

City of San Jose 2007 Legislative Guiding Principles

San José, the "Capital of Silicon Valley" and county seat of Santa Clara County, is the third largest city in California, tenth largest in the nation and home to a population of 945,000 residents. While San José and Silicon Valley are largely associated with the technology industry, the City's business profile is diverse and healthy with the presence of robust commercial, retail, industrial, professional and service businesses. San José is the Safest Big City in America, with the best public safety record of any metropolitan area in the country. The City is proud of the cultural and ethnic diversity of its population and workforce and the rich cultural identity of its many neighborhoods. The City is one of the top cleanest cities in the United States and was voted America's most livable city. City residents speak more than 52 different languages. San Jose ranks first in the nation in terms of the number of college graduates per capita.

The City of San José is often recognized as a leader in municipal services, economic prosperity, and for its quality of life. This reputation is an outgrowth of City government's ability to make informed public policy decisions and influence the direction in which the City is headed at a regional, State, and national level. Over the past years, the City of San José has experienced a tremendous amount of growth and prosperity. This has been presented with significant public policy challenges related to the municipal services that the City provides and the ability to respond effectively to changing needs. The challenge of effectively responding to emerging trends with informed policy and legislative initiatives will continue to increase, along with the complexity of the issues and diverse expectations from residents. This document highlights the City's legislative guiding principles; together with the City's legislative priorities, they form the basis of the City's efforts to work with our federal and State partners. This document is organized by the following legislative guiding principles:

- Protect Local Control
- Ensure Region's Competitiveness/Protect City Revenue Base
- Protect/Increase Local Funding/No Unfunded Mandates
- Pursue Federal and State Funding for Key Efforts
- Preserve Redevelopment as a Tool for Revitalization
- Promote Livability/Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection
- Support Efforts to Keep San Jose Safe



PROTECT LOCAL CONTROL

The City values its ability to exercise local control, enable excellent public services and protect and enhance the quality of life for San Jose residents. The City supports local control efforts to streamline regulations that simplify the job of running the City.

Specifically, the City supports efforts, legislation, and policies that:

1. Streamline the CEQA process, particularly for infill housing and high-density housing near public transportation or corridors.
2. Reward cities that routinely provide their fair share of housing, while relieving them of slow, unnecessary, or unproductive regulatory review.
3. Allow greater local control regarding the location and permitting of group homes, while ensuring reasonable accommodations to the disabled.
4. Protect the rights of cities to manage local integrated waste management facilities, programs, and materials.
5. Promote legislation and policies that increase local control of utility infrastructure.
6. Promote the ability of cities, in the area of telecommunications, to have control over the collection of fees and raising of revenues through franchise agreements.
7. Promote regulatory processes that encourage collaboration and provide incentives for sustainable development.

ENSURE REGION'S COMPETITIVENESS/ PROTECT CITY REVENUE BASE

The City embraces efforts to obtain funding for economic development initiatives, including planning and implementation of regional transportation and traffic congestion relief projects and creation of affordable housing.

The City supports efforts, legislation, and policies that:

1. Provide resources and incentives for workforce training, job creation, small business development, and research and development.

2. Give more flexibility to Workforce Investment Boards and enable WIBs to target services according to local needs.
3. Oppose policies that undermine San Jose's competitiveness and the City's revenue base, or that adversely impact San Jose-based businesses.
4. Fuel innovation and employment, and result in the development of new products, technology, and services (e.g., bioscience incubators, solar technology, nanotechnology, informatics, and alternative fuel technology).
5. Improve the method of assessment, collection, and allocation of local revenues, and oppose efforts that threaten the sources and flexibility of existing revenues.
6. Support the implementation of the San Jose International Airport Terminal Area Improvement Program, a \$1.5 billion capital development program to improve airport facilities in two phases.

PROTECT/INCREASE LOCAL FUNDING/ NO UNFUNDED MANDATES

Legislation and policies that reduce any negative impacts to City services, revenues, or costs resulting from state and federal legislation or budgets are high priorities.

The City supports efforts, legislation, and policies that:

1. Provide funding to offset the local costs of managing environmental programs, including water quality protection, energy efficiency, and water supply protection.
2. Support the cost of public safety overtime associated with federal actions and mandates, including changes in alert color codes.
3. Provide state funding and efforts that strengthen the monitoring of sex offenders.
4. Ensure sufficient funding for security efforts, including funding for staffing, facilities, training, and equipment.
5. Support innovative State and federal transportation funding mechanisms that focus on aviation issues such as greater flexibility in airport Passenger Facility

Charges and surface transportation needs such as vehicle license surcharges, indexing of gas tax, and approval of local transportation and infrastructure funding measures by less than a 2/3 majority.

6. Protect local government revenues by maintaining local authority over the collection of fees and generation of revenues.
7. Support policies that incorporate the costs of handling, recycling, and disposal to the users/generators of hazardous materials.

PURSUE FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING FOR KEY EFFORTS

The City supports legislation that increases federal and State funding for efforts that:

1. Fund affordable housing (Low Income Housing Tax Credits, Mortgage Revenue Bonds, HOME Investment Partnership, HOPWA), including the creation of permanent dedicated revenue sources at the federal, State, and local levels.
2. End chronic homelessness in 10 years.
3. Fully fund the CDBG Program and the HUD Section 108 Program, and ensure that the City gets its fair share.
4. Support workforce training, job creation, and research and development efforts.
5. Fund traditional infrastructure repair and replacement, including redevelopment areas (e.g., flood control, storm damage, retention basins, water systems, sanitary sewers, storm drainage systems, and recycled water systems).
6. Preserve and pursue California's and San Jose's share of federal and State transportation funding, for planning and implementation of State and regional transportation and traffic congestion relief projects.
7. Enable the development and protection of transportation funding for the maintenance and operations of local streets and roads.
8. Provide transportation investment to preserve existing facilities, support multi-modal travel, and enhance community livability.

9. Pursue funding to create sustainable long-term water supplies.
10. Improve the conditions of local waterways and facilitate watershed restoration.

PRESERVE REDEVELOPMENT AS A TOOL FOR CITY REVITALIZATION

The City supports legislation and policies that maintain the local autonomy of the Redevelopment Agency and supports efforts to protect the Agency's flexibility to use redevelopment funds, while opposing efforts to limit or divert the use of redevelopment funds (including 20% funds).

1. Oppose efforts to limit the reasonable use of eminent domain in the implementation of the City's redevelopment and neighborhood revitalization efforts.
2. Oppose efforts to reduce the powers of redevelopment agencies to continue efforts to reduce blight and improve our neighborhoods.

PROMOTE LIVABILITY/ SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The City values a sustainable quality of life in an urban environment, including: child care, aging and youth services, libraries, urban parks and open space, recreation facilities, environmental protection, and arts and culture. The City supports legislation and policies that emphasize sustainable development; improve environmental standards and the regulatory process; provide incentives and financial measures for preservation of natural resources; and promote sustainable energy policies.

The City supports legislation that promotes livability, sustainable development, and environmental protection that:

1. Protects the environment and emphasize conservation and renewable energy sources.
2. Support implementation of the 2005 United Nations Accords 21 Actions.

3. Promotes water efficient practices and ensure a clean, affordable water supply.
4. Increases State and federal funding for child care efforts, aging and youth services, expanding and maintaining the City's system of trails and recreational facilities, and library construction and services.
5. Streamlines the delivery of local transportation projects and pushes for the approval of local transportation and infrastructure funding measures by less than a two-thirds majority of voters.
6. Promotes the successful delivery of transportation projects that include delivery and environmental streamlining.
7. Promotes research, development, production, and purchase of alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles as well as the conservation and preservation of natural resources.
8. Enables the Airport to be a good neighbor by limiting excessive noise and reducing negative environmental impacts.
9. Maintains the effectiveness of housing and community development efforts, including the administration of the City's Housing Authority. Support efforts to make the City Housing Authority a Moving to Work jurisdiction.
10. Continues to promote education attainment and literacy and learning programs.
11. Ensure that public utility companies prioritize and efficiently deliver utility under grounding projects.
12. Promotes research into effectiveness of green building and economic incentives for builders who build sustainable and green buildings.
13. Promotes policies that provide a more sustainable and cost-effective delivery of workers' compensation benefits for injured City employees.
14. Promotes funding for long-term habitat and watershed restoration efforts.
15. Provide for funding for development and replacement of utility infrastructure such as water, waste water, recycled water levees, and flood control.

16. Promote sustainable development, and improved environmental and conservation standards.
17. Promote regulatory processes that encourage collaboration and provide incentives for sustainable development.

SUPPORT EFFORTS TO KEEP SAN JOSE SAFE

The City supports legislation and policies that enable local officials to access resources to provide quality police, fire, emergency management, and emergency medical services to the community.

Support legislation and policies that:

1. Provide opportunities for community policing and public safety education programs.
2. Secure or protect ongoing funding for Homeland Security efforts to enable the City, as a local first responder, to effectively respond to all forms of emergencies.
3. Ensure that San Jose receives a proportionate share of funding for public safety/security initiatives.
4. Provide ongoing support for proposals related to interoperability of communications systems for Police and Fire.
5. Promote user pays policies as they relate to costs associated with handling, recycling, and disposal of hazardous materials.
6. Promote transportation safety and security for all modes including traffic calming within neighborhoods, safe routes to school for children, and increase local authority to set effective traffic control practices on local streets.