

CITY OF ARLINGTON

2025-2026 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



ARLINGTON, THE AMERICAN DREAM CITY

Arlington, located in the center of the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington metro 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, Choctaw Stadium, Texas Live!, The University of Texas at Arlington, the Tarrant County College Southeast Campus and National Medal of Honor Museum as well as a host of global, domestic and family-owned businesses. The American pride in our 400,000 culturally diverse residents is undeniable.



HISTORY OF ARLINGTON'S HOME RULE

Arlington residents originally approved the City Charter during an election on Jan. 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 to preserve the wellbeing of its residents and economy. Arlington residents have the ability to influence decisions impacting their home through the election of council members, participating in public hearings, attending town halls, and voting on the issuance of general obligation bonds, among other things. This adopted legislative agenda directs the work of the City's intergovernmental relations team and other City staff during the 119th Congress. 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 metro areas.



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 advocates for legislation that:

- Increases housing tax credit allocations through support of the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act;
- Accounts for inflation factors in appropriations decision-making for housing programs; and
- Fully funds the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) program, the HOME Investment Partnership, and Emergency Solutions Grants.



TRANSPORTATION

The City of Arlington is committed to enhancing the effectiveness and safety of its transportation system to bolster the economy and improve residents' quality of life. The City of Arlington encourages:

- Flexible surface transportation funding sources and updated rules that better align with the current environment and increased funding for metro areas through enhanced local shares of key transportation programs;
- Maintaining the Contract Tower Program and addressing the needs of municipal general aviation airports;
- Continued transit funding eligibility for the Arlington On-Demand and Handitran services;
- Support for urban air mobility and electric aircraft, vertiport and space port initiatives; and
- FAA collaboration with international agencies to determine the feasibility of changing the 3-letter Arlington airport code.



SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

The City of Arlington recognizes the need for municipalities to create an environment where local economies can thrive. The City Council supports legislation that:

- Maintains the tax exemption for municipal bonds, including private activity bonds;
- Reinstates advanced refunding for municipal bonds;
- Protects the Community Reinvestment Act;
- Reauthorizes and regularly funds the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant and direct pay tax credits;
- Funds the Affordable Connectivity Program;
- Bolsters disaster preparedness; and
- Enhances workforce training.



PUBLIC SAFETY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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

- Increases mental health funding and training;
- Provides resources to help reduce youth gun violence in communities; 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.



INFRASTRUCTURE

The City of Arlington appreciates the 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 and meeting the mobility needs of metro and urban areas.

The City Council encourages the federal government to implement programs in an equitable manner and to maintain a robust role in infrastructure, and advocates for legislation that:

- Modernizes the nation's water and sewer infrastructure;
- Expands broadband to underserved metro areas; and
- Increases funding for cybersecurity and clean energy.





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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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