

City of Corpus Christi Federal and State Legislative Agendas

City Council Briefing

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Director of Intergovernmental Relations
November 19, 2024



City Legislative Agenda Process

- Every even-numbered year, the City Council adopts a federal and state agenda
- The agenda is a living document
- City staff works with city council members, city departments, partners, and consultants



Purpose of Agendas

- Outlines express priorities of the City Council and approves a general policy consideration matrix
- Instructs City Council, staff, and consultants on engagement on behalf of the city with specific bills and administrative rules



City Consultants in Washington D.C.



Hance Scarborough is the government affairs firm representing the City in Washington D.C.

- Larry Meyers has represented the city in Washington D.C. since 1995
- David Pore, Partner
- Jennifer Shepard, Legislative Consultant



2024 Election Results

House	118 th Congress	2024 Election
Republican	222	216
Democrat	213	207

Senate	118 th Congress	2024 Election
Republican	49	53
Democrat	47	45
Independent	4	2

Texas Delegation Changes:

118 th Congress	Incoming House Member
Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX-Flower Mound)	Brandon Gill
Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX-Fort Worth)	Craig Goldman
Rep. Collin Allred (D-TX-Plano)	Julie Johnson
Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-Inner City Houston)	Sylvester Turner

Key Agencies & Trump Appointments:

- Defense: Peter Hegseth
- EPA: Lee Zeldin
- Homeland Security: Kristi Noem
- Interior:
- HUD:
- DOT:

Impact of DC Political Shift

- Republicans resume control of House, Senate and White House
- 1st 100 Day Focus through Executive Order:
 - Immigration
 - Energy production and export
 - Inflation reduction
 - Foreign conflict
 - Tariffs
 - Widespread reversal of Biden Administration policies
- New Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)
- Longer-term: Supreme Court, tax credits, education
- Anticipate re-direct on: clean energy & climate; foreign aid; diversity, equity & inclusion
- Anticipate deregulation trend

Legislative Outlook

Expected to Pass by year-end:

- FY 25 Appropriations
 - Current CR until 12/20
 - Litmus test to extend CR until March 2025 to allow new Administration input
- National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)
- Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

2025

- Tax Bill
- Budget
- Surface transportation reauthorization

Federal and State Policy Consideration Matrix: **Support**

- Furthers local control
- Protect and enhance City revenues
- Reduce or eliminate costs to the City
- Provides increased educational opportunities and job creation/retention for the citizens of Corpus Christi

Federal and State Policy Consideration Matrix: **Oppose**

- Nullify or undermine the City's policies contained in existing provisions of the Charter, ordinances, resolutions, and master plans
- Diminishes the authority of cities to regulate and manage their growth and development
- Imposes unfunded mandates
- Undermine the principle of home rule and local control by the City
- Results in the loss of revenue or negatively impacts potential revenue growth to the City



Federal Legislative Agenda: Support for Military Communities

- Support compliance with the Department of Defense 50/50 rule by installation (private/public work distribution) and elimination of the 180-day prohibition on re-hire
- Support funding for the Child Development Center and Military Housing
- Support increased funding and flexibility to the Defense Community Infrastructure Program



Federal Legislative Agenda: Environment & Utilities

- Support funding and legislation that enables the city to permit, develop, and fund drought-resistant water supply sources
- Monitor the impact of EPA's new Lead and Copper rule and PFAS rule for water utilities



Federal Legislative Agenda: Homelessness and Affordable Housing

- Support level or increased funding for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program, and Homeless Assistance programs
- Support legislation and funding available for Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Section 42 Low Income Housing Tax Credit program



Federal Legislative Agenda: Education & Economic Development

- Oppose legislation that would restrict public beach access in a manner inconsistent with the provisions of our city charter and ordinances.



Federal Legislative Agenda: Disaster Assistance & Emergency Management

- Support Stafford Act reforms that would streamline disaster response timelines and clarify the act with regard to funding of projects affected by duplication of authority and/or duplication of benefits.
- Support reform and funding of the federal flood insurance program to ensure sustainability of the program and affordability for residents and businesses.



City Consultants in Austin, TX

Focused Advocacy is the government affairs firm representing the City of Corpus Christi

Focused Advocacy specializes in representing local governments and has represented the City of Corpus Christi since 2011

- Curt Seidlits, Founder & CEO
- Brandon Aghamalian, Partner & President
- Snapper Carr, Partner & General Counsel
- Lynlie Hurd, Legislative & Regulatory Counsel





State Government Outlook

- The November 5th election resulted in 1 pickup for Republicans in the Texas Senate and 2 pickups by Republicans in the Texas House.
 - The partisan breakdown of the Texas Senate is now 20 Republicans to 11 Democrats.
 - The partisan breakdown of the Texas House is now 88 Republicans to 62 Democrats.
 - The Corpus Christi delegation is most significantly impacted by the election, which brings our delegation a new senator and a new state representative.
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State Government Outlook

- Republicans slightly grew their majorities in both the House and Senate, ensuring both chambers remain in Republican control.
 - Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick will remain President of the Senate. The ongoing Speaker's race continues. The Republican Caucus is set to meet December 7th to vote on a Caucus endorsed candidate for speaker.
 - Based on statements made in campaigns and during legislative interim hearings, we expect the Legislature to revisit many of the same city related issues in the upcoming session, to include preemption, restrictions on city land use authority and debt instruments, and limitations on community advocacy.
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89th Session Corpus Christi Delegation



**Senator Juan
"Chuy" Hinojosa**
Committees:
Finance (Vice-
Chair);
Redistricting
(Vice-Chair);
Border Security;
Criminal Justice;
Jurisprudence



**Senator-Elect
Adam Hinojosa**



**Rep. Todd
Hunter**
Committees:
State Affairs
(Chair)



Rep. J.M. Lozano
Committees:
Urban Affairs
(Chair);
Redistricting;
Transportation;
Youth Health &
Safety



**Representative-
Elect Denise
Villalobos**



State Legislative Agenda: Preserve Local Decision Making

- Oppose state preemption of municipal authority to protect residential neighborhoods homeowner property values
- Oppose eroding municipal authority related to development services including annexation, eminent domain, zoning, building codes and inspections, and tree preservation



State Legislative Agenda: Preserve Local Decision Making

- Opposes legislation, especially revenue caps, that undermines the authority of local elected officials to establish budgets and generate revenues through various authorized taxes, and user fees
- Oppose legislation that would erode the ability of a city to issue debt
- Oppose legislation taking away local authority to draft bond and referendum ballot language



State Legislative Agenda: Preserve Local Decision Making

- Support legislation that would allow cities to remove themselves from an Emergency Service District when the city can provide service to the area
- Oppose state legislation that would erode the authority of a city to be adequately compensated for the use of its rights-of-way and/or erode municipal authority over the management and control of rights-of-way
- Oppose legislation that would prohibit the City from using public funds to communicate with legislators or state agencies and advocate on behalf of the community



State Legislative Agenda: Port of Corpus Christi

- Supports legislation that preserves the power of the City to appoint 3 members of the governing board of the Port of Corpus Christi
- Oppose Legislation that would expand the authority of the Port beyond its responsibility to maintain and promote navigable commerce
- Oppose legislation that would expand the unilateral economic development and real estate development authority of the Port



State Legislative Agenda: Public Safety

- Support funding to increase existing or the creation of new police and fire grant programs
- Support legislation that encourages local governments to coordinate in delivering consistent, high-quality emergency services, such as accreditation for all local law enforcement agencies and establishing incident command agreements



State Legislative Agenda: Support For Military Communities

- Support Legislative Appropriations of at least \$75 million for the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG) Program



State Legislative Agenda: Texas Windstorm Insurance Association

- Support windstorm insurance reform that will provide affordable, equitable rates for the Texas coast, such as developing a statewide disaster insurance policy
- Support the relocation of the headquarters to a Tier I Coastal community
- Oppose unnecessary rate hikes from Texas Windstorm Insurance Association



State Legislative Agenda: Environment & Utilities

- Support legislation and funding that enables the city to permit and develop drought-resistant water supply sources including low-interest loans, grants, or other financing tools
- Support legislation that protects the municipal utility investments made by ratepayers for treatment plants, conveyance systems, and infrastructure



State Legislative Agenda: Education and Economic Competitiveness

- Support funding for Texas A&M University Corpus Christi to construct a Convocation Center
- Support funding to construct a Corpus Christi Aviation Education Campus for higher education use at Corpus Christi International Airport.
- Support legislation to allow for competitive procurement of the professional services by professional engineers and architects for home-rule municipalities.