond in support of or in opposition to bills and other legislative or gubernatorial actions in time-sensitive situations. Additionally, the Platform enables Staff to communicate Dublin-specific issues and impacts with state legislators. Staff may draft letters, direct our legislative advocates, or speak on behalf of the City regarding the legislative priorities this document outlines.

The City may also respond to Federal mandates, legislation, regulations, executive orders, activities, funding opportunities, or uses of land within or boarding the City of Dublin in order to advocate for the physical safety and financial security of Dublin and its residents. Any correspondence signifying the City's support or opposition of a given bill must be signed by the Mayor and / or City Manager with notification to the City Council.

Any questions regarding this Legislative Platform can be directed to Jordan Foss, Management Analyst II at jordan.foss@dublin.ca.gov.

Platform Overview and Coordination

This Legislative Platform serves as the foundation for City legislative advocacy at all levels of government. It informs the City's legislative representatives of the key issues and legislation that could have a potential impact on the City and the process in which the City will participate in the legislative process. The City will employ several strategies to advocate or advance the City's public policy interests, which include:

- **Position Development**
 - Reviewing analyses and positions by the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), legislative advocates, and other local government / professional associations in formulating the City's position.
 - Working with City departments and legislative advocates to develop this platform and identify positions on proposed legislative measures.
- **Status Tracking**
 - Tracking key bills through the legislative process.
- **Communication and Advocacy**
 - Communicating the City's position, in accordance with this Platform, through correspondence, testimony, and meetings.
 - Working cooperatively with other cities (including the Tri-Valley Cities), associations, and Cal Cities on advocating the City's legislative position.

- Meeting with legislators and their representatives, as well as other federal, state, and county government officials on a regular basis, to discuss local government issues, proposed legislation, requests for funding assistance, and City programs and services.

The City Manager's Office will exercise day-to-day oversight of legislative matters. In addition to coordinating formal action through the City Council, the City Manager and their designee will manage the City's Legislative Platform.

Staff will follow the process below when responding to all proposed and relevant legislation, policies, programs, ballot measures, mandates, and budgets.

1. Review and determine whether a proposal will impact the City.
2. Prepare a letter outlining the City's position for the Mayor's or City Manager's signature.
3. Distribute the letter to the legislation's author(s), key legislative committees, the City Council, and other relevant parties.

In scenarios where a proposal or regulation arises that may impact the City and is not covered by this Legislative Platform, Staff will prepare a draft position letter for the City Council to review prior to distribution.

General Legislative Principles

The guiding principles for the City's legislative advocacy efforts include:

Advancing Existing City Mission, Vision, Values, and Policies
Preserving and/or Increasing Local Government Discretion
Promoting or Enhancing Revenue Sources

Public Policy Priorities

This Legislative Platform identifies specific Public Policy Priorities by topic area. Informed by the General Legislative Principles, these priorities will guide the positions the City will take on all relevant legislation, policies, programs, grant funding opportunities, ballot measures, mandates, and budgets.

The Public Policy Priorities are categorized as follows:

1. General Administration
2. Fiscal Sustainability
3. Community and Economic Development
4. Transportation and Public Works
5. Public Safety and Public Health
6. Parks and Community Services
7. Climate and Environment
8. Technology and Cybersecurity

I. General Administration

Staff recommends that the City Council **support** legislation that:

1. Enhances or streamlines local control and allows cities to address the needs of local constituents within a framework of regional cooperation.
2. Streamlines the process to apply for, to receive approval of, and to receive state or federal funding.
3. Assures every person the right to equal treatment in and access to all government-sponsored benefits or funded programs.
4. Provides the ability to conduct public meetings using a hybrid approach that allow for equitable access and participation of elected officials and the public while considering privacy, health, and safety of all stakeholders.
5. Provides alternative methods of meeting public noticing requirements through cost-effective, innovative, and technological methods of communication, and changes the definition of “newspaper of general circulation” due to realities of consolidated newspaper publications and the increase in on-line publications.
6. Increases the voting requirement for future measures to be approved by the same proportion of votes cast as the measure requires, and preserves agency rights to place advisory questions on the ballot.
7. Provides for additional flexibility and modernization of open government initiatives and open meetings, including provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act, at all levels of government.

Staff recommends that the City Council **oppose** legislation that:

8. Attempts to restrict local authority or decision-making whether by state or federal legislation, regulations, or voter initiatives.
9. Diminishes or eliminates local governments’ ability to contract out for the provision of services.

2. Fiscal Sustainability

Staff recommends that the City Council **support** legislation that:

1. Maintains or enhances ongoing revenues to the City.
2. 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. Ensures timely distribution of mandated reimbursements owed to the City.
4. Removes unnecessary state-imposed mandates.
5. Provides for the use of incentives for local government action rather than mandates (funded or unfunded).
6. Establishes new and innovative revenue options and resources to finance public infrastructure construction and maintenance.
7. Streamlines the establishment and utilization of infrastructure financing districts or other funding mechanisms for infrastructure improvements.
8. Changes the Communications Act of 1934 that removes the distinction between “capital” and “operating” funds to provide more local control for community television stations in the use of their public, educational, and government (PEG) channel fees.
9. Increases transparency of all public employee salaries and benefits.

10. Provides sustainable public pensions and other post-retirement benefits.
11. Lowers the necessary voter threshold from a two-thirds supermajority to 55-percent to approved local general obligation bonds and special taxes for affordable housing and public infrastructure projects.

Staff recommends that the City Council **oppose** legislation that:

12. Undermines and preempts local authority over local taxes and fees.
13. Shifts funds from local governments to the state or federal government.
14. Imposes unfunded or inadequately funded federal and state mandates on local governments.
15. Eliminates, limits, or delays the imposition or collection of development impact fees thus restricting the City's ability to provide for infrastructure or services.
16. 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.
17. Defers reimbursements for state mandated programs.
18. Requires new or expanded fiscal oversight by federal agencies or expanded reporting requirements on existing federal grants.

3. Public Works and Transportation

Staff recommends that the City Council **support** legislation that:

1. Ensures the City receives its fair share of transportation funding and keeps the funding decisions at the local level.
2. Provides for more stable and equitable long-term funding sources for transportation.
3. Leverages local funds to the maximum extent possible to implement transportation improvements through grants and partnerships with regional, state, and federal agencies.
4. Reduces Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and encourages developing and implementing Transportation Demand Management (TDM) plans and strategies.
5. Expands opportunities and funding for connected and shared autonomous vehicles, high occupancy vehicles, new technology deployment, resilient transportation communication networks, and reducing traffic congestion and delay.
6. Improves multimodal freight movement between the San Francisco Bay Area and the Central Valley and projects that reduce freight traffic on I-580.
7. Encourages active transportation, enhances the safety of all modes of transportation, particularly bicycles and pedestrians, and reduces vehicle speeds and traffic congestion.
8. Increases and funds local control and local regulation of shared mobility, transportation network companies (TNCs), and other emerging industries that use city infrastructure to offer private services.
9. Enables the sale of traffic data to recover the cost of data collection.
10. Enables innovative rail connectivity projects which aim to address the regional jobs, housing, and transit imbalance (i.e., Valley Link).
11. Provides funding for climate-resilient transportation infrastructure to withstand weather events, wildfires, and other climate-related challenges.

Staff recommends that the City Council **oppose** legislation that:

12. Infringes upon the ability of local governments to effectively administer and modify state and local construction provisions and standards.
13. Takes away local control of managing and operating local streets and roads.
14. Reduces the City's condemnation authority regarding acquisition of properties required for public projects.
15. Reduces local government's ability to enact transportation impact fees that fund transportation improvements.
16. Diverts traffic from freeways or highways to local streets through measures that would create toll roads on local highways.
17. Requires consolidation of transit agencies in the Bay Area.

4. Community and Economic Development

Staff recommends that the City Council **support** legislation that:

1. Maintains the City's authority over land use decisions.
2. Strengthens local regulatory authority and control over the siting of medical or recreational marijuana dispensaries.
3. Creates a more equitable and transparent Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process.
4. Creates more flexibility for local jurisdictions to work together to provide housing that counts toward RHNA requirements.
5. Streamlines the CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) process by reducing redundant, costly, and cumbersome mandates and restrictions.
6. Provides incentives or new funding mechanisms for affordable housing and transit-oriented development.
7. Increases financial assistance to provide affordable, transitional, special needs and emergency housing to the homeless, seniors, veterans, and people with special needs.
8. Expands STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programs in K-12, higher education, and libraries.
9. Enhances the City's efforts to retain existing businesses and attract new businesses.
10. Provides tangible and productive tools and incentives to support job creation, business attraction, and business retention.
11. Advances or encourages innovation, entrepreneurship, start-ups, small business opportunities, and/or workforce development.
12. Funds policy modifications that require additional staffing resources be deployed by HCD to ensure uniformity within the housing element compliance and review process.
13. Provides for local input and control over the development of high-density development in areas prone to fire and natural disasters.

Staff recommends that the City Council **oppose** legislation that:

14. Interferes with or reduces local land use control and decision making.
15. Diminishes or eliminates the authority of cities to zone and plan for the development of telecommunications infrastructure, including the siting of cellular communications towers or transmission sites.
16. Diminishes or eliminates cities' authority to regulate condominium conversions.

17. Interferes with the ability to provide productive incentives to support job creation, business attraction, and business retention.

5. Public Safety and Public Health

Staff recommends that the City Council **support** legislation that:

1. Increases funding for local law enforcement, fire suppression and prevention, hazardous materials mitigation, and emergency medical services.
2. Funds local agencies for training, disaster preparedness, crime prevention, public outreach, and emergency planning.
3. Ensures cities have control of regulating local medical marijuana facilities instead of the state, protects public safety with standardized security requirements, protects public health with uniform health and safety standards, and ensures patient safety with a quality assurance protocol.
4. Improves data and information dissemination, preparedness funding, and first-responder training for oil-by-rail shipments.
5. Maintains or increases grant funding for the Community Oriented Police Services (COPS) program.
6. Provides a greater share of asset forfeiture funds for cities and increases latitude for spending local funds.
7. Funds the preparation, mitigation, adaptation, and response to extreme weather or emergency events.
8. Funds alternative crisis response programs for mental health, substance abuse, or homelessness related calls for emergency service.
9. Expands access and resources to public health care services, including mental health, behavioral health, and substance abuse services.
10. Expands on sensible public safety reforms, especially regarding retail theft, burglary, and assault.
11. Expands on sensible reforms regarding insurance availability and emergency preparedness activities.
12. Provides for the stabilization and equitable assessment of property insurance premiums in natural disaster prone areas, such as fire-prone and flood-prone areas.
13. Provides for public safety reforms that prioritize the safety, dignity, and fair treatment of all individuals.

6. Parks and Community Services

Staff recommends that the City Council **support** legislation that:

1. Creates new funding opportunities for parks and community facilities.
2. Provides funding for ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) facility and park upgrades.
3. Increases available financial assistance to local non-profit and community-based organizations that provide social services and mental health services to residents in need.
4. Provides funding for the rehabilitation, development, and capital improvements for park improvements to enhance the active and passive recreational infrastructure.
5. Funds or regulates cooling strategies in local and regional parks.

6. Funds or promotes parks and park-related amenities to increase community resilience, including mitigating climate change effects and increasing access.
7. Expands funding sources available to make technological updates to existing and new parks and recreation spaces.
8. Provides access and funding for the provision of before and after school childcare through local programming.
9. Funds vital regional and community services delivered by parks and recreation departments that impact access to parks, open space, bikeways, after school programming, youth services, senior services, food programs, and facilities that promote physical activity.
10. Expands the protection of natural resources and strengthens the safety and security of these resources.

Staff recommends that the City Council **oppose** legislation that:

11. Reduces or eliminates the City's ability to levy park impact fees.
12. Imposes regulations that create cost prohibitive administrative burdens which may result in the reduction of parks programming.
13. Captures or diverts local park and recreation revenue or efforts to shift responsibility for State services or programs to park and recreation departments without commensurate revenue.

7. Climate and Environment

Staff recommends that the City Council **support** legislation that:

1. Assists and funds local governments in meeting or exceeding local or state climate adaptation goals, reduce global warming pollution levels, develop alternate energy resources and fuel efficiency programs, and to reduce fossil fuel dependence.
2. Streamlines development of and provides funding for electric vehicle (EV) charging and hydrogen fueling infrastructure locally and regionally.
3. Establishes current waste diversion goals, local compliance efforts, and associated measurement and reporting requirements.
4. Assists the City in meeting or exceeding established goals of reducing water consumption and increasing water supply without preempting local planning decisions.
5. Sponsors circular economy solutions, extended producer responsibility, and requires manufacturers be responsible for the end of useful life cost of collecting, processing, recycling, and disposing of products they manufacture.
6. Protects the interest of Community Choice Aggregators, like Ava Community Energy, that provide renewable and clean electricity to their customers.
7. Incentivizes regional and local government efforts to develop and implement programs to reduce air pollution.
8. Funds compliance and full life cycle costs of current and new mandatory storm water quality permit requirements.
9. Addresses litter control and abatement problems in California.
10. Reduces the financial impact of state and federal funded and unfunded mandates related to compliance with environmental programs and regulations.

Staff recommends that the City Council **oppose** legislation that:

11. Preempts local planning decisions regarding solid waste facility sites.
12. Preempts local solid waste and AB 939 fee setting authority or imposes taxes or fees on local solid waste programs to fund state programs not directly related to solid waste management.

8. Technology and Cybersecurity

Staff recommends that the City Council **support** legislation that:

1. Promotes the use of data and technologies to create efficiencies, promote economic development, enhance public safety, improve transportation and mobility, improve sustainability, increase transparency to public information, enhance municipal quality of life factors and help solve other civic challenges.
2. Maintains local control over municipal assets in the deployment of next generation technological infrastructure.
3. Increases the City's capacity to protect against cyber security attacks.
4. Provides funding for programs that seek to expand digital access for residents and businesses.
5. Provides for the thoughtful and measured deployment of artificial intelligence technologies to enhance local government capabilities, including public safety alerts.

Staff recommends that the City Council **oppose** legislation that:

6. Limits or removes local review and permitting of emerging telecommunications technologies, such as Small Cell technology.

Regional Collaboration

The City of Dublin is a member of the Tri-Valley Cities (TVC), a coalition of the five Tri-Valley municipalities who work together to advocate for issues and funding at the regional, state, and federal levels. The TVC is governed by the five Mayors of each municipality who develop and adopt a TVC Legislative Framework which guides the advocacy efforts of the TVC.