

**City of Livermore**  
**2016 State and Federal Legislative Platform**  
**(Adopted at March 14, 2016 City Council Meeting)**

## Introduction

The 2016 State and Federal Legislative Platform highlights the position of the City Council on important issues that align with community goals and policy documents like the General Plan. City staff monitors bills introduced into the California Legislature and United States Congress as well as their path towards becoming law. The Platform provides staff direction and allows the City, on the Council's behalf, to quickly respond in support of or opposition to bills and other legislative or administrative actions in time-sensitive situations. Additionally, the Platform enables staff to communicate Livermore on behalf of the City to state legislators and federal elected officials.

The City's State Legislative Platform was first adopted by Council in 2013 which included annual recommended updates. At its April 13, 2015 meeting, Council directed staff to use the Platform as a guide for federal bill tracking and action. The State and Federal Legislative Platform evolves as City needs adjust, new issues arise, and conditions at the regional, state, and federal level change. Once approved by the City Council, the 2016 State and Federal Legislative Platform will be posted on the City's website at <http://www.cityoflivermore.net/legislation>. Staff also provides the Council with monthly updates on bill progress and legislative developments.

## City Local Control

Local control is a core tenet for the City of Livermore. When proposed legislation or regulation has the potential to erode local control, City action is taken.

1. **Oppose** any legislative attempts to restrict local authority or decision-making.
2. **Oppose** legislation that requires cities to use district-based elections.
3. **Monitor** the implementation of the 2015 California Medical Marijuana Safety and Regulation Act including active exploration and analysis of local and state regulatory authority.
4. **Support** legislation that updates both the Brown Act and Public Records Act regarding electronic records and activities that support local decision-making without significant fiscal impact and new regulations that require staff resources.
5. **Oppose** legislation that 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.
6. **Monitor** 2016 state ballot initiatives for local control impacts such as a repeal of plastic bag bans or the legalization of recreational marijuana.
7. **Support** a wording change in the Communications Act of 1934 that removes the distinction between "capital" and "operating" funds in order to provide more local

control for community television stations in the use of their public, educational and government (PEG) channel fees with no rise in taxes or a reduction in revenue to the cable industry.

### **Fiscal Stability**

Fiscal stability and financial independence is necessary to provide desired services and programs for residents and local businesses. City Council policy decisions direct staff to ensure the City's long-term financial stability. Unexpected diversion of local funds by the state or federal government erodes the ability of a city to plan and budget for short-and-long term service needs.

1. **Oppose** legislation that imposes unfunded or inadequate State mandates.
2. **Monitor** legislation regarding major revisions to property taxes, sales taxes, use taxes, transient occupancy taxes or other tax code sections.
3. **Monitor** legislation that regulates and/or taxes shared economy services like Uber or Lyft for transportation or Airbnb for lodging.
4. **Support** the federal Marketplace Fairness Act that would allow states and local governments to require that online merchants charge sales taxes on remote purchases.
5. **Monitor** legislation regarding new fees or other revenue-enhancements.
6. **Oppose** legislation that reduces or eliminates payments to cities for use of property and rights-of-way for telecommunications.
7. **Support** legislation that provides sustainable and secure public pensions and other post-retirement benefits to ensure responsive and affordable public service.
8. **Support** legislation that streamlines the Workers' Compensation system.

### **Housing, Planning and Sustainability**

Land use planning and diverse housing opportunities coupled with environmental stewardship, mandatory reductions in greenhouse gases, emissions, solid waste generation, and energy consumption are vital to a community's quality of life.

1. **Support** housing legislation that promotes the development and enhancement of safe and decent workforce, sustainable, and accessible housing within the City for all economic segments of the population as long as they do not create an unfunded mandate or conflict with local land use authority and financial stability.

2. **Support** legislation that increases financial assistance to cities, non-profit organizations, and local partnerships to provide affordable, transitional, special needs and emergency housing to the homeless, seniors, veterans, and people with special needs.
3. **Support** legislation that increases financial assistance to cities, non-profit organizations, and local partnerships to provide and promote self-empowerment for homeless individuals or families through counseling, job training, and other related services.
4. **Support** the bipartisan California “No Place Like Home Initiative” that proposes a \$2 billion bond for building housing for the chronically mentally ill from Proposition 63 funding, monies for short-term rent subsidies, and support for two existing programs for homeless families.
5. **Support** land use patterns that maintain safe residential neighborhoods, bolster economic prosperity, preserve open space, and enhance overall quality of life.
6. **Oppose** state or federal efforts to further erode local government authority regarding the location of cellular towers or transmission sites.
7. **Support** funding and incentives for smart growth and sustainable development.
8. **Support** CEQA legislation that eliminates redundant, costly and cumbersome mandates and restrictions.
9. **Support** legislation or grant opportunities for cities that provide funding for developing or enhancing alternative vehicle fueling stations.
10. **Support** rebate programs, tax credits, and other financial incentives that encourage property owners to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy systems, greenhouse gas-reducing technology, and alternative vehicle fueling stations in parking areas.
11. **Monitor** climate change, alternative fuels, and SB 375 related legislation and potential impacts.

### **Infrastructure Rehabilitation**

The condition of a city’s infrastructure also impacts the community’s quality of life. Sewer and water systems, sidewalks, and roads are subject to a wide number of regulations, and must be maintained or replaced to ensure the health of the community.

1. **Oppose** legislation regarding sidewalk repair that increases a city’s unfunded infrastructure liability.

2. **Support** legislation that funds state and local infrastructure including roadways and bridges, water treatment, wastewater and storm water especially agreements on local street rehabilitation through either Governor Brown's plan, Senator Beall's SB 16 or SB 1X-1, Assembly member Frazier's AB 1591, or another bill.
3. **Support** the LOCC-sponsored 2016 ballot initiative "The California Water Conservation, Flood Control and Stormwater Management Act." The Act serves as a new funding method using a ratepayer protest process, similar to the City of Livermore's water utility.
4. **Support** legislation that enhances the reliability of water transmission and storage through the Delta to the Tri-Valley.
5. **Support** legislation that would acknowledge an adopted California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document can be substituted for a federal National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) document for infrastructure projects.

### **Job Creation and Economic Development**

The City encourages and supports business through strategic economic development initiatives. Fostering a strong business environment requires job creation, educational opportunities, and workforce development programs.

1. **Support** legislation that enhances or expands community and economic development tools and funding to address development and revitalization needs.
2. **Support** legislation or grants that focus on downtown development.
3. **Support** legislation that promotes and funds workforce development and re-training efforts, especially in high-technology support jobs.

### **Libraries**

The Livermore Public Library encourages the development of a lifelong interest in reading and learning by youth and adults, provides materials and services of popular interest, supports the educational needs of the community, furnishes timely, accurate information, and builds cultural awareness and enrichment. With strong community support, staff continues to offer the services valued by residents. Staff also develops programs and services for and with local residents to further increase the impact of the Library's mission.

1. **Support** legislation that increases financial assistance to cities to provide local library programs and literacy services.

## **Public Safety**

Effective public safety significantly enhances a community's quality of life. Maintaining a strong safety presence requires ongoing local, regional, state and federal support.

1. **Support** legislation and grants which fund police and fire equipment upgrades, training, and capital improvements.
2. **Support** legislation that promotes and funds emergency preparedness and recovery efforts.
3. **Support** legislation that improves data and information dissemination from the railroads and Federal government, preparedness funding, and first-responder training for oil-by-rail shipments, especially Bakken crude oil.
4. **Support** legislation that maintains and increases grant funding for the Community Oriented Police Services (COPS) hiring program.
5. **Monitor** legislation pertaining to unmanned aircrafts (drones) and Federal Aviation Administration regulations.
6. **Support** legislation related to prohibited persons in possession of firearms.
7. **Support** legislation that penalizes individuals who engage in drug and/or distracted driving activities.

## **Science, Technology and Innovation**

As the only city in the United States with two national laboratories, science, technology and innovation play an important role in the Livermore economy, workforce, and community values. Additionally, the City partnership with the labs and i-GATE iHub fosters innovation, job creation, and economic development opportunities.

1. **Support** legislation that advances or encourages innovation, entrepreneurship, start-ups, small business opportunities, and/or workforce development.
2. **Support** legislation encouraging the expansion of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs in K-12, higher education and libraries such as Congressman Eric Swalwell's H.R. 2082, The Stem K to Career Act.
3. **Support** legislation that encourages and supports the transfer of technology from the national laboratories.

## **Transportation and Parking**

Regional and local transportation play a key role in a community's economic vitality and quality of life.

1. **Support** legislation that enhances the ability of local agencies to finance local transportation programs and facilities.
2. **Support** legislation that facilitates connectivity between major regional rail/transit systems.
3. **Support** legislation that provides rail and multimodal transit stations (transit oriented development) incentives.
4. **Oppose** legislation mandating "one-size-fits-all" parking space requirements for future housing, entertainment, or retail developments or impinges on how parking spaces can be used.
5. **Support** implementation of the federal Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act including funding for residential railroad quiet zones.

## **Water**

California's voters, through the passage of Proposition 1 in November 2014, reaffirmed water's essential role to residents, agriculture, and the State's overall economic vitality and growth.

1. **Support** legislation developing new water conveyance systems such as peripheral canals or tunnels (as mentioned in the proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan) to deliver adequate water to the Tri-Valley and the Silicon Valley.
2. **Support** legislation that encourages and provides incentives for water conservation and expands the production and use of recycled water.
3. **Support** legislation that allows direct and indirect potable water reuse.
4. **Oppose** legislation that allows the State Water Resources Control Board or Regional Water Quality Board to establish more stringent, clean water objectives unless the legislation provides a demonstrated water quality benefit as well as the means for jurisdictions to achieve the objectives.
5. **Support** regulations to protect drinking water from the impacts of hydrological fracturing (hydro-fracking) related to oil and gas exploration and extraction.