



WESTSIDE CITIES

- BEVERLY HILLS
- CULVER CITY
- LOS ANGELES
- SANTA MONICA
- WEST HOLLYWOOD
- COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Item II B

Westside Cities COG

2008-09 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The Legislative Platform contains broad policy statements pertaining to a variety of issues that impact the Westside Cities. Its primary focus is protecting local government control, maintaining local government revenue, pursuing homeland security funding, and actively supporting Westside transportation improvement projects. The Legislative Platform provides a policy framework for the COG to respond to legislative issues in a timely manner.

LOCAL CONTROL: Advocate legislation that maintains and enhances local control of resources and tools that allow cities and their redevelopment agencies, to address the needs of constituents locally and within a framework of regional cooperation. Encourage the use of state incentives for local government action rather than mandates, (funded or unfunded). Oppose preemption of local authority whether by State legislation or ballot propositions.

FISCAL STRATEGIES: Maintain the protections provided by Proposition 1A (November 2004 State election), promote stable revenue for local governments to plan for future growth and needed public facilities and services including library, parks (construction and renovation), recreational and social service facilities and oppose unfunded State mandates. Support efforts to simplify the collection of sales taxes nationwide and provide an equitable method for collecting sales taxes for Internet and catalog sales.

TRANSPORTATION: Support and sponsor legislation that enhances the safety of city streets for vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian traffic, reduces traffic congestion and supports regional transportation improvements including funding for the Exposition Light Rail to Santa Monica, the Westside Subway Extension, and the I-10/Robertson/National Area Circulation Improvement Project. Support increased state resources to mitigate traffic congestion on City streets and rebuild and maintain roads.

HOMELESSNESS: Support legislation and other efforts to reduce the homeless population.

Support funding for facilities and programs designed to assist homeless individuals move from the street into permanent housing. In particular, the COG supports efforts to expand affordable, permanent housing with supportive services and other appropriate supportive housing options, with the goal of meeting regional needs.

Support the expansion of funding, and oppose reductions in funding for services for people who are experiencing mental illness, substance abuse, physical illness, domestic violence or other issues which put them at-risk for, or prolong their recovery from, homelessness. The COG supports the expansion of funding for programs which provide eviction prevention assistance or other means to prevent homelessness.

ENVIRONMENT: Advocate legislation that supports flexibility to pursue cost effective sustainable responsible environmental policy and programs that affect energy, potable water, reclaimed water, waste water, storm water and solid waste removal. Support legislation and policies to lessen the financial impact of state and federal unfunded mandates for compliance requirements.

AIR QUALITY: The COG supports California Air Resources Board (CARB) standards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from passenger cars and trucks.

The COG opposes legislation redirecting the funds authorized by Health and Safety Code Section 44223, which currently are used by local governments for locally based air quality programs.

HOUSING AND LAND USE: Support incentive-based housing legislation to encourage expanding the housing supply on the Westside, including more flexibility for local jurisdictions to work together to provide housing that counts toward RHNA requirements. Support legislation that expands the supply of affordable housing by adopting reforms that reduce barriers to improved planning and expand the financial resources available. Prioritize funding for necessary infrastructure. Emphasize local control and additional regional coordination in relation to all land use planning. The COG opposes any attempt to erode Cities' local autonomy over land-use decisions, or weaken the ability of cities to ensure the future welfare of residents through local control of the planning process. Support Smart Growth and coordinate commercial vs. residential projects across city borders. State mandates for housing production and land use policy should take into account fiscal issues such as property tax differentials stemming from Prop 13 and AB 8.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE: Support legislation related to internet and filtering in public facilities, funding for literacy and English as a second language programs and protection against censorship and restriction of free speech. Support funding for ADA facility and park upgrades and affordable social services for seniors and disabled. Support legislation that provides for increased services to or funding for at risk populations such as the frail elderly, indigent, disabled, homeless, means-challenged, and other challenged populations. Seek funding for parks and community facilities. Support the availability of regional healthcare facilities such as hospitals, emergency rooms and other critical care facilities.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RECOVERY AND HOMELAND SECURITY: Support efforts, strategies and legislation that promote and funds emergency preparedness and recovery efforts. Advocate for ICIS (Interagency Communications Interoperability System) participation among jurisdictions and funding for equipment and operations. Support funding opportunities for local homeland security programs including new technology and equipment (e.g., closed circuit television) that does not supplant other City funding, services or operations. Seek grants, and pilot project/demonstration project funding for City homeland security priorities.

ARTS, CULTURAL RESOURCES, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION :

The COG supports the continued state and federal funding, and recognizes the important role of local arts activities and historic preservation in community life and how these cultural activities affect the social health and economic vitality of communities.