2017 Legislative Policy Guide

The Legislative Policy Guide (Guide) is a tool for the City to navigate through the legislative landscape. This document details the City’s policy positions on priority issues and provides a comprehensive approach to allow staff to take immediate action on pressing legislation under City Council direction. The guide identifies legislative trends and active legislation that may have an impact on the City’s interests and affairs, and supplements other Council-established goals and policies. It is intended to be updated on a regular basis.

**Guiding Principles**

I. **Enhance Local Authority**

The City of La Quinta is a charter city that supports legislation aimed at preserving local authority. Additional regulation or mandates that undermine local control are detrimental to quality service delivery.

II. **Sustain Fiscal Responsibility**

The City of La Quinta has been able to successfully maneuver through redevelopment dissolution and economic downturn through prudent, disciplined spending and cost-effective stewardship of City resources. Therefore, the City supports measures that promote fiscal stability.

III. **Foster Economic Development**

The City of La Quinta generally supports legislative efforts designed to foster economic development tools and funding options for effective service delivery.

IV. **Promote Health and Wellness**

The City of La Quinta actively seeks to promote a healthy and vibrant community that provides various recreational activities and opportunities for residents to enjoy the unique benefits of La Quinta.

V. **Support Public Safety**

The City of La Quinta strongly supports community safety by providing high quality law enforcement and fire services and maintaining health and safety standards for its residents.

VI. **Encourage Preservation of Environment**

The City of La Quinta is a thriving desert oasis that supports a proactive and thoughtful stance regarding the enhancement and conservation of the desert environment that surrounds us including the Salton Sea.
The Guide is to intentionally promote the adoption of legislation that will establish sound public policy for responsible governance; protect and enhance public health, safety and welfare; and aid the City’s delivery of high quality services to its residents.

The Guide is intended to articulate the City’s positions on issues that are currently, or are anticipated to be, the focus of future legislation.

The positions contained in the Guide are intended to supplement the broad range of goals, policies and programs reflected in the General Plan, the Municipal Code, and other adopted documents. Therefore, advocacy efforts may be based on references articulated in these policy documents as they provide current direction for the City organization.

City departments are encouraged to review proposed legislation to determine how it relates to the City’s Legislative platform and recommend a position that they determine to be “high priority” and recommend that the Mayor write letters, contact legislators, and otherwise communicate the position of the City as appropriate. The Mayor, or designee, after conferring with City Manager, may authorize staff to make contact with legislators to advocate for or against legislation which is consistent with the City’s legislative platform.

This year the state legislature sent Governor Brown 1,059 pieces of legislation.

### Bills enacted
By California Legislature each year

| Year | Bills
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
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**The Bill Breakdown**

- 898 - governor signed into law
- 159 - governor vetoed
- 2 - became law without signing them

**La Quinta Legislation Letters**

- 9 - Supported
- 12 - Opposed
LEGISLATION IMPACTING US

The public policy landscape is constantly changing and it is incumbent on the City to stay up to date on the latest developments. Anticipating the effects emergent legislation may have on the community is therefore imperative. Below is a short outline of impact in key areas.

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS

**SB 1 (Beall) / AB 1 (Frazier) – Transportation Funding:**

A package of revenues and reforms that raise $6 billion annually (plus $706 million in one-time loan repayments) with approximately $2.2 billion to repair and maintain state and local roads, improve trade corridors, support transit, and fund active transportation. It also adds provisions to streamline projects and increase accountability.

**Governor’s Transportation Budget:**

While the regular and special session on transportation funding came to a close last year with no resolution, the Governor’s new transportation funding proposal in this year’s budget represents an increase to $43 billion over the next ten years. Of the $4.3 billion in new funding for transportation, $1.16 billion would go to local streets and roads for maintenance and rehabilitation.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**SB 2 (Atkins) Building Homes and Jobs Act:**

With the loss of over $1 billion per year of redevelopment housing funds, this measure would generate hundreds of millions of dollars per year for affordable rental or ownership housing, supportive housing, emergency shelters, transitional housing and other housing needs via a $75 recordation fee on specified real estate documents.

**AB 199 (Chu) Public Works: Private Residential Projects**

This bill would require private residential projects built on private property that are built pursuant to an agreement with the state agency, redevelopment agency, or local public housing authority to meet the requirements for projects that are defined as “public works.” This bill has many very concerned in that it would make already scarce affordable housing even more difficult to build by unnecessarily increasing costs to build. Companies that focus on commercial real estate are also concerned in that if the Legislature decides to apply public works requirements on housing projects of this type, it could very easily lead to similar requirements on non-residential.
Prop 64 – California Marijuana Legalization Initiative:

Prop. 64 is designed to allow responsible use of marijuana by adults 21 and over within a tightly regulated system. It allows adults to legally possess, transport, purchase, consume and share up to one ounce of marijuana and 8 grams of concentrated marijuana. Adults may also legally grow up to six plants at home. The newly-formed Bureau of Marijuana Control within the Department of Consumer Affairs will coordinate efforts of the Departments of Public Health and Food & Agriculture, among others, to oversee regulation for both medical and nonmedical marijuana.

Prop 57 – Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016:

Proposition 57 is estimated to reduce the average daily adult inmate population by approximately 2,000 in 2017-18, growing to an inmate reduction of approximately 9,500 in 2020-21. These figures are preliminary and subject to considerable uncertainty. The implementation of Proposition 57 and other population reduction measures will allow the Department to remove all inmates from one of two remaining out-of-state facilities in 2017-18. Additionally, as the impact of Proposition 57 grows, the Department anticipates returning all 4,900 inmates from out-of-state facilities by 2020.

- Authorizes parole considerations for nonviolent inmates to complete the full sentence for their primary offense.
- Allows inmates to earn credits for good behavior, education and rehabilitative achievement.
- Requires judges rather than prosecutors to decide whether juveniles as young as 14-years-old should be tried as adults.

Salton Sea:

The decline of the Sea poses the potential of serious impacts to wildlife and nearby residents. The Salton Sea Management Program aims to develop 25,000 acres of wildlife habitat, suppress dust, and pursue other projects over the next decade. Strengthened by a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of the Interior, and initially funded with over $80 million from Proposition 1 in 2016-17, the program is guided by a 10-year plan that aims to preserve and enhance the ecology, economy and public health of the Sea and surrounding Colorado River region. Initial projects in the plan have begun construction, and the state will coordinate with stakeholders to further implement the plan in 2017-18.
Policy Positions

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
- The City of La Quinta supports economic development policies and funding mechanisms that foster a hospitable and thriving business environment.
- In light of budget shortfalls, the City supports public-private development opportunities that encourage economic activity and promote health and wellness within the City.
- The City supports retaining financial flexibility and authority with regard to redevelopment dissolution matters.
- Opposes measures that would make the City more dependent on the State for financial stability.
- Supports legislation that facilitates the recoupment of City costs derived from State and Federal mandates.

**FINANCE**
- The City of La Quinta is a charter city that relies on contract services to provide efficient service delivery.
- Opposes any change in revenue allocations which would negatively affect local governments.
- Opposes any action that would preempt local control over locally imposed taxes and other funding sources.

**HOUSING**
- Supports legislation that develops programs to increase housing opportunities to meet growth demand in our area.
- Supports legislative efforts that provide incentives to local governments and private developers to develop additional housing opportunities including affordable housing for low income and disabled seniors, adults, and veterans.

**ENVIRONMENT**
- The City of La Quinta supports the preservation of our environment.
- Supports financial incentives for water reuse and legislation that encourages the treatment of municipal wastewater for non-potable reuse and promote the development of reasonable regulations to encourage and maximize the responsible use of reclaimed water as an alternative to California’s fresh water supply.
TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

- The City of La Quinta supports measures that provide financing tools for increasing effective, clean transportation.
- Supports clean energy alternatives that are adequately funded.
- Supports State clean energy programs that are financially viable and direct funding to local government to invest in clean energy.
- The City of La Quinta supports developing vital infrastructure and streamlining the local, state, and federal process for infrastructure development in order to better meet local needs.
- Supports legislation that strengthens local authority over land use and infrastructure development.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- The City of La Quinta generally supports legislation that strengthens local law enforcement and safeguards communities.
- Supports measures aimed at providing sustained support for law enforcement to deal with the additional supervision and enforcement requirements of State-mandated realignment provisions.
- Opposes expansion of "early release" for offenders without necessary mechanisms in place for local law enforcement to provide corresponding services.

TOURISM

- The City of La Quinta strongly supports attracting tourism.
- Supports efforts that help promote the City's hospitality, parks and recreation, health and wellness offerings, and entertainment venues.
- Supports working closely with public and private agencies to help boost advertisement and other means of garnering tourism.
- Supports measures that provide funding for parks and recreation programs.
Monthly Overview of Legislative Calendar for 2017

Below is an overview that summarizes major legislative events and key dates that occur month to month, and following is the 2016 Legislative Calendar created by the Office of the Secretary of the Senate.

January: The previous year’s laws go into effect during this month. Legislature reconvenes to discuss the new year of legislation ahead, and all bill requests must be submitted before the end of the month. Budgets must be submitted by the Governor during the beginning portion of the month.

February: The last day for bills to be introduced occurs at the end of February.


May: The beginning of this month marks the last day for policy committees to hear and report to fiscal committees regarding fiscal bills being introduced. Policy committees must also report non-fiscal bills by the middle of the month. Policy committees are given their last day to meet before convening in June near the end of this month, and report Floor bills for their house.

June: Floor session conducted in the beginning of the month, the last day for bills to be passed out of the house of origin occurs, and the committee meetings resume. All budgets must be passed by middle of month.

July: The last day for policy committees to meet and report bills occurs during the month before Summer Recess begins. July 1 – August 1, 2016.

August: Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess. The last day for fiscal committees to report bills to the floor occurs at the end of the month. Floor session begins at the end of the month as well.

September: The last day to amend bills on the Floor occurs at the beginning of the month, with the last day for each house to pass bills occurring in the middle of the month. Interim Study Recess begins shortly after. Additionally, September 30th is the last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before September 1 and are in the Governor's possession on or after September 1.