

City of Flagstaff Intergovernmental Relations 2017



Adopted by Flagstaff City Council on January 17, 2017

City Council Mission Statement

To protect and enhance the quality of life for all.

City Council Vision Statement

The City of Flagstaff is a safe, diverse, just, vibrant, and innovative community with a unique character and high quality of life for all. The City fosters and supports economic, environmental, educational, and cultural opportunities.

Intergovernmental Relations

The City of Flagstaff Intergovernmental Relations Program addresses legislative initiatives at the county, state, and federal levels, which follow annual legislative calendars. The program mission is to develop and advocate for the Flagstaff community by fostering and maintaining relationships with individuals and entities that affect the City's interests. As a member of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, the City of Flagstaff has assisted in the drafting and development of League resolutions. Council adoption of the League resolutions, our identified priorities, and guiding principles are incorporated as part of our legislative agenda.

The City Manager's Office coordinates an active legislative program focused on protecting the interests of our community and identifying resources available to enhance City services and programs. The City Council and City Manager's Office work closely with our legislative advocates in Washington, D.C., and Phoenix, as well as with the League of Arizona Cities and Towns to influence policy decisions that affect city's local control and local funding.

The 2017 Legislative Priorities provide a framework for the City of Flagstaff's Intergovernmental Program. Adopted annually, the City's Intergovernmental Guiding Principles and Legislative Priorities are the foundation of a focused advocacy strategy and serves as a reference guide for legislative positions and objectives that provide direction for the City Council and staff throughout the year.

Federal and state legislative proposals and policies consistent with the City's Intergovernmental Guiding Principles and Legislative Priorities may be supported by the City. Those policies or proposals inconsistent with this agenda may be opposed by the City.

Guiding Principles

The City's Intergovernmental Relations Program is guided by the following principles:

1. The City of Flagstaff is governed by its Charter, which outlines the City's governmental structure, identifies jurisdiction and provides enabling authority for self-rule. Flagstaff's City Charter and all its amendments have been voted on and approved by a majority of voters.
2. The City of Flagstaff strongly promotes the protection, expansion and restoration of local control for cities and may support or oppose legislation based on whether it advances maximum local control by local governments.
3. The Flagstaff City Council adopts City-wide goals and legislative priorities. Advancing or defending goals of the City Council and adopted legislative priorities in effect during the current legislative session does not require additional Council action.
4. The City of Flagstaff understands it is in the public's interest to have government at all levels that is transparent, deliberative, and accountable to its citizens. The City of Flagstaff also evaluates legislative action based on the City's ability to deliver public services, the impact to Flagstaff citizens and the financial costs to the City.
5. The City's membership in the League of Arizona Cities and Towns is a critical component of Flagstaff's advocacy strategy. The City Council will participate in the League's annual priority-setting process.
6. The City of Flagstaff understands that partnerships help develop and maintain positive intergovernmental relations and are essential for success and vitality of our community. The City supports proposed legislation brought forth by our partners that advance common goals. Regional, state and federal partners may include*:
Regional Partners: Coconino County, Flagstaff Unified School District, Grand Canyon Trust, Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership, Northern Arizona Council of Governments, Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority and Northern Arizona Municipal Water Users Association, Chamber of Commerce;
Statewide Partners: Coconino Community College, Arizona Department of Transportation, Arizona Game and Fish, Arizona State Land Department, Department of Veterans' Services, Greater Arizona Mayors' Association, League of Arizona Cities and Towns, and Northern Arizona University;
National Partners: Conference of Mayors, Federal Aviation Administration, National League of Cities and Towns, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Forest Service and other federal agencies;
Tribal Partners: Including the Hopi Nation and Navajo Nation.

* This is not an exhaustive list of City of Flagstaff partners

State Priorities

Advocate to Expand and Protect Local Control

The City of Flagstaff supports legislation that upholds and restores the principle of local government and reinforces the authority of the elected leaders of Flagstaff to respect and protect the priorities of its citizenry and respond to local challenges.

Advocate to Preserve Local Funding

Protect existing funding and authorities that bring revenue to the City of Flagstaff, which support the quality of life for its residents. Areas may include, the protection of state-shared revenues and opposition to the imposition of new fees and unfunded mandates by any level of government that would increase costs to the City.

Flagstaff projects and legislative priorities

- Advocate for state enabling legislation for **Commercial** Property Accessed Clean Energy, or C-PACE.
- Advocate for **100% funding from the state legislature to fully fund and reimburse** social service providers for the poor and other vulnerable populations, including those with disabilities.
- Advocate for state funding and legislation that supports colleges and universities.
- ~~Advocate for legislation to create a Dark Skies specialty license plate.~~
- Advocate for investing in forest health treatments on state-owned land in the Flagstaff region.
- Advocate for change **in state liquor licensing laws** and establish a process for input to allow greater local government control in **such areas as hours of operation, size of beverages and saturation. Seek additional funds from the alcohol industry to reciprocate the affects alcohol has on the Flagstaff community.**
- Advocate against firearm legislation that will allow guns in public facilities.
- Advocate against further sweeps of the State Aviation Fund.
- ~~Advocate for flexible financing authority for commercial entities for upfront investment capital in energy efficiency improvements to properties.~~
- Advocate for allowing the local sales tax to be included as part of the total bid price when considering the “lowest, responsible bidder.”

- Advocate for removing the \$2.5 million cap, which will allow the State's Housing Trust Fund to be fully funded through unclaimed property proceeds received by the State annually.
- Advocate for restoration and oppose further sweeps of the Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF).
- Advocate for additional funding to the Arizona Department of Transportation to plan, build and maintain projects that affect Northern Arizona.
- Repeal Senate Bill 1070, which requires police to determine the immigration status of someone arrested or detained when there is reasonable suspicion they are not in the United States legally.
- Repeal Senate Bill 1487, which withholds shared revenue from cities and towns that are found by the Attorney General to have violated state law. The goal of the repeal is to gain local control of shared funding.
- Advocate for the state of Arizona to accept consulate cards as valid forms of identification.
- Pursue a partnership with Northern Arizona University to jointly advocate for funding for the Rio de Flag Flood Control project from the State and Federal government.

Federal Priorities

Advocate to Expand and Protect Local Control

The City of Flagstaff supports legislation that upholds and restores the principle of local government, and reinforces the authority of the elected leaders of Flagstaff to respect and protect the priorities of its citizenry and respond to local challenges and opportunities.

Advocate to Preserve Local Funding

Protect existing funding and authorities that bring revenue to the City of Flagstaff, which support the quality of life for its residents. Areas included opposition to unfunded mandates by any level of government that would increase costs to the City.

Flagstaff projects and legislative priorities

- Advocate for funding the Rio de Flag Flood Control Project. Fully fund this important community project and qualify for work plan construction funding in future years. Funding priorities for fiscal year 2018 include construction of Lower Reach up to and including the confluence and completion of the BNSF bridge.

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- Advocate for leveraging the voter approved Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project (FWPP) funding with federal dollars to maximize investments into forest health, including resources for timber sale administration. Ensure that resources and funding continue to flow to important regional projects such as the Four Forests Restoration Initiative (4FRI), NAU's Ecological Restoration Institute (ERI) and other important forest restoration efforts outside of the 4FRI boundaries.
 - Advocate for funding and building a skilled nursing facility for veterans in Flagstaff **by protecting the initial state funding from future legislative sweeps** ~~now that the initial funding has been improved~~ and continuing to encourage the Department of Veterans' Affairs to prioritize the project.
 - Advocate for \$11.75 million TIGER grant for the Fourth Street Complete Street Corridor Project in fiscal year 2018 (*this could go away if we get the award this year).
 - Advocate for funding projects in the Flagstaff Airport five-year Capital Improvement Program.
 - Advocate for increasing the gasoline tax in order help fund transportation improvements.
 - **Urge the federal government to pass carbon fee and dividend legislation in support of climate change.**
 - Oppose the transfer of federal lands to state or municipal governments unless funding has also been provided to effectively manage those lands.
 - ~~Advocate for public housing and Section 8 funding.~~ **Support legislative action to ensure full funding of Public Housing, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and the Community Development Block Grant program.**
 - Advocate for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and other federal immigration policies that help keep families together while supporting their higher education goals.
 - Advocate for legislation to reform the Medicaid Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) Exclusion.

Tribal Priorities

The City's Intergovernmental Relations Program is responsible for strengthening partnerships and advancing mutual goals between the City of Flagstaff and Native Nations. In addition to fostering relationships with tribal nations, key priorities this year include:

- Improve overall communications and engagement with Native Nations as we work in partnership on shared issues and concerns.
- Support implementation priorities of the Memorandum of Understanding between Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and City of Flagstaff.
- Facilitation of annual meetings with tribal nations and collaborate on agenda development.
- ~~Oppose the transportation and mining of Uranium; appeal to the United States Department of Transportation to change its policies for how vehicles transport Hazardous Materials.~~ Advocate for strengthening the laws, regulations and policies that govern uranium mining to ensure greater protection for public health and safety.
- Urge Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to adopt stronger groundwater monitoring standards for uranium operations.
- Urge ADEQ to require mine specific aquifer protection permits rather than general aquifer protection permits.
- Urge Arizona Department of Transportation and/or US Department of Transportation to strengthen uranium transport standards to reduce the possibility of contamination.
- ~~Evaluation and implementation of the recommendations from the Indigenous Circle of Flagstaff.~~