

October 8, 2024

**WHEREAS**, the 89th Session of the Texas Legislature will convene in January 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, many legislative issues affecting local government will be considered; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Dallas has historically adopted a legislative program for consideration by the Legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ad Hoc Committee on Legislative Affairs was briefed on December 11, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ad Hoc Committee on Legislative Affairs was briefed on May 28, 2024.

**WHEREAS**, the Ad Hoc Committee on Legislative Affairs was briefed on August 27, 2024.

**WHEREAS**, the City Council was briefed on September 18, 2024.

**WHEREAS**, the City Council moved the state legislative program forward on October 8, 2024.

**Now, Therefore,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS:**

**SECTION 1.** That the City of Dallas Legislative Program for the 89th Session of the Texas Legislature is hereby adopted.

**SECTION 2.** That the state legislative program for pensions will be overseen by the Ad Hoc Committee on Pensions.

**SECTION 3.** That the City Attorney is directed to communicate the items included in the state legislative program to members of the Texas Legislature.

**SECTION 4.** That the City Attorney is directed to support legislation that upholds the City of Dallas' home-rule authority, as well as oppose legislation that diminishes resources or home-rule authority.

**SECTION 5.** That except as provided in Section 6, for those issues that arise during or prior to the Session for which there is no official City position and there is insufficient time to convene a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Legislative Affairs or the City Council, the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Legislative Affairs is authorized to represent and protect the interests of the City.

**SECTION 6.** That for pension issues that arise during or prior to the Session for which there is no official City position and there is insufficient time to convene a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Pensions or the City Council, the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Pensions is authorized to represent and protect the interests of the City.

**SECTION 7.** That this resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the City of Dallas, and it is accordingly so resolved.

APPROVED BY  
CITY COUNCIL

OCT 08 2024



CITY SECRETARY

# State Legislative Program – Option 2A / Amended



**Maintain local authority to respond to the unique needs of the Dallas community.**



Ensure provision of pension benefits for uniformed and civilian employees.

Codify the city's funding plan for the Dallas Police & Fire Pension System.

Monitor funding and oversight relating to pensions.



Provide additional tools for local law enforcement agencies to ensure public safety for Dallas.

Grow and retain our public safety workforce.

Modernize law enforcement tools to include safer technologies.

Increase protections and resources for domestic violence and human trafficking survivors.



Secure protections for residents at greatest risk of displacement and tools to address affordable housing.

Expand tools for seniors to age in place and preserve homeownership.

Enhance protections against squatting.

Seek funding for homelessness services, including cost recovery for unsheltered services provided by certain municipalities.



Promote job creation and private investment to grow the tax base and create economic opportunities.

Ensure Dallas receives its fair share of revenue that may be generated by gambling, if authorized by state law.

Strengthen Dallas' workforce development pipeline.

Expand broadband connectivity for all residents.



Deliver effective and efficient government services, while being fiscally responsible.

Support election date flexibility and ranked choice voting.

Protect resident and commercial data.

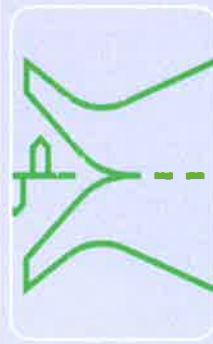
Support measured use and regulation of artificial intelligence.



# State Legislative Program – Option 2A / Amended



**Maintain local authority to respond to the unique needs of the Dallas community.**



Protect and enhance the City's infrastructure network while continuing to deliver innovative and safe solutions.

- Pursue tools to implement the City of Dallas' Vision Zero Mobility Safety Plan.
- Support full funding for DART.
- Support transparency in utility operations and grid reliability.
- Establish regulations for autonomous vehicles.



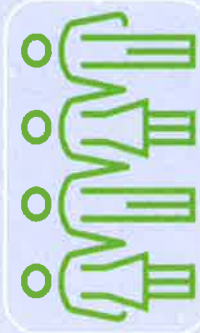
Support resource sustainability, conservation, and environmental justice to build a more resilient city.

- Leverage short-term car rental tax for parks and trails.
- Support funding for Dallas parks, trails, and playgrounds.
- Ensure sustainability of the State's natural resources.



Foster community while offering recreational, educational, and cultural activities.

- Study, implement, and make accessible harm reduction strategies to combat the opioid epidemic.
- Promote proper mental and physical healthcare for all.



Ensure Dallas is a welcoming community for all residents, businesses, and visitors.

- Protect the rights of all vulnerable communities.
- Expand funding, eligibility, and access for nutrition programs.





# State Legislative Program Appendix

## Option 2A / Amended



### **PURSUE (draft legislation, secure an author, get passed)**

1. Maintain local control.
2. Codify the city's funding plan for the Dallas Police & Fire Pension System.
3. Define the use for Less Lethal Devices in the Texas Penal Code to ensure law enforcement agencies may use innovative life-saving technologies.
4. Enhance residential and commercial protections against squatting.
5. Pursue legislation to capture a portion of the short-term car rental tax for parks and trails improvements.
6. Pursue legislation to make accessible harm reduction strategies to combat the opioid epidemic.
7. Pursue legislation aimed at mitigating theft of communications facilities of copper, fiber, and other necessary equipment needed to ensure customer access to vital emergency communications services.
8. Amend local government election dates and authorize ranked choice voting for local government elections.

241508



# State Legislative Program Appendix

## Option 2A / Amended



### **SUPPORT**

1. Maintain local control.
2. Expand broadband connectivity for all residents.
3. Increase protections, support, and resources to prevent domestic violence and human trafficking survivors.
4. Grow the housing stock and preserve home ownership.
5. Protect rights and right to cure period during eviction process.
6. Strengthen Dallas' workforce development pipeline and support the growth of small business enterprises.
7. Support the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) initiatives that reduce city expenses and modernize city operations.
8. Support TxDOT's efforts to improve the safety and cleanliness of state roadways.
9. Establish regulation and reporting for autonomous vehicles.
10. Permit flexibility in lowering of the prima facie speed limit in residential areas from 30 to 25 miles per hour (*Vision Zero*)
11. Allow municipalities to designate roadways as High Injury Network (HIN) roadways. (*Vision Zero*)



# State Legislative Program Appendix

## Option 2A / Amended



### SUPPORT

12. Support transparency in utility operations and grid reliability.
13. Support rail safety legislation to ensure transparency and protection of local communities.
14. Ensure sustainability of the state's natural resources, including lakes, reservoirs, and water supply.
15. Support growth in industries of sustainability and resiliency, including green infrastructure, waste reduction, weatherization and utilities efficiencies, deployment of solar power, and alternative fueled vehicles.
16. Protect the rights of all vulnerable communities, including LGBTQIA+ individuals, youth, seniors, and refugees.
17. Promote proper mental and physical healthcare for all, including participation in Medicaid.
18. Seek clarity regarding card rooms.





# State Legislative Program Appendix

## Option 2A / Amended



### **MONITOR**

1. Monitor funding and oversight relating to pensions.
2. Business opportunities to grow the tax base and ensure Dallas receives its fair share of revenue that may be generated from gambling, if authorized by state law.
3. Enhance safety for residents of senior facilities.
4. Access to a vibrant and diverse collection of materials and resources in Dallas public libraries that represent the interests and needs of all residents of Dallas. Workforce, Education, and Equity.
5. Protect whistleblowers and maintain ethical standards and accountability in the workplace.
6. Establish the Department of Public Safety as the primary first responder on state highways.
7. Expand Baby Moses Law age.
8. Authorize local law enforcement agencies to conduct driving while intoxicated checkpoints to combat the prevalence of drunk driving, motor vehicle accidents, and fatalities.
9. Amend the Public Information Act to exempt preliminary recommendations derived from early warning software platforms designed to support proactive employee intervention.
10. Amend statute to include a ten-year minimum sentence for aggravated assault on a peace officer.



241508



# State Legislative Program Appendix

## Option 2A / Amended



### **MONITOR**

11. Adopt a statewide minimum cash bail schedule for eligible violent felonies and mandate the revocation of bail of defendants arrested for any violent felony while the defendant is awaiting trial on a previously charged violent felony.
12. Mandate that judges order participation from high-risk violent offenders in focused deterrence programs as a condition of probation or parole.
13. Protect privacy and security of resident and commercial data.
14. Require mandatory disclosure of residential and commercial real estate sales prices.
15. Ensure project delivery processes serving residents and industry are effective and transparent.
16. Establish a database of homestead exemptions.
17. Expand options for publication of legal notices.
18. Clarify the local government procurement process to include price consideration of purchasing goods.
19. Legalize marijuana and seek additional research metrics regarding its economic, health and safety effects.





# State Legislative Program Appendix Option 2A / Amended

## OPPOSE

1. Any attempts to erode local control.



# State Legislative Program Appendix

## Option 2A / Amended



### APPROPRIATIONS

1. Seek funding for homelessness services, including cost recovery for unsheltered services provided by municipalities as a regional service.
2. Properly align responsibilities and seek funding for school crossing guard programs.
3. Request Weed & Seed Program funding for the City of Dallas.
4. Expand funding, eligibility, and access for SNAP, WIC, MOW, and other nutrition programs.
5. Seek funding for Dallas parks, trails, and playgrounds.
6. Seek funding for post-incarceration programs and re-entry services and eliminate criminal history inquiries on initial employment applications.
7. Increase funding for the Department of Family and Adult Protective Services.
8. Seek funding for a childcare center at the new Dallas Police Training Facility.
9. Seek funding for high-speed rail, street cars, and other potential new transportation related initiatives.
10. Seek funding for new technology use for traffic control systems and upgrades of antiquated equipment.
11. Expand resources to foster and post foster children.



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Agenda Information Sheet

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**File #:** 24-3071

**Item #:** 36.

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**STRATEGIC PRIORITY:** Government Performance & Financial Management

**AGENDA DATE:** October 8, 2024

**COUNCIL DISTRICT(S):** All

**DEPARTMENT:** Office of Government Affairs

**EXECUTIVE:** Kimberly Bizer Tolbert

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**SUBJECT**

A resolution adopting the City's State Legislative Program for the 89th Session of the Texas Legislature - Financing: No cost consideration to the City (This item was deferred on September 25, 2024)

**BACKGROUND**

The City of Dallas adopts a state legislative program every two years at the beginning of the Texas Legislative session. The program includes statements regarding the City's legislative goals and a comprehensive list of legislative initiatives on which the City of Dallas will be focused during the session.

**PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (COUNCIL, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS)**

The Ad Hoc Committee on Legislative Affairs was briefed on the "2025 Legislative Priorities Submitted To-Date" on December 11, 2023.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Legislative Affairs was briefed on the "Consideration of 2025 State Legislative Priorities" on May 28, 2024.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Legislative Affairs was briefed on the "Consideration of Legislative Priorities for the 89th Texas Legislature" on August 27, 2024.

The City Council will be briefed on the "Briefing on the Proposed Legislative Priorities for the 89th Texas Legislature" on September 18, 2024.

[The City Council was briefed by memorandum regarding this matter on September 20, 2024.](#)



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**File #:** 24-3071

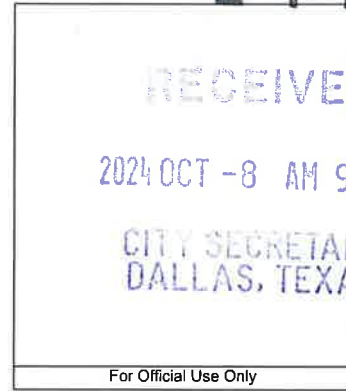
**Item #:** 36.

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On September 25, 2024, this item was deferred by Mayor Pro Tem Tennell Atkins.

**FISCAL INFORMATION**

No cost consideration to the City.



### DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT STATEMENT

This statement is filed in accordance with Chapter 12A of the Dallas City Code. Copies of the applicable code sections and additional copies of this form may be obtained from the City Secretary's office.  
Please print or type all information. Attach additional pages if more space is needed.

Check One	Fill in Appropriate Information	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elected Official	Office Held	City Council Member, District 12
<input type="checkbox"/> Appointed Official	Board or Commission/ Title	
<input type="checkbox"/> City Employee	Title/Department	

1. Name of Employee/Official: Cara Mendelsohn

I Cara Mendelsohn have a conflict as defined in Chapter 12A, Article II, of the Dallas City Code in the following matter:

See memo dated 10/7/2024

Nature of Conflict:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

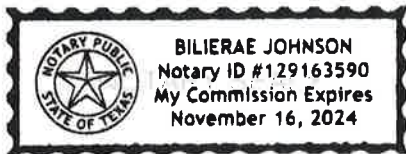
As a result of this conflict, I will not take any official action in regard to the matter stated above.

*[Signature]* 10/8/2024  
Signature of Employee/Official Date

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared

CARA Mendenhall, who on oath stated that the above facts are within CARA Mendenhall personal knowledge and are true and correct.

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024, to certify which, witness my hand and seal.



*[Signature]* Biliera Johnson Notary Public  
Signature of officer administering oath Printed name of officer administering oath Title of officer administering oath

RECEIVED

241508

Memorandum

2024 OCT-7 PM 5:45

CITY SECRETARY  
DALLAS, TEXAS



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE October 8, 2024

TO Kimberly Bizer Tolbert  
City Manager (I)

SUBJECT **Recusal – Dallas Police/Fire Pension Fund Lawsuit and Legislative Efforts**

This memo serves as my intent to recuse myself from discussions and decisions surrounding the Dallas Police Fire Pension Fund lawsuit and legislative efforts for the passage of any bill associated with the Dallas Police and Fire Pension. I have previously received a legal opinion from the City Attorney that I had no conflict of interest associated with the Dallas Police Fire Pension and the fact that the Chief Legal Counsel for the pension fund is my brother. Out of an abundance of caution and transparency, I have not participated in discussions regarding the lawsuit.

I recently asked for an updated opinion from the City Attorney, and it affirmed I do not have any conflict, but it raised the possibility that a perceived conflict of interest should be considered. Given the opinion, I have decided to officially recuse myself and remove even the possibility of a perceived conflict by continuing to not participate in the lawsuit discussions and additionally, not participate in the legislative process associated with the pension fund.

If you have any questions, please contact my office at 214-670-4067.

Sincerely,

Cara Mendelsohn  
Council Member – District 12

c: Mayor & Council Members  
Tammy Palomino, City Attorney  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Dominique Artis, Chief of Public Safety (I)  
Dev Rastogi, Assistant City Manager  
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager  
Alina Ciocan, Assistant City Manager  
Donzell Gipson, Assistant City Manager (I)  
Robin Bentley, Assistant City Manager (I)  
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer  
Elizabeth Saab, Chief of Strategy, Engagement, and Alignment (I)  
Directors and Assistant Directors