



TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

MEETING DATE: 03/28/2023

ITEM NO: 3

DATE: March 23, 2023
TO: Council Policy Committee
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Recommend Legislative Priorities to the Town Council

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend legislative priorities to the Town Council.

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 state a position.

Last year, the Policy Committee requested that staff prepare a list of potential legislative priorities for the Committee to discuss and forward to the Town Council. Due to other workload, this item was not completed in 2022 and carried over to the 2023 Policy Committee work plan. 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.

DISCUSSION:

Consistent with the Legislative Policy, the following draft legislative priorities align with proposals that clearly impact our Town and funding resources:

- **Concealed Weapons:** In light of the recent Supreme Court ruling, the Town should advocate for 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. The Town is currently working to update its concealed carry weapons ordinance and a draft sensitive places ordinance.

Reviewed by: Town Attorney and Finance Director

DISCUSSION (continued):

- Clarifications regarding SB 9: The Town may want to advocate for legislation that clarifies SB lot splits and developments in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, affordability requirements, and the attestation of intent to occupy.
- Reform of Proposition 47 and 57: Several bills are expected to address the unintended consequences of these ballot measures. For example, AB 1708 would increase accountability for repeat theft offenders and offer pathways for pre-plea diversion programming.
- Protect Vehicle License Fee (VLF) and Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF): As the State considers how it will address expected 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.
- 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 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.

CONCLUSION:

The Committee is encouraged to discuss these and other potential priorities.

COORDINATION:

The preparation of this report was coordinated with all Town Department Directors and the Town Attorney.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with recommending legislative priorities to the Town Council.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

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

Attachment:

1. Council Policy #2-18: Legislative Policy