

**Legislative Priorities**  
**116<sup>th</sup> United States Congress**  
**And**  
**86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature**



**Council Presentation**  
**November 13, 2018**



# General Legislative Policy

| The City <b>SUPPORTS</b> state and federal legislation and/or administrative actions that:   | The City <b>OPPOSES</b> state and federal legislation and/or administrative actions that:   |
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| <i>Protects policies previously established by City leadership through the Charter, ordinances, resolutions, and master plans.</i>   | <i>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.</i> |
| <i>Supports local control.</i>   | <i>Diminishes the authority of cities to regulate and manage their growth and development.</i>  |
| <i>Protect and enhance City revenues.</i>  | <i>Imposes unfunded mandates that requires any expenditures by the City unless all costs are fully reimbursed by the mandating governmental entity.</i>   |
| <i>Reduces or eliminates costs to the City.</i>  | <i>Undermine the principle of home rule and local control by the City.</i>  |
| <i>Provides increased educational opportunities and job creation/retention for the citizens of Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend region through the Port of Corpus Christi authority, public schools, community colleges and universities.</i> | <i>Results in the loss of revenue or negatively impacts potential revenue growth to the City.</i>   |



# Levels of Activity

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**PRIORITY** – will actively pursue and support/oppose the policy, including, if necessary, seeking introduction and passage of legislation. This would include purely local Corpus Christi bills and very important legislation of statewide application.

**ACTIVELY SUPPORT/OPPOSE** – will aggressively attempt to influence passage/defeat of a measure if it is introduced by some other entity.

**ENDORSE** – will make its support or opposition known, but will not actively pursue the issue.

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# Measurements of Success

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**SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME** could involve passage of legislation, defeat of legislation, no legislation being filed, or funding for a particular program supported by the City.

**PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME** could mean passage of legislation, but no funding to implement or it could mean legislation with provisions the City supports, but contains several provisions the City might not support.

**UNSUCCESSFUL OUTCOME** could mean passage of legislation the City opposed, defeat of legislation the City supported, no legislation being filed, or reduced or no funding for a particular program supported by the City.

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# Contract Lobby Team

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**Larry Meyers**  
**Meyers & Associates, Washington, D.C.**

**Brandon Aghamalian, Curtis Seidlits, Snapper Carr**  
**Focused Advocacy, Austin, TX**





# Federal Legislative Priorities

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Support adequate funding from the U.S. Department of Defense for the vital military missions and national security value of local installations, including active duty and civilian personnel, training, equipment, maintenance of aging facilities and infrastructure and new construction of necessary facilities and infrastructure to ensure force readiness.

Support elimination of the Production Tax Credit for wind farm developments within close proximity of a military installation and flight training routes.

Oppose definitions or procedural changes or practices at the Department of Defense which would result in reduced workload at military depots such as CCAD.

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# Federal Legislative Priorities

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Oppose pre-emption by federal agencies which nullify or undermine the policies contained in existing provisions of the Charter, ordinances, resolutions, and master plans.

Protect existing tax-exempt status of municipal bonds (private activity bonds and advance refunding bonds) in any tax reform legislation.

Prohibit redefining “Waters of the United States”. Prevents the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency from expanding the definition of surface waters and wetlands to be subject to the Clean Water Act.



# Federal Legislative Priorities

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Support the passage of the Water Quality Improvement Act, which deals with Integrated Planning and Affordability for wastewater and stormwater mandates.

- Establishes a two-prong test that a Clean Water Act requirement is both technically achievable and economically affordable.
  - Defines a trigger to enter into discussions on Integrated Planning when 20% of a community's population spend more than two percent (2%) of their income on water and wastewater costs. A city becomes eligible to work with EPA to develop a plan that prioritizes spending on requirements that protect public health and the environment.
  - Allows 10 year permits.
  - Reconfirms Use Attainability and Variances are available tools already in law.
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# Federal Legislative Priorities

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## **ACTIVELY SUPPORT**

Preserve the funding levels for congregate meals and home-delivered meals and all other aging services programs.

Support adequate funding for the U.S. Census Bureau for 2020 Census.

Support adequate funding for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for Community Development Block Grant, HOME, and Homeless Assistance programs.

Support a federal infrastructure program, which promotes investment in highways, rail, waterways, utilities, and technology without requiring excessive local debt and additional unfunded mandates.

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# Federal Legislative Priorities

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## **ACTIVELY OPPOSE**

Oppose any actions that would increase barriers to trade, such as tariffs on intermediate goods.

Oppose the elimination of the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA), which is the only means for the Department of Defense (DoD) to directly support civilian activities that, in turn, provide direct value and savings to the warfighter.



# State Legislative Priorities

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## **PRESERVE LOCAL DECISION-MAKING**

Support the principles of local decision-making from residents, stakeholders and local elected officials who are most directly responsive to their neighbors.

Oppose State of Texas preemption of municipal authority in order to protect residential neighborhoods from activities that would degrade homeowner property values, and more specifically oppose eroding municipal authority related to development matters.

Oppose undermining the authority of local elected officials to establish budgets and generate revenues through various authorized taxes, and user fees, to improve quality of life and secure the essential municipal services, personnel, facilities, and initiatives prioritized by local taxpayers.

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# State Legislative Priorities

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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 and interjecting the State of Texas, an agency or statewide elected official into a local election process.

Oppose 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.



# State Legislative Priorities

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## **SUPPORT FOR MILITARY COMMUNITY AND INSTALLATIONS**

Protect the investments made by taxpayers in facilities, equipment, infrastructure, training of active duty and civilian personnel to fulfill the critical national security missions performed at military installations throughout Texas.

Support Legislative Appropriations of at least \$20 million for the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG) Program.

Oppose local tax exemptions for wind energy developments in close proximity to military installations.

Protect provisions from Senate Bill 277 (85th Regular Session).

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# State Legislative Priorities

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## **DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REFORM**

Support appropriations from the Economic Stabilization Fund to assist local governments with recovery, mitigation, and resiliency projects following Hurricane Harvey or other natural disasters.

Oppose proposed 10 percent rate hike from the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA).

Allow for a reasonable recovery period and finalization of covered claims before TWIA can propose premium increases on disaster-impacted communities.

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# State Legislative Priorities

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## **ENVIRONMENT**

Support restoration of funding for air quality monitoring and mitigations projects to enable Corpus Christi to remain in compliance with federal Clean Air Standards.

## **NUECES RIVER AUTHORITY**

Support Sunset Commission recommendations for Nueces River Authority. Oppose proposal to allow Governor to appoint chair of the Nueces River Authority.

## **PORT OF CORPUS CHRISTI AUTHORITY**

Oppose changes to the structure and makeup of the governing commission of the Port of Corpus Christi Authority.

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# State Legislative Priorities

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## **ACTIVELY SUPPORT - Education and Economic Competitiveness**

Support increased educational opportunities and job creation/retention for the residents of Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend region.

Support an increase in the state's share of public education, reducing the property tax burden of local taxpayers, and an increase in the basic allotment.

Establish a well-funded pre-K-12 school finance system.





# State Legislative Priorities

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## **ACTIVELY SUPPORT - Education and Economic Competitiveness**

Support enhanced formula and non-formula funding for Del Mar College, TAMUCC and TAMUK and authorizing Tuition Revenue Bonds for requested capital projects. Advance the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's *60x30TX* goals.

Meet industry workforce needs through trade and technical skills training, apprenticeships, internships, and work-based learning opportunities.

Protect economic development tools that attract new jobs and companies to Texas.

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# State Legislative Priorities

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## **ACTIVELY SUPPORT - Transportation**

Preserve new road and highway funding added by Proposition 1 and Proposition 7 funding and ensure the deferred payment authorized by the 85th Texas Legislature is paid in full.

Protect the local prioritization of policies and funding for improved transportation and additional transit options.

Utilize new project delivery tools to allow for innovative and smart infrastructure financing.

Develop roads and rail, as part of an integrated, multi-modal transportation network to maximize our state's capacity to move people, goods and services throughout the state.

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# State Legislative Priorities

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## **ACTIVELY SUPPORT - Tourism**

Support retention of full State tourism funding and local Hotel Occupancy Tax changes proposed by Corpus Christi CVB.

Support \$5 million Exceptional Item Request of Texas Commission on the Arts for new Cultural District designations.

## **Affordable Housing**

Support allowing flexible and innovative solutions to create local funding options to increase the supply of affordable housing for low to moderate income families.

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# State Legislative Priorities

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## **ACTIVELY OPPOSE - Education and Economic Competitiveness**

Oppose legislation that would limit the authority of Type A or Type B economic development corporations statewide.

Oppose legislation that would limit or eliminate the current flexibility of the Major Events Reimbursement Program as a tool for cities to attract or host major events and conventions.

Oppose proposals to use local Hotel Occupancy Taxes for non-tourism purposes.



# Questions?

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