



City of Houston Legislative Principles For the 89th Session of the Texas Legislature

City of Houston Legislative Mission Statement

The City of Houston will focus its legislative efforts on the enhancement of life in Houston through public safety and criminal justice initiatives; water and economic development; protecting the quality of life; improving mobility; creating a healthier environment; addressing homelessness; and making the government more responsive, transparent, and fiscally responsible. All will be pursued with a focus on preserving local decision making.

General Government

Oppose unfunded state mandates that negatively affect the fiscal operations of the City of Houston and legislation that diminishes the City's local authority on its rights of way, municipal premises, public safety, revenue collection, city operations, or other local programs.

Support funding to Houston for meeting community needs, such as water infrastructure, air quality, health care, public safety, housing, transportation, and disaster recovery.

Support legislation that strengthens the City's oversight of its extraterritorial jurisdiction and land use.

Water

Support efforts to bolster the Houston Water System infrastructure such as resources for drinking water conveyance, supply, and treatment, as well as funding for wastewater management.

Support initiatives that allow for local governments to access resources to more quickly provide financial recovery services, such as grants and zero interest loans from the Water Development Board.

Support resources to aid in the City's efforts of flood mitigation and resiliency.

Public Safety and Criminal Justice

Support legislation that provides increased funding for law enforcement agencies to increase personnel, invest in new technologies, and preserve current workforce.

Support legislative efforts in preparation for and prevention of acts of terrorism and emergencies, including the equitable, threat-based distribution of Homeland Security and Cybersecurity funds.

Support legislation and funding to expand mental health system accessibility and best practices for systemwide improvements; specialty courts and jail diversion programs as well as legislation to prevent and combat violent crimes and reduce violence.

Support legislation and funding in coordination with Houston Forensic Science Center to better address workforce development and the processing and storage of evidence.

Support legislation that allows for further collaboration between local law enforcement agencies.

Oppose efforts to weaken the City of Houston's authority to respond to emergency powers where City first responders and health departments serve as leads in directing the response.

Addressing Homelessness

Support legislation and funding that supports the Houston region in addressing homelessness, especially through resources to the area public mental health authority.

Support legislation that supports reasonable enforcement of emergency detention orders and involuntary commitment for the safety of those in need of mental health services.

Support legislation that provides flexibility in the provision of affordable and stable housing.

Mobility

Support legislation and administrative efforts to expand transportation funding for regional connectivity, project implementation, congestion relief, pedestrian safety/crosswalks, and enhanced mobility to enable economic opportunity for Houstonians.

Economic Development

Support legislation enhancing economic development and fostering job creation in the City of Houston.

Support legislative and administrative initiatives to improve the economic viability of the Houston Spaceport at Ellington, including funding for the Spaceport Trust Fund.

Support efforts that allow for continued cooperation between special districts and municipalities to enhance community development in Texas cities.

Environment & Public Utilities

Support legislative and administrative efforts to assist the Houston region in improving air quality and addressing flooding/drainage challenges. Support legislation to give local residents more influence in environmental permitting in their neighborhoods.

Support legislation strengthening local governments' regulatory authority over energy industry participants to protect local interests and make delivery systems more reliable and resilient.

Support legislation expanding the meaningful input of local governments to state agencies with oversight of energy industries.

Support innovative solutions that can reduce demand on the grid while providing better electric security for residential and commercial purchasers.

Support legislation that requires facilities that house seniors and other vulnerable populations to provide backup power during a disaster.