

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA AMENDING  
COUNCIL POLICY 000-40 - LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

WHEREAS, Council Policy 000-40 was adopted to provide direction to the Council, Boards, Commissions and staff on the procedure for supporting or opposing State and Federal legislation; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Council adopted a set of guiding principles and priorities for State and Federal legislation, the primary reason for which was to allow staff to work with the Mayor in supporting or opposing legislation in a timely manner without going to Council for approval; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2009, the Council adopted an updated Legislative Principles and Priorities; and

WHEREAS, the amended policy merges Council Policy 000-40 and the Legislative Principles and Priorities into one document, incorporates the Council’s current priorities, goals and objectives as legislative priorities, and reflects the Council’s current procedure for responding to State and Federal legislation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Santa Rosa amends Council Policy 000-40 – Legislative Advocacy, as set forth in Exhibit “A” attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.

IN COUNCIL DULY PASSED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

City Clerk

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

## COUNCIL POLICY

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LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY	000-40	April__, 2013	1 of 2

**A. BACKGROUND:**

It is in the best interest of the City of Santa Rosa and its citizens to involve itself in legislative advocacy at the State and National level. The Council believes that an active program of legislative advocacy will produce better informed decisions and will protect the interest of the City.

**B. PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to provide principles to guide legislative positions for City staff. Focus will be placed on legislation that impacts, preserves, or erodes 1) local fiscal resources and tools; or 2) municipal affairs/local authority. In addition, priority will be placed on legislation that 1) has a major and significant financial or policy impact on the City; or 2) has an impact specific and unique to the City or North Bay region.

**C. PROCEDURE:**

1. The following process will be followed when responding to State or Federal legislation:
  - a. The proposed legislation, along with a draft letter for the Mayor's signature, will be placed on an upcoming City Council agenda for consideration by the full Council.
  - b. After Council concurrence, staff will send the letter to the appropriate State or Federal representatives.
  - c. Copies of all correspondence will be sent to the full Council.
  
2. On matters of urgency, when there is insufficient time for the above process:
  - a. If the proposed legislation is considered extremely beneficial or extremely detrimental to the City's interests, and after consultation between the Mayor and City Manager, a letter may be prepared immediately for the Mayor's signature, with copies provided to the full Council on the next agenda.
  - b. This procedure is particularly appropriate if the City's position is similar or identical to a past City position on this matter and/or is consistent with the position taken by the League of California Cities.
  
3. In addition:
  - a. The Mayor shall be advised of all meetings scheduled with State and Federal officials concerning policy matters.
  - b. The City Manager shall authorize all formal contacts with State and Federal elected officials originating from the City staff.
  - c. City employees appointed to the Board of Directors of a Policy Committee or elected as an officer of a department of the League of California Cities are permitted to vote or take a position on a State or Federal legislation on behalf of the League of California Cities. To the extent possible, employees will confer with the Mayor before taking a position on such legislation. Such action, however, does not necessarily indicate support of the legislation by the City Council.

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D. POLICY:

Support legislation that:

- Enhances local control of resources and infrastructure and tools that allow City Councils to address the needs of City residents within a framework of regional cooperation
- Encourages the use of State/Federal incentives for local government action rather than mandates
- Reforms local government finance structure in a way that establishes a stable revenue base for local government to plan for future growth and provide needed public facilities and services
- Closes the gap between tax revenue from development and cost of providing services
- Promotes a stable transportation finance structure for State and local government and that balances and supports all modes of transportation and encourages alternative transportation and transit
- Recognizes that a sufficient supply of affordable workforce housing is essential to maintain and enhance livable communities
- Supports programs and legislation that assist local communities in funding housing initiatives and in developing creative housing programs
- Lowers the threshold for a voter-approved financing mechanism to a simple majority
- Protects local funding sources
- Provides ongoing funding for public safety programs, including gang prevention/ intervention programs, emergency management programs, and new facilities and equipment
- Protects environmental resources
- Encourages support for construction and maintenance of recreation facilities and cultural assets
- Promotes and/or provides funding for programs that will assist cities in meeting their greenhouse gas (GHG) emission requirements and other climate protection initiatives
- Reforms the unfunded mandate reimbursement process
- Supports thriving and diverse neighborhoods
- Supports and protects opportunities for legislations and funding that enhance best practices for water supply, water distribution, wastewater collection, wastewater treatment, reuse, resource recovery and associated environmental initiatives