

CITY OF ARLINGTON

2023-2024 STATE 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

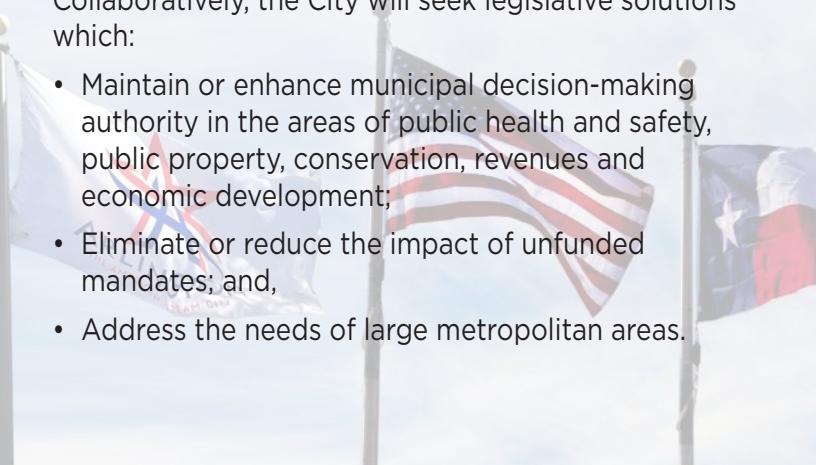
Arlington residents originally approved the City Charter during an election on January 17, 1920, under the Texas Constitution's Home Rule Amendment. The charter outlines Arlington's municipal powers, including the City's ability to levy taxes and incur debt as well as establishes the power and duties 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 Arlington 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. This adopted legislative agenda directs the work of the City's intergovernmental relations team and other City staff during the 88th Texas Legislative Session. Collaboratively, the City will seek legislative solutions which:

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



PARTNERSHIPS

The City will form strategic partnership with cities, political subdivisions and private sector entities that share common goals with Arlington. Additionally, the City will work in coordination with organizations such as the Texas Municipal League when these organizations' adopted positions are in alignment with the legislative objectives and goals of the City. The formation of strategic partnerships and coordinated efforts is intended to provide the City with a stronger presence and role in the legislative process.



OUR HOME OUR DECISIONS

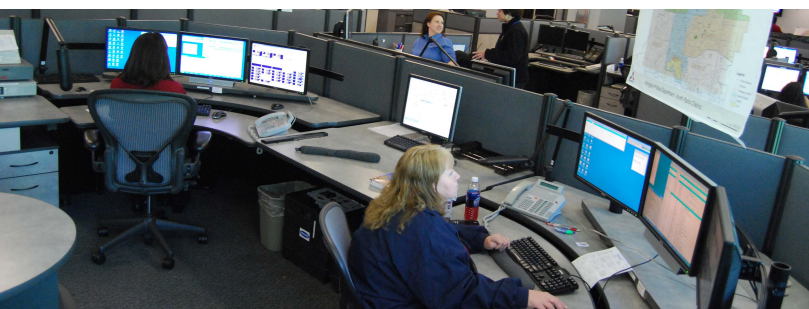
The Arlington City Council members have been elected by their community to make decisions related to the level and variety of services offered by Arlington, revenue sources needed to support those services and policies on land use and economic development. Arlington believes its residents, through their directly elected City Council members, should have the ability to make decisions that impact their community. Understanding one-size-fits-all legislation does not fit all, the Arlington City Council supports legislation that allows municipalities flexibility in creating, implementing and regulating policy that best matches its unique community and will work with regulatory agencies to ensure the City's representation in the decision-making process.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The City of Arlington supports legislation that requires additional training and experience for jurisdictional emergency management planners as well as supports additional direct and flexible emergency management funds to cities, local public health authorities and emergency operations centers.

The City also supports measures that would implement an increase of 9-1-1 related fees, specifically as it relates to cellphone usage fees, in order to continue to provide a high level of service and stay current with ever-evolving technology.



PUBLIC SAFETY

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

- Provides resources, financial or otherwise, to local government law enforcement agencies for school and public safety, and for mental health;
- Modifies requirements for open records requests including the removal of the license plate confidentiality requirement for motor vehicles depicted in video recordings held by a governmental body, and an increase in production fees associated with obtaining audio and video footage through an open records request; and,
- Strengthens current law and penalties related to catalytic converter theft and prevention.



SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

The City of Arlington recognizes the need for municipalities to create an environment where its local economy thrives. For this reason, the City Council supports the conservation of municipal economic development tools, guidance and funding for electric vehicles and charging stations, the expansion of broadband and funding for increased cybersecurity.

The City Council recognizes the need for a robust education system and the role it plays in workforce development. To that end, the City maintains strong partnerships with the University of Texas at Arlington and Arlington and Mansfield Independent School Districts and supports each in its legislative efforts.

The City Council opposes legislation that limits municipal authority to manage and control public rights-of-way or does not allow for public compensation for its usage, and any discriminatory language that harms Arlington's tourism and business sectors.





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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