



Watsonville
CALIFORNIA

2024 CITY OF WATSONVILLE

Legislative Platform

Prepared by JEA & Associates



Watsonville City Council

2023-2024



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CITY OF WATSONVILLE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Watsonville Council recognizes the need to identify and advocate for its legislative and funding priorities in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. To be effective in this mission, the City Council is pleased to present its Legislative Platform.

The City of Watsonville's Legislative Platform is a summary of the priorities of the City Council and Executive Staff. The City's Legislative Platform establishes the basis for the City's advocacy efforts with the Executive and Legislative branches of the Federal and State of California regarding legislation and regulations. It also provides general direction to the Executive Staff and City departments, legislative advocates, state and federal delegation members and the public on positions of support or opposition to key policy initiatives that impact the City of Watsonville. The City Council may review and modify this document annually as necessary.

The Legislative platform presents guiding principles, prioritizes State and Federal issues intended for specific legislative action, and lays out State and Federal support on issues that are critical for the City Council.

CITY OF WATSONVILLE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

ABOUT

The City Council of Watsonville serves as the legislative and policy branch of City government. Its purpose is to set overall policy direction and its mission is to maintain and improve the quality of life of the residents of the City. The City Council is comprised of seven elected members who represent seven districts in the city.

The City Council recognizes that to create a thriving and resilient community, the City needs the support from all levels of the government. The Federal and State legislative actions affect the City's ability to deliver services to the community. Federal and State support is key to remove barriers, to increase access to funding and to advance measures that improve the quality of life of all Watsonville Residents.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the City of Watsonville Legislative Platform is to unify the city's voice and to proactively frame sponsorship, support, and advocacy regarding critical legislative and regulatory priorities.

This legislative platform should serve as a foundation for Watsonville's engagement with state and federal legislators, guiding the city's efforts to address crucial issues related to Community Services, Environmental Quality Housing, and Economic Development, Public Safety, and Transportation, Communications, and Public Works. Adaptations and specific policies may be required as new issues emerge and legislative priorities evolve.



STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Community Services

Support efforts to fund the rehabilitation, development, and capital improvements for local park improvements to enhance the active and passive recreational infrastructures.

Oppose legislation that has a negative impact on the administration of park and recreation services and resource management, including the sale of park lands and open space, relaxations of park dedication fee requirements and the imposition of regulatory or statutory requirements that provide no added protections or benefit to California's recreational consumer.

Support equitable access for all Californians to physical activity, proper nutrition and healthy lifestyle options through the promotion of active transportation, complete street implementation, healthy foods, youth programming and maximizing the usage of green space in urban/suburban and rural settings for personal enjoyment.

Environmental Quality, Housing, and Economic Development

Support the enactment of policies and encourage state funding opportunities to assist agencies in meeting sustainability objectives, including energy and water efficiencies, active transportation enhancements, connectivity and mobility improvements and carbon sequestration through natural landscape management and protection.

Support any state and federal ongoing funding streams for the development and operations of transitional navigational centers.

Support the expansion of Section 8 vouchers.

Advocate for state and federal funding to enhance and fortify local flood protection infrastructure.

Support state and federal policies addressing the impacts of climate change on sea levels and flooding in coastal areas.

Collaborate with regional and state agencies to develop comprehensive flood mitigation plans.

Support legislation and regulations to mitigate the financial impact of implementing any maximum contaminant level (MCL). Support any relief for compliance with any MCL implementation and special consideration for disadvantaged communities.

Environmental Quality, Housing, and Economic Development *(Continued)*

Support any funding and policy changes to protect the City's wastewater infrastructure treatment plant from natural disasters.

Support any funding and policy changes that will assist the City in protecting and beautifying its waterways while remaining in regulatory compliance.

Support flexibility in complying with the California Air Resources Board's Advanced (CARB) Clean Fleets Regulation by requiring CARB to work with water agencies to identify vehicles at the end of their useful life and purchase traditional gas vehicles when no alternative ZEV is available.

Advocate for resources and policies that facilitate economic expansion and growth and increase the opportunity for discretionary revenues and programmatic and financial flexibility.

Support state policies and funding for the expansion of workforce training to support the future growth and economic development of the City.

Support federal and state funding for the City's Downtown Specific Plan to revitalize downtown Watsonville.

Public Safety

Seek state support for public safety through funding for law enforcement and firefighting services.

Support legislation and regulations that maximize the ability to effectively mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural and man-made disasters and public health emergencies, protecting both physical and fiscal health.

Support federal and state resources to better serve the disenfranchised community, including but not limited to outreach programs, CARE Courts and increased partnerships with community stakeholders.

Transportation, Communications, and Public Works

Support any policy changes that give local governments more control over regulating and setting speed limits on local roads and State highways.

Preserve existing and advocate for new or increased state and federal funding for infrastructure projects, including ongoing system maintenance, congestion reduction, safety, complete streets, active transportation bike and pedestrian projects and upgrades to utilities.

Support legislation and programs that expedite the delivery of projects, streamline funding applications, and simplify program administration.

Support legislation and programs that improve transportation safety on state highways and local roads for all users, eliminate traffic-related severe injuries and fatalities and implement complete streets.

Support federal and state funding for the implementation of broadband infrastructure.

Support federal and state funding and policies to assist local governments to expand and strengthen their cybersecurity efforts.