



Date: May 12, 2026

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Author and title: Hilary Hobbs, Assistant Town Manager

Title: **2026 Legislative Platform Update**

Jen Callaway, Town Manager

Recommended Action: That the Town Council adopt updates to the 2026 Legislative Platform attached to this staff report, or provide direction to staff regarding amendments to the platform

Discussion:

Legislation with the potential to impact the Town and its operations, both positively and negatively, is continuously under consideration and in development at both the state and federal levels. On February 25, 2020, Town Council adopted a legislative platform to guide the process of addressing such legislative proposals. Each year since 2020 the Town Council has reaffirmed and approved updates and revisions to this platform. The adopted platform identifies "Guiding Principles" that underpin the legislative policies that the Town will support or oppose. These Guiding Principles are reflected in Policy Areas, which each contain multiple items that the Town either supports or opposes. In consideration of a variety of emerging topics, staff recommend that Town Council update and reaffirm the platform. A draft updated Legislative Platform is provided as **Attachment 1** (clean copy) and **Attachment 2** (redlined version from prior year) for Council's consideration. The proposed changes are based on recommendations from Town department and division heads representing applicable Policy Areas. These changes largely reflect emerging policy issues or topics with an increased level of local, state-wide or national interest, such as emergency preparedness and disaster response and recovery, cyber security, and housing.

An adopted legislative platform allows staff the ability to act quickly when new legislation is proposed by preparing position letters and taking other action as needed, without bringing each individual item to the Town Council for discussion and approval. The Town contracts with legislative advocates California Public Policy Group (formerly, Emanuels Jones & Associates) to monitor and support advocacy for state-level funding and legislation that could positively or negatively impact the Town. The Town also coordinates with Nevada County's federal advocates, Paragon Public Relations, to assist with monitoring federal issues of concern. If Town staff determine that a legislative proposal or topic may substantially impact the Town or one of the guiding principles or policy areas set forth in the legislative platform, staff will refer the proposal to the Council Legislative Committee, which is comprised of the Mayor and Vice-Mayor. The Legislative Committee may direct that a letter reflecting the Town's position on the proposal be drafted for the Mayor's signature. If a state or local ballot measure or a legislative proposal that is not addressed in the Legislative Platform is at issue, staff will place the matter on a Town Council agenda for consideration. Any position letters will be sent to the author of the bill in question, the Town's legislative representatives, and other recipients as deemed appropriate. All signed legislative correspondence letters are also made publicly available on the Town's Laserfiche document portal, with a link provided on the Town Council webpage (see attachment 3).

Priority:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enhanced Communication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Climate and Greenhouse Gas Reduction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Housing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Infrastructure Investment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emergency and Wildfire Preparedness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Core Service

Fiscal Impact: None

Public Communication: Agenda posting

Attachments:

- (1) Draft 2026 Legislative Platform (clean copy)
- (2) Draft 2026 Legislative Platform (redline from prior year's adopted platform)
- (3) Town legislative correspondence available at:
<https://portal.laserfiche.com/Portal/Browse.aspx?id=59651473&repo=r-6a91ddbc>