

Resolution

Adopting the City of Corpus Christi's State Legislative Priorities for the 86th Texas Legislature and Federal Legislative Priorities for the 116th U.S. Congress

WHEREAS, the 86th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature will convene on January 8, 2017 for 140 days; and

WHEREAS, the 116th United States Congress will convene on January 3, 2019 for two annual sessions and is scheduled to adjourn on January 3, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the City of Corpus Christi, its residents, businesses, industry, governments, agencies and institutions benefit significantly from federal and state government agency programs and services provided in the community and are greatly impacted by legislative activities; and

WHEREAS, Every state legislative session and congress, 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 in Austin, TX, and Meyers & Associates, LLC, in Washington, D.C., and coordinating legislative activities with other public and private sector entities and municipal advocacy organizations; and

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

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

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

SECTION 1. The City Council generally SUPPORTS federal and state legislation and/or administrative actions that:

- Protects policies previously established by City leadership through Charter, ordinances, resolutions and master plans
- Furthers local control;
- Protect and enhance City revenues;
- Reduce or eliminates costs to the City; and

- 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.

SECTION 2. The City Council generally OPPOSES federal and state legislation and/or administrative actions that:

- Nullify or undermine 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;
- Diminishes the authority of cities to regulate and manage their growth and development;
- Imposes unfunded mandates that requires any expenditures by the City unless all costs are fully reimbursed by the mandating governmental entity
- Undermine the principle of home rule and local control by the City; and
- Results in the loss of revenue or negatively impacts potential revenue growth to the City;

SECTION 3. The City Council adopts the following policy issues as its federal legislative agenda for the two annual sessions of the 116th Congress:

A. FEDERAL PRIORITIES

To protect the investment made by taxpayers over the past 76 years, support adequate funding from the U.S. Department of Defense for the vital military missions and national security value of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Naval Air Station Kingsville, the Corpus Christi Army Depot, the United States Coast Guard and all tenant commands located at NASCC, 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.

Oppose pre-emption by federal agencies which nullify or undermine the policies contained in existing provisions of the Charter, ordinances, resolutions, and master plans, specifically the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) proposed regulatory overreach on small cell telecommunication deployment and FCC's new rules that will significantly reduce cable franchise fees and impact Public, Educational and Government (PEG) channels.

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 expands the definition of which surface waters and wetlands are subject to the Clean Water Act’s regulatory requirements and protection.

Support the passage of the Water Quality Improvement Act, which deals with Integrated Planning and Affordability for wastewater and stormwater mandates. It’s provisions include:

- 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 2 percent of their income on water and wastewater costs. When this happens, a city is eligible to work with EPA to develop a comprehensive or integrated plan that prioritizes spending on requirements that protect public health and the environment.
- Allows 10-year permits.
- Reconfirms that Use Attainability and Variances are available tools and already in the law.

B. ACTIVELY SUPPORT

Preserving the funding levels of \$490 million for congregate meals, \$246 million for home-delivered meals, and

Preserving funding levels for all other aging services programs, including Senior Community Service Employment Program at \$400 million.

Support adequate funding for the U.S. Census Bureau to ensure accurate population count for 2020 Census.

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

Support a federal infrastructure program, including full funding for the Highway Trust Fund, which promotes investment in highways, rail, waterways, utilities, and technology without requiring excessive local debt and additional unfunded mandates.

C. ACTIVELY OPPOSE

Oppose any actions that would increase barriers to trade, such as tariffs on intermediate goods. Oppose any barriers that would prevent Coastal Bend businesses and industries from staying competitive in a global economy and result in a net loss for the economic health of our regions, state, and country.

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 by allowing DoD to reduce costs by shedding excess infrastructure, engaging a more resilient supply chain and competitive defense manufacturing sector, and enhancing the lethality of our assets through joint land use planning.

SECTION 4. ENDORSEMENTS. The City Council endorses the federal legislative priorities and recommendations of affiliate professional, trade, community and services organizations in which the City, its elected officials, and/or staff in their official capacity are members of or serve on the boards of directors, when those policy recommendations are aligned with the mission of the City and are not in conflict with a specific policy adopted by the City Council. Those entities may include, but are not limited to:

United States Conference of Mayors
National League of Cities
National Community Development Association
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services
Alliance for Interstate 69 Texas
Association of Defense Communities
Army Aviation Association of America
Coalition for Sustainable Flood Insurance
American Planning Association
United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce
South Texas Military Facilities Task Force
Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau
Del Mar College
Texas A&M University Corpus Christi
Texas A&M University Kingsville
Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend
Corpus Christi Housing Authority
Corpus Christi Economic Development Corporation
Coastal Bend Council of Governments
National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA)

SECTION 5. The City Council adopts the following policy issues as its agenda for the 86th Regular Session and any potential Special Called Sessions of the Texas Legislature.

A. STATE PRIORITIES:

Preserving Local Decision-Making

The City strongly supports the principles of local decision-making from residents, stakeholders and local elected officials who are most directly responsive to their neighbors. The City opposes undermining the principle of home rule and local control, and opposes legislation that diminishes the authority of cities to regulate and manage their growth and development.

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 including annexation, eminent domain, land use planning and zoning, building codes and inspections, and tree preservation.

The City strongly opposes legislation that undermines 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.

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 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.

Support for our Military Community and Installations

The City supports legislation which protects 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 legislation to offer local tax exemptions for wind energy developments in close proximity to military installations. Protect provisions from Senate Bill 277 (85th Regular Session).

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.

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.

B. 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 through the Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation, Port of Corpus Christi Authority, public schools, Del Mar College, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi (TAMUCC) and Texas A&M University Kingsville (TAMUK).

The City supports an increase in the state's share of public education, therefore reducing the property tax burden of local taxpayers, and updates to the state's school funding system to include an increase in the basic allotment.

Establish a well-funded pre-K-12 school finance system that:

- requires locally collected tax revenue for education stays in the education system;
- includes education for all children starting in pre-k;
- provides financial transparency and accountability to taxpayers for all education funds;
- explores additional revenue sources aligned with enhanced outcomes and efficiencies, and
- ensure student progress and post-secondary readiness with high levels of pre-K-12 academic rigor and accountability.

The City supports 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:

- improve the higher education funding system to incentivize quality, workforce readiness, and certificate and degree completion;

- fully fund TEXAS grants, Tuition Equalization Grants and Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) grants;
- streamline the college credit transfer process towards quicker certificate and degree completion and reduced student debt;
- support the goal of all high school graduates completing at least 112 student credit hours of Dual Credit courses;
- Meet industry workforce needs through alignment and expansion of: trade and technical skills training, apprenticeships, internships, and work-based learning opportunities, along with funding for workforce Dual Credit programs, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) and industry-specific certifications and degrees

Protecting economic development tools that attract new jobs and companies to Texas, including but not limited to the Skills Development Fund, CPRIT, Sales and Use Tax Exemptions, Enterprise and Tax Increment Financing Districts, the film incentive fund, and other statutes related to economic development such as Chapters 311, 312, 380, and 381.

Transportation

Preserve the billions of dollars in new road and highway funding added by Proposition 1 and Proposition 7 funding and ensuring the deferred payment authorized under the 85th legislative session 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 and the use of innovative technologies that would not further obligate state funds.

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.

Tourism

Support retention of full State tourism funding.

Positive changes to local Hotel Occupancy Tax Laws to include expansion of sporting facilities category to include additional sports activities; requiring communities to complete a financial feasibility study and statutory compliance review prior to pursuit of new or expanded convention center projects; clarifying the "primary usage" test for convention center funding regarding conventions and meetings that directly promote hotel activity and, clarifying state venue tax law to make the statutory wording consistent with legislative intent regarding "other facilities" as they pertain to convention center facilities.

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

Affordable Housing

The City supports legislation that allows for flexible and innovative solutions to create local funding options to increase the supply of affordable housing for low to moderate income families.

C. 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.

SECTION 6. ENDORSEMENTS. The City of Corpus Christi will coordinate with the following local stakeholders to endorse legislative priorities to promote the overall health and prosperity of the Coastal Bend region, provided they do not conflict with the City's own legislative agenda. These entities may include, but not be limited to:

United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce
South Texas Military Facilities Task Force
Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau
Del Mar College
Texas A&M University Corpus Christi
Texas A&M University Kingsville
Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority
Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation
Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend
Corpus Christi Housing Authority
Coastal Bend Council of Governments
United Way of the Coastal Bend

The following municipal advocacy or professional associations will adopt legislative priorities, which the City of Corpus Christi may endorse during the session, provided they do not conflict with the City's own legislative agenda. These entities may include, but not be limited to:

Texas Municipal League (TML)
Texas Mayors of Military Communities (TMMC)

Texas Police Chiefs Association
Texas Fire Chiefs Association
Texas Court Clerks Association (TCCA)
Texas Municipal Courts Association
Texas Court Clerks Association
Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers (TAMIO)
Texas Chapter American Planning Association
Texas Coalition for Affordable Power (TCAP)
Transportation Advocates of Texas (TAOT)
Alliance for Interstate 69 Texas
Texas Water Conservation Association (TWCA)
Lone Star Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (TXSWANA)
Texas Chapter of American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (TXASBPA)
Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT)
Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants
Government Finance Officers Association of Texas (GFOAT)

The following state agencies may adopt legislative priorities, which the City of Corpus Christi may endorse during the session, provided they do not conflict with the City's own legislative agenda. These entities may include, but not be limited to:

Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS)
Texas Workforce Commission

SECTION 7. The Legislative Priorities remain in effect until amended by the City Council.

SECTION 8. The City Manager is directed to distribute these Federal and State Legislative Priorities to the local legislative delegation, legislative leadership, external legislative consultants, municipal advocacy organizations, federal and state municipal partners, community leadership, and community stakeholders to solicit their advice and support.

This resolution takes effect upon City Council approval on this the _____ day of _____, 2018.

ATTEST: THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

Rebecca Huerta
City Secretary

Joe McComb
Mayor

Corpus Christi, Texas

_____ of _____, 2018

The above resolution was passed by the following vote:

Joe McComb _____

Everett Roy _____

Ben Molina _____

Vacant _____

Greg Smith _____

Rudy Garza, Jr. _____

Paulette Guajardo _____

Michael Hunter _____

Debbie Lindsey-Opel _____