



2021 Federal Legislative Platform

The statements outlined below are intended to communicate the City's federal policy and project priorities to the public, California Congressional Delegation, Congress, and federal agencies. City staff will monitor federal legislation, and administrative or regulatory proposals; taking appropriate action when required in alignment with the adopted Legislative Platform to efficiently and appropriately address proposed legislation, administrative, or regulatory actions to advance and protect City priorities, as necessary.

I. COVID-19 Response and Economic Resiliency Priorities

- A. Support federal legislation that provides immediate fiscal relief to communities to help recover from and respond to the devastating public health and economic impacts of COVID-19 including:
- I. Direct and flexible funding to units of local government that did not receive a direct allocation in the CARES Act.
 - II. Assistance to communities to help with vaccine distribution;
 - III. Assistance to address homelessness and housing affordability;
 - IV. Extension of pandemic emergency family medical leave assistance benefits, including extension of tax credits;
 - V. Extension and support for small business assistance programs like Paycheck Protection Program (PPP);
 - VI. Financial assistance to help expand childcare services;
 - VII. Rental and water utility assistance to help low-income residents at risk of losing their homes and unable to pay their water utility bills; and
 - VIII. Assistance for public transit.

II. Policy and Infrastructure Priorities

Seek and support federal funding for high priority projects and programs in Santa Rosa, including (not in priority order):

- A. Wildfire Resiliency and Recovery
- I. Work with local, state, and federal partners to ensure the federal government provides sufficient federal funding and federal agency resources to support natural disaster rebuilding and recovery efforts, including maximum funding for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program.
 - II. Wildfires can damage or destroy critical infrastructure, such as utility lines, transportation systems, communication facilities, storm water pipes, and water distribution systems. Support federal legislation that provides funding to Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) communities to implement wildfire mitigation projects that will bolster City's response to the effects of climate change and extreme weather.
 - III. Support federal legislation that permanently authorizes the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program and allows the Secretary of Housing Urban Development to provide direct funding allocations to local governments.

B. Community/Environmental Infrastructure

- I. Support federal infrastructure legislation and funding that invests in surface transportation priorities that: address the adverse impact of climate change and invest in resiliency projects like, evacuation routes and vegetative management along roadways, increase the sub-allocation of the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), supports bicycle and pedestrian facilities, including pavement rehabilitation, and invests in public transit programs like, fleet electrification, Bus and Bus Facilities, Low No (Low-No) Emissions, Zero Emission Vehicles, and passenger rail service.
- II. Support federal legislation and funding that invest in water infrastructure programs such as: The Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund; recycled water projects and the WaterSmart program, stormwater, local flood protection, and Sonoma Water projects.
- III. The City of Santa Rosa has a long-standing commitment to implementing environmental programs and proactively working to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The City supports federal legislation and funding for programs like the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program that seek to provide federal funding to local governments to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce total energy use, improve energy efficiency, and promote recycling and composting.

C. Housing and Community Development

- I. Support federal legislation that increases funding and federal incentives to address affordable housing and homelessness including support for Continuum of Care, Emergency Food and Shelter, CDBG, HOME and other federal programs that invest in helping our most vulnerable residents.
- II. Support federal tax policy that: preserves the tax exemption on municipal bonds, including Private Activity Bonds (PABs), eliminate the \$10,000 cap on the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction, restores the tax exemption for advance refunding bonds, extends the alternative fuels tax credit, and extends business development tax credits like Opportunity Zones.

D. Public Safety

- I. Advocate for federal funding and legislation that supports emergency response including increasing funding for firefighter equipment and training, community engagement and education, firefighter hiring, and fire station construction.
- II. Support federal legislation and funding that will help local governments with improving community policing and rebuilding community trust through officer training and mental health first response for crises involving mental illness, homelessness, and addiction; and support programs like the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program.