

# **City of Belmont STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

## **Platform Overview**

The Legislative Platform contains broad policy statements pertaining to a variety of issues that impact the City of Belmont. The Legislative Platform provides a policy framework for the City to respond to legislative issues important to the City in a timely manner, including correspondence from the Mayor or City Manager to the Legislature and/or Congress.

The City's primary legislative focus includes protecting local government control, improving public safety maintaining local government revenue, obtaining funding for environmental sustainability, transportation, recreational, technology and infrastructure improvements.

## **Legislative Issues**

### **Local Control**

The City values its ability and authority to exercise local control and to protect and enhance the quality of life for Belmont's residents. Support Legislation that enhances local control of resources and that allows cities to address the needs of local constituents within a framework of regional cooperation. Encourage the use of federal and state incentives for local government action rather than mandates (funded or unfunded). Oppose preemption of local authority whether by state or federal legislation or ballot propositions. Support efforts to streamline regulations that simplify the job of running a city and oppose efforts that erode the city's authority to control its own affairs.

### **Fiscal and Administrative Initiatives**

Support fiscal sustainability and 'best in class' administrative initiatives to ensure the delivery of superlative city services. Monitor initiatives which seek changes in fiscal relationships at the local, state and federal level, and support legislation that guarantees ongoing revenue sources for local government.

Support opportunities that allow the City to compete for its fair share of regional, state and federal funding, and that maintain funding streams. Opportunities may include competitive grant and funding programs. Pursue funding opportunities for public facilities and services including capital improvement projects, public works projects, homeland security, library, parks and social service facilities.

### **Housing and Land Use**

Support incentive-based housing legislation to encourage expanding affordable housing supply including development of fiscal tools and incentives to assist local governments in their efforts to encourage housing, finance the infrastructure to support housing, establish an ongoing state commitment to funding affordable housing, and fund and support affordable housing programs, including supportive housing programs and necessary infrastructure.

Support funding programs that promote the development and enhancement of safe, affordable, and accessible housing within the City for all economic segments of the population, including workforce housing.

Support reforms and improvements to housing element law to provide clear processes and flexibility to allow regional cooperation and establish realistic housing goals and performance standards.

Support legislation that provides incentives (tax benefits, grants, loans, credits for affordable units) to local agencies, private developers and non-profit groups in order to rehabilitate residential units and commercial properties.

Oppose state mandated attempts to usurp local discretion over matters relating to local housing and land use policies.

Advocate for recognition and use of inclusionary housing requirements as a condition of development and other tools in an effort to incorporate affordable housing into market rate development.

### **Transportation**

Support state and federal legislation that enhances the safety of the City's streets for automobile, bicycle and pedestrian traffic, including issues related to speed enforcement, traffic congestion reduction programs and regional transportation improvements. Support protection of dedicated transportation-related tax revenues and enhance the ability of local agencies to finance local transportation programs and facilities (e.g. Gas Tax, State bond funds).

### **Environmental Sustainability**

Support cost-effective, sustainable and responsible environmental policy programs in the areas of energy efficiency, greenhouse gases, climate change, wastewater, solid waste removal and stormwater, among others. Support measures that expand markets for recyclable materials and maintain local authority and flexibility to regulate solid waste and recyclables. Oppose waste and resource recovery measures imposing state-mandated costs when there is no guarantee of local cost recovery or offsetting benefit.

### **Community Services**

Support funding for ADA facility and park upgrades. Promote legislation that provides for increased services to or funding for youth and at-risk populations such as the frail elderly, homeless, disabled and other challenged populations.

### **Infrastructure Maintenance and Rehabilitation**

Support legislation and policies that promote investing in the maintenance and rehabilitation of aging infrastructure (streets, stormwater, wastewater, parks and facilities). Support the lowering of the threshold for voter-approved capital financing and opportunities for innovative public financing.

**Utilities**

Support efforts that maintain the ability to retain existing fees on telecommunications services and for public, educational and governmental channels. Oppose efforts to restrict the authority of cities to zone and plan for the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure. Support the ability of cities to maintain and manage the public right-of-way and receive compensation for its use.

Support California PUC efforts to require enhanced, more effective and timely notification for planned and unplanned repairs resulting in power outages to customers. Monitor California PUC regulatory system for impacts to overall safety, health, and quality of life of the residents of Belmont.

**Public Safety**

Support legislative efforts to improve local law enforcement, fire suppression and prevention, hazardous materials mitigation, rescue, emergency medical services, and disaster preparedness. Support legislative efforts to grant state and federal funding to supplement local law enforcement to increase staffing, equipment and capital improvements to maintain public safety.