

CITY OF ARLINGTON

# 2023-2024 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



# ARLINGTON, THE AMERICAN DREAM CITY

Arlington, located in the center of the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington metropolitan area, is The American Dream City. We are home to the Texas Rangers' Globe Life Field, the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T Stadium, the General Motors Arlington Assembly Plant, D.R. Horton's corporate headquarters, Six Flags Over Texas and the international headquarters for Six Flags Over Texas, Choctaw Stadium, Texas Live!, the University of Texas at Arlington, and the Tarrant County College Southeast Campus and the proud future home of the National Medal of Honor Museum as well as a host of global, domestic and family-owned businesses. The American pride in our more than 400,000 culturally diverse residents is undeniable.



## HISTORY OF ARLINGTON'S HOME RULE

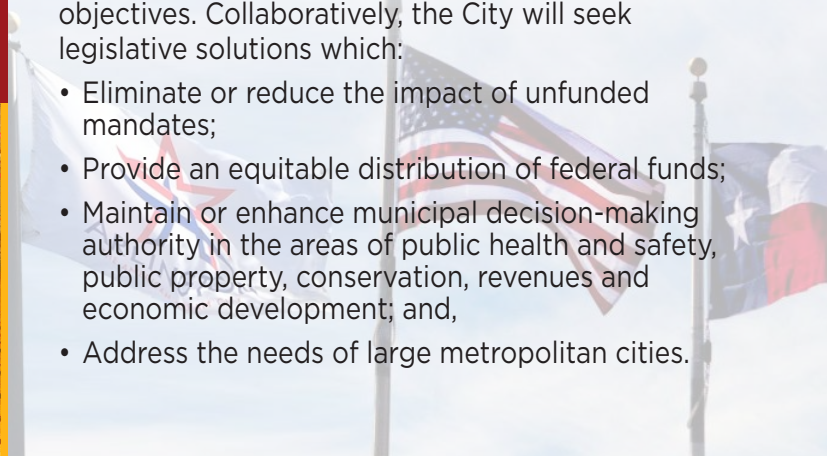
Arlington residents originally approved the City Charter during an election on January 17, 1920, under the Texas Constitution's Home Rule Amendment. The charter outlines Arlington's municipal powers, including the City's ability to levy taxes and incur debt as well as establishes the power and duties of the city manager and city council. Home rule has allowed the city to grow and prosper, from the creation of Lake Arlington and the Entertainment District to policies that help attract major employers such as General Motors and support the growth of UT Arlington.



## LEGISLATIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

As a general policy, the City of Arlington seeks to maintain decision making in the hands of local elected leaders and preserve the wellbeing of its residents and economy. Arlington City Council acknowledges that residents have the right to influence decisions impacting their home through the election of council members, participating in public hearings and attending town halls among other things. The City will also form strategic partnerships with cities, political subdivisions and private sector entities, like NLC and USCM, when their adopted positions are in alignment with the City's legislative objectives. Collaboratively, the City will seek legislative solutions which:

- Eliminate or reduce the impact of unfunded mandates;
- Provide an equitable distribution of federal funds;
- Maintain or enhance municipal decision-making authority in the areas of public health and safety, public property, conservation, revenues and economic development; and,
- Address the needs of large metropolitan cities.



## HOUSING

The mission of the City of Arlington Housing Authority is to advocate for and pursue affordable housing opportunities for low-income persons in Arlington by establishing partnerships with public or private community service providers, attracting and retaining knowledgeable staff and board members, and maintaining and improving fiscal accountability and operational efficiency.

In order to meet this mission, the Arlington City Council supports legislation that:

- Supports offering of incentives to landlords to accept housing vouchers; and,
- Increases support for the teardown and rebuilding of dilapidated multi-family housing to improve the quality of life for working families.



# TRANSPORTATION

From ground to air transportation, the City of Arlington actively seeks to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its transportation system to support its economy and better the quality of life for residents. The City Council supports solutions that maintain and grow Arlington's transportation funding, and legislation that preserves the City Council's flexibility to create, implement and enforce Arlington's transportation plans and needs. This includes the reauthorization of federal aviation programs that maintain the Contract Tower Program and address the needs of general aviation airports. The City of Arlington encourages:

- Increased allocation of funds to metropolitan and urban areas via an increase in the local share of the Surface Transportation Block Grant/Surface Transportation Program and the Transportation Alternatives Program;
- A focus on the mobility needs of large metropolitan and urban areas, including improving the resiliency of surface transportation infrastructure;
- Creation of mode-neutral surface transportation funding streams that provide funds directly to large, urbanized areas;
- Continued eligibility of the City's Via On-Demand Ride-share Service and Handitran for transit formula funding;
- Guidance and funding for electric vehicles and charging stations; and,
- Funding for urban air mobility and electric aircraft related initiatives.

# PUBLIC SAFETY

In order to provide responsive, quality public safety, the Arlington City Council supports legislation that:

- Reforms the mental health system and increases mental health funding and training; and,
- Fully funds the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and ensures the fair allocation of funds to the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington region, the Department of Justice COPS Office, Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, and the Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program.

The City of Arlington opposes proposals to allocate funding from the above programs solely to state governments. Any proposal to reform or modernize these programs should continue to allocate funds directly to cities.



# SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

The City of Arlington recognizes the need for municipalities to create an environment where local economies can thrive. For this reason, the City Council supports fully funding essential neighborhood development programs including Community Development Block Grants, the HOME Investment Partnership, and Emergency Solutions Grants, protecting the Community Reinvestment Act, the reauthorization and regular annual funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, the expansion of broadband to underserved areas, and funding for increased cybersecurity.

The City opposes any proposal or regulation that limits its ability to manage rights-of-way and any that limit the tax exemption for municipal bonds.



# INFRASTRUCTURE

The City of Arlington appreciates recent passage of infrastructure laws that bolster the federal role in meeting our nation's infrastructure needs, particularly the focus on improving the resilience of surface transportation infrastructure, meeting the mobility needs of metropolitan and urban areas, investing in broadband infrastructure and supporting investments in clean energy.

Support of local government investments in clean energy via the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant and direct pay tax credits, bolstering disaster preparedness, and modernizing our nation's water and sewer infrastructure remain critically important to the City.

The City Council encourages the federal government to maintain a robust role in infrastructure and implement these programs in an equitable manner.





# CITY OF ARLINGTON ELECTED OFFICIALS



The Mayor and Districts 6, 7 and 8 are elected at-large and represent the entire city.

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