

RESOLUTION
Adopting the City of Corpus Christi's State Legislative Agenda
for the 84th Texas Legislature.

WHEREAS, the 84th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature convenes on January 13, 2015;

WHEREAS, Every session, thousands of bills are filed and many have the potential to either directly or indirectly impact the City of Corpus Christi (City), its programs and services, its citizens, the tax base, and community needs; and

WHEREAS, The City's Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Department is responsible for monitoring state and federal governmental activities, developing legislative priorities approved by City Council, managing the City's legislative consultants at Focused Advocacy, and coordinating legislative activities with other public and private sector entities and municipal advocacy organizations; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide guidance for the City's officers and representatives in conducting the City's legislative efforts and relations; and

WHEREAS, to be successful, this ever-evolving business environment requires close contact and constant communication with legislative leadership, external legislative consultants, municipal advocacy organizations, statewide municipal partners, community leadership, and community stakeholders.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Corpus Christi, Texas:

SECTION 1. The City Council generally supports bills that:

- Protects & enhances City revenues.
- Reduces or eliminates costs to the City.
- Supports local control.
- Protects policies previously established by City leadership through the Charter, Ordinances, Resolutions or Master Plans.
- Provides increased educational opportunities for the citizens of Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend region by supporting its public schools, community colleges and universities.

SECTION 2. The City Council generally opposes bills that:

- Undermines the principles of Home Rule and Local Control.
- Results in the loss of revenue or negatively impacts potential revenue growth.
- Diminishes the authority of cities to regulate and manage their growth and development.
- Nullifies or undermines the City's policies contained in existing provisions of the Charter, Ordinances, Resolutions and Master Plans - unless such changes expand the City's ability to manage its own affairs.
- Imposes unfunded mandates that requires any expenditures by the City unless all costs are full reimbursed by the mandating governmental entity.

SECTION 3. The City Council adopts the following priorities as its agenda for the 84th Texas Legislature.

Priority

1. Support the passage of new, long-term, sustainable funding sources for transportation infrastructure; and the dedication of existing revenue generated from taxes, fees, or receipts related to transportation to the maintenance, improvement and expansion of roads, rail and public transportation.
2. Provide cities and counties with additional local funding options and resources to address transportation needs that are not otherwise met by current funding sources or to offset any new transportation related costs or requirements by state or federal government. Examples could include gasoline tax, vehicle registration fee, an exemption of the sales tax cap, or other option.
3. Appropriate adequate funding for the Fiscal Years 2016-2017 biennium for the State of Texas to partner with local project sponsors to implement one or more seawater desalination projects to provide uninterrupted water supply and have corresponding positive impacts for water supplies in adjacent regions which will strengthen Texas' economy and sustain economic prosperity.
4. Appropriate \$150 million in grant funding to Texas Military Preparedness Commission to assist defense communities with military value projects that enhance the installation's mission, improve operational efficiencies, and proactively address impacts from sequestration or other base realignment and closure activities that may happen in the future.
5. Amend Chapter 436, Government Code, to increase the cap on project awards for the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG) program from \$2 million to \$5 million.
6. Secure for Corpus Christi and Port Aransas an equitable two percent (2%) portion of the state's Hotel Occupancy Tax for Gulf and Bay beach cleaning, maintenance and coastal erosion exactly as already provided to other barrier island municipalities.
7. Windstorm insurance reform that restructures the governing board of the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA) to put consumers on equal footing with insurance company members; creates incentives to promote voluntary coverage of windstorm and hail policies in the Texas seacoast; establishes a financial structure at TWIA that provides a stable, sustainable and affordable rate structure to be able to cover on an annual basis up to \$4.3 billion in loss claims at TWIA, would cover a 1-in-100 year storm; requires member insurance companies pay allowable assessments sooner; establishes a small statewide catastrophic storm fund to pay for excess losses, and structures a more financially beneficial re-insurance program.

8. Amend Texas Utilities Code to allow municipalities to purchase energy wholesale from a co-generation facility to provide low-cost power for seawater desalination plant.
9. Amend Chapter 212, Local Government Code, to empower municipalities to regulate development of wind farms within a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ).
10. Repeal the limitations in Chapter 2269, Government Code, on the number of design build civil works projects a governmental entity is allowed to undertake.

Actively Support

1. Appropriate funding to TxDOT and include specific riders in the General Appropriations Act for TxDOT securing funding for the construction of passing lanes for SH 361 between Corpus Christi and Port Aransas and for improvements to the Port Aransas ferry system.
2. Continue investing in Texas tourism promotion in the Governor's Office of Economic Development and Tourism
3. Maintain the existing public school start date, which is vitally important to the tourism economy of the Coastal Bend.
4. Amend statutes to eliminate impediments to development of water supply sources to meet the long-term needs of the State, whether it is through conservation, surface water, groundwater, aquifer storage and recovery, interbasin transfers, rainwater harvesting, or other strategies.
 - (a) Oppose the improper expansion of ballot language designed to create confusion at the ballot box for taxpayers;
 - (b) Minimize superfluous calculations that serve no meaningful or comparative purpose;
 - (c) Resist information requirements which expand reporting without meaningful benefit;
 - (d) Create consistent requirements for all political subdivisions, including the State of Texas; and
 - (e) Eliminate data reporting redundancies.
4. Texas Emission Reduction Program (TERP) – Free up \$1 billion of previously collected TERP funds to improve air quality in near non-attainment areas instead of using those funds to certify the state budget.
5. Amend Section 252.048 (c-1), Local Government Code, to increase in the administrative change order authority from \$100,000 to 5% of the base contract value, not to exceed \$500,000.
6. Change notice requirements for public oil and gas waste disposal permit applications in watersheds.

Endorse

1. Support appropriation requests by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi for:
 - (a) capital projects (Life Sciences Research and Engineering Building and Arts and Media Building) whether funded through tuition revenue bonds or other sources,
 - (b) \$11.5 million exceptional item funding for the Lone Star Unmanned Aircraft System Center for Excellence and Innovation for engineering/computing support staff and research fellows critical to the continuing research and development and operation of the program, including support of command and control center operations, range management and operation, and increased test site programming efforts;
 - (c) \$3 million exceptional item funding for expansion of engineering programs; and
 - (d) \$400,000 exceptional item funding for two staff positions and operational funding to support clients and the continued development of the Coastal Bend Innovation Center program.
2. Support appropriation/policy requests by Del Mar College
3. Ensure adequate resources (time, funding, Agency staffing levels, etc.) to support full implementation of House Bill 5 (83rd Session, 2013). It takes time to expand course offerings to students so that they can choose among an array of endorsements. School counselors and registrars need professional development to assure that students and parents are making fully informed academic choices and that transcripts are interpreted consistently across the state. State and education service center leadership are needed to deliver sustained professional development, particularly at the middle and high school levels, to assure that instructional rigor is sufficient for students to be academically successful.
4. Allow the Corpus Christi Regional Transit Authority to sell compressed natural gas (CNG) to public (tax exempt) and private consumers (taxable) without losing its tax-exempt status.
5. Protect City Original Jurisdiction – Oppose efforts to reduce or eliminate the original jurisdiction of cities in rate cases.
 6. Remove barriers to Utilizing Electric Transmission Right of Way for Municipally-Owned Hike and Bike Trails.
 7. Promote public-private partnerships to develop small scale generation projects. This would renew an effort from the last regular legislative session.
 8. Maximize the use of revenues from the sporting goods sales tax and federal funds to increase funding for parks and recreation programs for both Local and State parks and that all Texas Recreation & Parks Account Local Park Grant Program (TRPA) and Urban Account funded park projects be subject to the established Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) competitive scoring system.

9. Restore funding to the TRPA and Urban accounts at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in the amount of at least \$15.5 million per fiscal year (\$31 million for biennium).
10. Support legislation to enhance state regulation of payday and auto title lending practices. Oppose legislation that preempts city regulations by ordinance.
11. Support \$3 million Exceptional Item request (\$1.5M per fiscal year) by the Texas Workforce Commission to enhance its Apprenticeship program for high-demand, high skills jobs.
12. Support \$10 million Exception Item request (\$5M per FY) by the Texas Workforce Commission for intensive and rapid response recruitment of high skills jobs for companies expanding in or relocating to Texas.
13. Support \$20 million Exceptional Item request (\$10M per FY) by the Texas Workforce Commission for the Accelerate Texas program to align high demand occupational skill training with literacy and numeracy training. Priority

SECTION 4. The Legislative Agenda remain in effect until amended by the City Council.

SECTION 5. The IGR Director is directed to distribute the City’s Legislative Agenda to the local legislative delegation, legislative leadership, external legislative consultants, municipal advocacy organizations, statewide municipal partners, community leadership, and community stakeholders to solicit their advice, support, and active engagement in the legislative process.

This resolution takes effect upon City Council approval on this the ____ day of _____, 2014.

ATTEST:

THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

 Rebecca Huerta
 City Secretary
 Corpus Christi, Texas

 Nelda Martinez
 Mayor
 Corpus Christi, Texas

The above resolution was passed by the following vote:

Nelda Martinez _____

Kelley Allen _____

Rudy Garza _____

Priscilla Leal _____

David Loeb _____

Chad Magill _____

Colleen McIntyre _____

Lillian Riojas _____

Mark Scott _____