

City of Flagstaff Intergovernmental Relations 2016



City Council Mission Statement

To protect and enhance the quality of life of its citizens.

City Council Vision Statement

The City of Flagstaff is a safe, diverse, vibrant and innovative community with a unique character and high quality of life. The City fosters and supports a balance of 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 cities local control and local funding.

The 2016 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:

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 has been voted on and approved by a majority of voters.

The City of Flagstaff strongly promotes **local control** for cities and may support or oppose legislation based on whether they advance maximum local control by local governments.

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.

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 of Flagstaff citizens and the financial costs to the City.

The City's membership in the **League of Arizona Cities and Towns** is a critical component of the Flagstaff's advocacy strategy. The City Council will participate in the League's annual priority-setting process.

The City of Flagstaff understands that **partnerships** that develop and maintain positive intergovernmental relations are essential for success and the 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, Northern Arizona Council of Governments, Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority, Northern Arizona Municipal Water Users Association, Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership, Chamber of Commerce and Grand Canyon Trust;
- **Statewide Partners:** League of Arizona Cities and Towns, Coconino Community College, Northern Arizona University, Department of Veteran Services, Arizona Department of Transportation, Arizona Game and Fish, Arizona State Land Department and Greater Arizona Mayors' Association;
- **National Partners:** National League of Cities and Towns, Conference of Mayors, US Forest Service, National Park Service, US Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, US Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies; and
- **Tribal Partners:** Including the Navajo Nation and Hopi Nation

State Priorities

Advocate to Expand and Protect Local Control

Flagstaff supports legislation that upholds 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 may include the protection of state-shared revenues and opposition to the imposition of new fees and unfunded mandates by other levels of government that would increase costs to the City.

Flagstaff projects and legislative priorities

- Advocate for funding and building a **skilled nursing facility for veterans** in Flagstaff.
- Advocate for investing in **forest health** treatments on state-owned land in the Flagstaff region.
- Advocate for securing authority to place portions of the **Red Gap Ranch Pipeline** within Interstate 40 right-of-way.
- Advocate for investing in **economic development** efforts to promote rural manufacturing and encourage more use of the state by the film industry.

Statewide issues important to Flagstaff

- Advocate for reducing gun violence, fostering safety in public facilities and building safer communities.
- Advocate for reforming state pension systems to obtain greater flexibility in managing pension plans affecting municipal employees.
- Advocate for changing requirements in commercial tenant improvement projects less than \$10,000 to no longer require an Arizona Registrant to design and stamp the project.
- 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 that allows the State’s Housing Trust Fund to be fully funded through unclaimed property proceeds received by the State annually.

Federal Priorities

Advocate to Expand and Protect Local Control

Flagstaff supports legislation that upholds 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 imposed by the federal government that would increase costs to the City.

Flagstaff projects and legislative priorities

- Advocate for increased authorization and funding the **Rio de Flag Flood Control Project**. Fully authorize this important community project and qualify for work plan construction funding in future years. Funding priorities for fiscal year 2016 include completing 100 percent design, completing final elements at the Clay Avenue Detention basin and environmental clean up and installation of rip rap at the Butler site.
- Advocate for leveraging the voter approved **Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project** 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 Forest Restoration Initiative and NAU Ecological Restoration Institute.
- Advocate for funding projects in the **Flagstaff Airport** five-year Capital Improvement Program.
- Advocate for releasing the Federal Government's **reversionary interests** on property sold to the City by the BNSF Railroad.
- Advocate for authorizing and funding **transportation improvements** in Flagstaff, including priorities identified in the Regional Transportation Plan.
- Advocate for for funding and building a **skilled nursing facility for veterans** in Flagstaff after the initial state funding has been approved and encourage the Department of Veterans' Affairs to prioritize the project.

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:

- Support implementation priorities of the Memorandum of Understanding between Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and City of Flagstaff.
- Collaborate on agenda development and facilitation of annual meetings with tribal nations.
- Host the 2016 Mayors Summit in partnership with the Navajo Nation.

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