

The City of Palo Alto's 2020 Federal and State Legislative Guidelines

The below **Foundational Principles** represent the ideals that form the core of the City's policy agenda. The legislative guidelines all rise from and strengthen our four foundational principles:

1. Protect local revenue sources and prevent unfunded mandates
 2. Protect, seek, and increase funding for programs, projects, and services
 3. Protect and increase local government discretion. Oppose items that preempt or reduce the authority or ability of local government to determine how to effectively operate local programs, services, activities, and governance.
 4. Protect the health and safety of the community
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The below **Legislative Guidelines** create the framework for organizing the City's policy interests, while guiding staff and contracted lobbyists in their advocacy efforts on behalf of the City.

Transportation

- Deterring single occupancy drivers and alleviating local traffic congestion
- Supporting local and regional public transportation
- Regulating technology that diverts traffic into residential neighborhoods
- Seeking funding for rail grade separations and other means of reducing the local impacts of regional transportation systems

Environmental

- Reducing GHG emissions
- Reducing airplane noise, health impacts, and emissions and actively supporting such efforts
- Promoting reasonable residential and vehicle electrification programs
- Promoting the use of renewable resources, water conservation, and the flexible use of existing resources
- Supporting a statewide ban on polystyrene containers and packaging materials
- Working with the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority in its efforts to improve the creek's watershed and floodplain
- Supporting efforts to protect local communities from sea level rise and other impacts of climate change

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Financial

- Supporting the long-term stability of CalPERS and the ability of local governments to mitigate and manage with flexibility its pension obligations
- As needed, seek to protect the funding of ambulance, paramedic, and other emergency services
- Supporting the continued deductibility of tax-exempt municipal bonds while monitoring tax reform efforts

Public Employment

- Preserving local government's ability to manage its own employment issues, including, but not limited to hiring, evaluating, disciplining, and/or terminating and negotiating collective bargaining agreements with employees' representatives

Technology

- Supporting reasonable regulatory efforts surrounding policies regarding cybersecurity, drones, shared mobility services, returning to Obama-era net neutrality regulations, and smart city initiatives

Housing

- Supporting reasonable housing and land use policies that recognize local autonomy and create reasonable ratios between jobs and housing; opposing attempts to remove from localities the ability to determine their own land use policies or stymie the local political process
- Supporting the development and implementation of efficient and sustainable land use and building practices

Health

- Encouraging reasonable action to prevent minors from purchasing or using tobacco and/or vaping products, and reducing or eliminating the negative health and environmental impacts of such products

Other

- Supporting reasonable state action to update, implement, and refine processes, services, and programs affecting the City
- Protecting individual privacy and the equal treatment of all individuals
- Supporting the collaborative work of regional partners, trade associations, and Joint Powers Authorities