



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS  
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 04/07/2026

ITEM NO: 16

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DATE: April 7, 2026  
TO: Mayor and Town Council  
FROM: Chris Constantin, Town Manager  
SUBJECT: **Approve Legislative Priorities with Regard to State, Federal, and Regional Legislation**

RECOMMENDATION: Set the Town's Strategic Priorities as the Town's Legislative Priorities with regard to state, federal, and regional legislation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item does not have a direct fiscal impact; however, with the current workload and resources, staff does not have the bandwidth to actively monitor or take action on legislative priorities on a regular basis.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

As proposed, this item addresses all of the Town's strategic priorities.

BACKGROUND:

Every year, the Town reviews legislative priorities shortly after the Council discusses its strategic priorities. As outlined in Council Policy #2-18: Legislative Policy (Attachment 1), the Council establishes legislative priorities annually shortly after the Council discusses its Strategic Priorities. Legislative priorities would be used to support Town Council Members in discussions with legislators and to provide guidance as the Town considers which legislative proposals to take a position on. The Town Manager or the Town Attorney is 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.

PREPARED BY: Katy Nomura  
Assistant Town Manager

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Reviewed by: Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Administrative Services Director

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In addition, the Town is a member of the League of California Cities, which actively conducts legislative advocacy on behalf of its members. The Town is also a member of the Santa Clara County Cities Association, which participates in legislative affairs.

DISCUSSION:

The Town Council has previously approved a small number of Active Priorities for staff to actively monitor and take appropriate action on (e.g., submitting position letters) as well as Passive Priorities that are not actively monitored, but still allow the Town to take action should the need become urgent and staff bandwidth allow for it. It has become apparent that with the current workload and resources, staff does not have the bandwidth to continue Active Priorities that require proactive monitoring and action. As such, it is recommended to adopt legislative priorities with the intent to support Town Council Members in discussions with legislators and to provide guidance as the Town considers which legislative proposals to take a position on as bandwidth allows.

In addition, staff proposes that the Council consider adopting the Town's strategic priorities (Attachment 2) as the Town's legislative priorities moving forward. This would streamline processes and allow the Town's priorities to be consistent on all fronts. If the strategic priorities and legislative priorities were to be aligned, as long as support or opposition to legislation can be clearly tied to furthering one of the Town's strategic priorities, the Town Manager would be able to proceed with the process to take an official legislative position as outlined in Council's Legislative Policy. As part of this process, Council would have the opportunity to request that any legislative proposal be added to a future Council agenda prior to a position being taken. Any proposal that falls outside of the set legislative priorities would need to be considered by the full Council prior to a position being taken. In addition, even if a proposal appears aligned with the legislative priorities, the Town Manager may exercise discretion and defer the decision on a legislative proposal to the full Council if needed.

The Town's current legislative priorities (Attachment 3) could be encompassed and addressed under the Town's existing strategic priorities, with the exception of some of the bill specific references, which are now outdated. Many of the legislative priorities in the past have been specific in nature, and broadening to the strategic priorities would allow the latitude to respond to a variety of legislation with the safeguards of the Council's and the Town Manager's ability to agendize a proposal for full Council consideration.

CONCLUSION:

Moving forward, staff recommends that the Town Council use the strategic priorities as the legislative priorities.

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ALTERNATIVES:

The Council could choose to set a separate list of legislative priorities that does not match the strategic priorities. This is not recommended as it would be inconsistent with the objective to focus on the Town's strategic priorities. In addition, given the limited bandwidth for the work associated with legislative affairs, any staff work dedicated to legislation would likely already be related to the Town's existing strategic priorities.

COORDINATION:

This report was coordinated with all Town Departments.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

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

Attachments:

1. Council Policy #2-18: Legislative Policy
2. Current Town Strategic Priorities
3. Current Legislative Priorities