



City of Flagstaff Intergovernmental Affairs Program

2013 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA PRIORITIES

The City of Flagstaff Intergovernmental Affairs program addresses legislative initiatives at the county, state, and federal levels. 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 signed onto the League resolutions in support of common legislative efforts of Arizona cities and authorizes staff or City representatives to take positions generally consistent with our legislative priorities.

The following objectives strengthen local government, promote City goals and defend the City against legislative actions by the County, State or Federal governments that would weaken our authority or take away traditional revenue sources and is presented as the 2013 Legislative Agenda for the City of Flagstaff.

Guiding Principles

- **Local Control:** Protect local revenues and local authority, which reflect core principles for local government. Flagstaff believes local government best represents local communities in the areas of regulatory, finance, and administrative decision-making. This representation requires opposing any unfunded mandates at the Federal and State levels
- **Regional Communication:** the County has a direct impact upon the quality of life in Flagstaff and it is essential that the City maintain positive relations and direct communications with our County partner to promote mutual legislative actions.
- **Council Goals:** Advancing or defending City Council adopted goals in effect during the 2013 legislative session does not require additional Council action.

State

- Protect state shared revenue to municipalities as a revenue percentage and a revenue source.
- Obtain ADOT permission to place a water pipeline in the I-40 right-of-way from Red Gap Ranch to Flagstaff (including USFS land)
- Obtain legislative authorities to hold serial inebriates in a detox facility for up to five (5) days to provide initial counseling and treatment opportunities.
- Work to protect forest health by seeking state partnership funding at a level of \$870,000, leveraging local and federal funding resources to treat forest and range lands (thinning, debris, disposal, prescribed fire) to reduce wildfire threat, enhance watersheds, improve ecological health and protect communities (see end of memo for details).

- Retain and enhance economic development tools that enable cities to compete on a national and international level for business retention and attraction that further the economic viability of Flagstaff and greater Northern Arizona.
- Support the Arizona Water Supply Revolving Fund, and the Legislators' Water Resources Development Commission. These entities legally and financially could support the acquisition of rural water supplies and the development of water infrastructure.
- Support Energy Districts through flexible financing district authority that can provide finance mechanisms for residents and commercial entities for upfront investment capital in energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements to their properties.
- Amend Arizona Revised Statutes to clarify the definition of electric bikes in terms of watts versus pistons so they aren't excluded for use on trails.
- Seek self administration of Transportation Enhancement and Safe to School grants, as well as Highway Safety Improvements Program funds, which is necessary due to Federal law eliminating local delivery of grants (self administration) so that now any grants received must be delivered by ADOT staff anywhere where the grant applies within the City.
- Support any state multimedia incentive bills introduced in an effort to increase the attraction possibilities of filming and the motion picture industry using Flagstaff and the greater Northern Arizona region to film motion pictures
- Support a Property Reclassification (High Wage Jobs for Rural Arizona) bill that provides certain tax benefits to companies in export or base industries in rural Arizona that make significant investments in these regions and provide high-paying jobs with adequate healthcare coverage which asks local jurisdictions to provide a consenting resolution agreeing to the property tax reclassification.
- Propose technical amendments to State Statute 32-144, allowing a non-registrant to design non-bearing walls in tenant improvement projects and decks or roof additions for townhomes without the seal of an engineer, for significant cost savings to the applicant, to include removing the word "attached."
- Seek assistance from ADOT and the state on getting an economic impact study of the proposed I-11 Corridor on northern Arizona cities east of the proposed route.
- Support efforts for the establishment of a VA Home in Bellemont and the financial support needed from the State as matching funds to the federal allocation for the home.

Federal

- Water Settlement –Secure easement rights for required water transmission lines located within Interstate 40 right-of-way.
- Rio de Flag Flood Control – Complete the Limited Re-evaluation Report and obtain approval by the Assistant Secretary of the Army. Secure additional funding while increasing the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) authority to \$92 million. Pursue City of Flagstaff self-administration through the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE)

- Forest Health – Leverage voter approved bond dollars for forest restoration with federal dollars to maximize acreage to be treated and minimize municipal costs.
- Transportation - Secure authorization and fiscal resources for the Lone Tree Interchange and the 4th Street Bridge.
- I-11 Corridor Study – Study, track and participate in options being considered in the I-11 Corridor Study between Nevada and Arizona, investigating possible impacts to the Northern Arizona region.

Further Collaboration

Support regional, state and federal partnerships that may advance applicable legislation in support of the City of Flagstaff.

Regional	State	National
Coconino County	Northern Arizona University	National League of Cities and Towns
Northern Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (NAMWUA)	Coconino Community College	Conference of Mayors
Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG)	League of Arizona Cities and Towns	US Forest Service
Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Pubic Transportation Authority (NAIPTA)	State Forestry – State Forest Health Council	US Parks Service
Chamber of Commerce	Tribal Nations	Additional Federal Agencies
Flagstaff Unified School District	Greater Arizona Mayors' Association (GAMA)	Firewise
Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council	AZ Game and Fish	
Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership	Arizona State Land Department	
Four Forest Restoration Initiative	State Forest Health Council	
	AZ Fire Chiefs' Association	

Identified Forest Health / State Forest Wildfire Readiness State Partnership Needs

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>FUNCTIONAL AREA</u>	<u>ANNUAL COSTS</u>	<u>RATIONALE</u>
<i>Preparedness</i>	<i>Wildland Fire Qualifications System</i>	\$100,000	<u>Management & Administration:</u> Every Fire Department in the State is dependent upon ASF to maintain the Wildland Fire Incident Qualification System (IQS), to review and approve

			updates for every individual listed in a timely manner, and issue, on a recurring basis, current Fire Qualification Cards for those in the system.
	<i>Wildland Fire/Incident Management Training</i>	\$ 55,000	<u>Support:</u> Fire Departments, the State's response force, are challenged by funding shortages to provide necessary training. Funding will be used to support Dept training needs to support local and inter-agency response efforts. <i>Challenge approach with local fire districts and communities?</i>
<i>Prevention</i>	<i>Firewise</i>	\$ 80,000	<u>Outreach, Training and Certification:</u> Every dollar spent on this program saves upwards of \$10 on suppression. Fire Adapted neighborhoods and communities can successfully withstand wildfire, thus reducing public risk, damage, and both suppression and recovery costs.
	<i>State Forest Health Council</i>	\$ 20,000	<u>Administrative and Operational Support:</u> A coordinated, multi-agency, State-led effort provides a platform for discussion, resolution, and joint action to address the issues faced in AZ. Cost to include targeted projects or efforts that support the Council's goals.
<i>Hazard Mitigation</i>	<i>State Lands</i>	\$450,000	<u>Treatments:</u> State-owned range and forest lands require attention to reduce fire threat, protect watersheds, and ensure safe communities. Providing funds to accomplish this work puts the State in a leadership role, demonstrates a commitment to the environment, builds credibility with partners, and allows federally-provided funds to be leveraged to achieve greater impact. <i>Challenge approach with local fire districts, neighborhoods, communities?</i>
<i>Response</i>	<i>AZ Type II Incident Management Team (IMT)</i>	\$ 15,000	<u>Support:</u> The State sponsors an IMT. Funds will be to encourage and support annual meetings, training, equipment, and supply needs.

	<i>Dispatch Center</i>	\$150,000	<u>Support:</u> Staff and admin support to fully manage all aspects (Resource status, tracking, assignments, agreements, communication, etc) of the State's Interagency Incident Management Dispatch Center in Phoenix, responsible to provide dispatch services to all Fire Departments engaged in wildland fire throughout the State and beyond.
TOTAL ANNUAL COST		\$870,000	
