

CITY OF ARLINGTON

2019-2020 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 Park, the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T Stadium, the General Motors Arlington Assembly Plant, D.R. Horton, Six Flags Over Texas, Texas Live!, the University of Texas at Arlington and the Tarrant County College Southeast Campus, as well as a host of global, domestic and family-owned businesses. The American pride in our more than 383,000 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 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 to 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 direct election of council members, participating in public hearings and attending town halls among other things. In keeping in line with this orientation, 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; and,
- Eliminate or reduce the impact of unfunded mandates.



PARTNERSHIPS

The City will form strategic partnerships 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 line 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 influence in the legislative process.



OUR HOME OUR DECISIONS

The elected officials who comprise the Arlington City Council believe they are in the best position to make decisions in their community related to the level and variety of services offered by Arlington, revenue sources needed to support those services and polices 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 home. Understanding one-size-fits-all legislation does not fit all, the Arlington City Council supports solutions that allows municipalities the flexibility in creating and implementing policy that best matches its unique community.



MENTAL HEALTH REFORM

Municipal governments, specifically their public safety arms, often become the treatment of last resort for the mentally ill in our communities. Notably, Arlington Police officers average 1,680 mental health calls per year. There is a need for a multi-pronged approach in delivering mental health services to those who need them before violent and dangerous encounters happen. The Arlington City Council supports solutions that:

- Increase state resources to local agencies to treat our mentally ill community members through effective collaboration; and,
- Provide additional resources, along with accountability, to all mental health providers.



SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

The City of Arlington recognizes the need for municipalities to ensure they create an environment where its local economy thrives in a way that makes sense for its residents and strategic vision. For this reason, the City Council supports the:

- Appropriate use of Hotel Occupant Tax funds;
- Preservation and appropriate use of municipal economic development tools; and,
- Legislation that assists in regional mobility, such as airport, roadway, vehicular and non-vehicular transportation funding.

The City Council opposes legislation that:

- Does not allow for public compensation for right-of-way usage; and,
- Any discriminatory legislation which harms the City's tourism, business and development sectors.



FAKE GUNS

An increasing number of crimes are being conducted with guns that do not fire bullets, but are being manufactured to look like guns that do. When a police officer in the field must make a split-second decision to discharge a weapon, he or she may end up injuring a person carrying a fake gun. The City Council supports legislation which:

- Encourages safe use of these realistic replicas; and,
- Clarifies the penal code surrounding the use of these types of guns when conducting a crime.





CITY OF ARLINGTON ELECTED OFFICIALS



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

Jeff Williams

Mayor

817-459-6121

Jeff.Williams@arlingtontx.gov



Helen Moise

District 1

817-459-6141

Helen.Moise@arlingtontx.gov



Sheri Capehart

District 2

817-459-6143

Sheri.Capehart@arlingtontx.gov



Roxanne Thalman

District 3

817-459-6143

Roxanne.Thalman@arlingtontx.gov



Kathryn Wilemon

District 4

817-459-6141

Kathryn.Wilemon@arlingtontx.gov



Lana Wolff

District 5

817-459-6141

Lana.Wolff@arlingtontx.gov



Robert Shepard

District 6

817-459-6143

Robert.Shepard@arlingtontx.gov



Victoria Farrar-Myers

District 7

817-459-6141

Victoria.Farrar-Myers@arlingtontx.gov



Michael Glaspie

District 8

817-459-6143

Michael.Glaspie@arlingtontx.gov

STAFF & LOBBYISTS



Jay Warren

Director

Communication and Legislative Affairs

Jay.Warren@arlingtontx.gov

817-459-6412



Alexa Aragon

Senior Management Analyst

Communication and Legislative Affairs

Alexa.Aragon@arlingtontx.gov

817-459-6347



HillCo Partners

823 Congress Ave., Suite 900,
Austin, TX 78701 | 512-480-8962



McGuireWood Consulting

816 Congress Ave., Suite 940
Austin, TX 78701 | 512-472-3067