



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 09/05/2023

ITEM NO: 8

DATE: August 24, 2023
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Adopt Amendments to Town Council Policy #2-18: Legislative Policy and Approve Legislative Priorities with Regard to State, Federal, and Regional Legislation

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt amendments to Town Council Policy #2-18: Legislative Policy and approve the legislative priorities with regard to State, Federal, and regional legislation.

BACKGROUND:

In 2016, the Town Council adopted Council Policy #2-18: Legislative Policy (Attachment 1). This Policy sets forth the procedures for engagement in the legislative process and the types of issues that are appropriate for the Town to take a position.

On March 28, 2023, the Policy Committee discussed a list of potential legislative priorities and unanimously voted to bring the legislative priorities to the full Council. These priorities are intended to be helpful to Town Council members as they engage in discussions with State legislators and as the Town considers which bills it chooses to endorse, oppose, or recommend amendments.

On August 1, 2023, the Town Council provided direction to staff to amend the Legislative Policy to include an annual review of legislative priorities and to revise the list of legislative priorities.

DISCUSSION:

As directed by Town Council, amendments to the Legislative Policy can be found in Attachment 2 and include that the Town Council will annually adopt legislative priorities. Once adopted, the legislative priorities will be used to support Town Council Members in discussions with

PREPARED BY: Katy Nomura
Assistant Town Manager

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Finance Director

DISCUSSION (continued):

Legislators and to provide guidance as the Town considers which legislative proposals to track and/or take a position. The Town Manager or the Town Attorney would be authorized to prepare and issue position letters for the Mayor's signature after determining that the legislative proposal could impact the Town and that the proposed position would be in alignment with the adopted legislative priorities. While there may be many legislative proposals for which a Town position would be in alignment with the Legislative Priorities, only the most pressing proposals will be acted on and will be subject to staff capacity.

While an annual review of legislative priorities is anticipated to occur around February of each year after the Town Council has considered its Strategic Priorities, the Town Council requested that the current iteration of the legislative priorities be considered sooner. The following legislative priorities are inclusive of the direction and input the Town Council provided on August 1, 2023. The priorities are not listed in order of importance and the numbers are for reference only.

Legislative Priorities:

- **Bill Specific Priorities:**

1. Concealed Weapons SB 2: In light of the recent Supreme Court ruling, the Town should support legislation that clarifies the concealed carry weapons process and protects sensitive places from the presence of concealed weapons. Senate Bill (SB) 2 is an example of a such a bill. On June 20, 2023, the Council voted to introduce an ordinance to update the Town's Concealed Carry Firearm Licensing Ordinance and prohibit the carry of firearms in sensitive places.
2. Reform of Proposition 47 and 57 – AB 1708: Several bills are expected to address the unintended consequences of these ballot measures. For example, AB 1708 would be beneficial in increasing accountability for repeat theft offenders and offering pathways for pre-plea diversion programming.

- **General Priorities:**

3. Clarifications regarding SB 9: The Town may want to support legislation that clarifies SB 9 lot splits and developments in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, affordability requirements, and the attestation of intent to occupy.
4. Protect Vehicle License Fee (VLF) and Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF): As the State may consider how it will address future budget shortfalls, it is critical that the State not take funding from local government. In the past, these two funding sources have been redirected to the State for its own budgeting purposes.

DISCUSSION (continued):

5. Internet Sales Tax: With the exception of our Measure G district sales tax, internet sales tax goes into a pool and is distributed based on a jurisdiction's share of the overall sales tax collected in the respective County. In contrast, the Town's Measure G district sales tax is distributed based on the buyer's location, yielding higher revenue for the Town. Changes to the general distribution of sales tax would benefit Los Gatos.
6. Mental Health: Mental health support is important to the Los Gatos community and legislation that furthers mental health through funding, emphasis in Policing, or other methods could be beneficial to the Town.
7. Fire Protection and Insurance: Fire protection is one of the Town Council's Strategic Priorities and legislation that furthers fire protection funding and efforts could be beneficial to the Town. Legislation to ensure the availability of fire insurance for residents could become more important if insurance becomes harder to obtain.
8. Housing: When effective, the Town may have interest in participating in certain housing bills.
9. Unfunded Mandates: Unfunded mandates strain the Town's already limited resources and should be opposed.
10. Water: Support local water agency requests when beneficial to the Town.
11. Beach Traffic: Legislation to support the Town in reducing impacts of beach cut-through traffic could be beneficial. One possibility could involve prohibiting navigation applications from directing cut-through traffic through High Fire Severity Zones on high fire risk days.
12. Transportation – Speeding: Legislation to reduce speeding could be beneficial for the Town.

CONCLUSION:

It is recommended that the Town Council adopt the amendments Town Council Policy #2-18: Legislative Policy and approve the legislative priorities. The Town Council may provide other direction as it wishes.

PAGE 4 OF 4

SUBJECT: Legislative Policy and Priorities

DATE: August 24, 2023

COORDINATION:

This report was coordinated with the Town Manager's Office and Town Attorney.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no associated fiscal impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.

Attachments:

1. Existing Town Council Policy 2-18: Legislative Policy
2. Proposed Redline Update to Town Council Policy 2-18: Legislative Policy