

ADOPTED PROGRAM FOR THE 87TH SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

**As Approved by the
Dallas City Council on
November 11, 2020**

Resolution Number
20-1786



City of Dallas

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November 11, 2020

WHEREAS, the 87th Session of the Texas Legislature will convene in January 2021; 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.

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 87th Session of the Texas Legislature is hereby adopted.

SECTION 2. That the City Attorney is directed to communicate the items included in the state legislative program to members of the Texas Legislature.

SECTION 3. 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 4. That 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 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee or the City Council, the Chair of the Legislative Ad Hoc Committee is authorized to represent and protect the interests of the City.

SECTION 5. 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.



GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Recover and Grow

The City of Dallas is home to almost 1.4 million residents, 21 Fortune 500 companies and over 250 corporate companies' headquarters. Despite being impacted by COVID-19, like all Texas municipalities, our City remains focused on continuing to recover and grow every day to remain the greatest City in Texas.

During the 87th Texas Legislative Session, the City of Dallas will pursue and support legislation that reinforces the City's ability and discretion to meet the needs of residents and will defend against legislation that inhibits or restrains its local autonomy.

Protecting Local Democracy

The City of Dallas will not support any legislation that will preempt its ability to serve the nuanced needs of its residents. The City of Dallas has proven through its continued economic and population growth that it is well equipped to meet the needs of the community and effectively solve problems.

Fiscal Stewardship

The City of Dallas does not support any legislation that will limit the City's ability to be a strong fiscal steward. The City of Dallas works diligently to implement fiscally sound and responsible budgets to provide services for the protection, safety, and welfare of its residents.

Caring for vulnerable populations

The City of Dallas supports legislation that will ease suffering of vulnerable populations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Supporting our thriving City

The City of Dallas, like every other municipality in Texas, has felt the impact of COVID-19 on our local economy. The City will work together with the Legislature to pursue economic development projects and funding to assist our community in recovering from the pandemic and creating a path forward for strengthening our existing economy and pursue new opportunities for growth.



The City of Dallas remains focused on both attracting new talent to our city and creating an environment to foster growth in our existing workforce. The City aims to continue to enhance Dallas’s standing as a world-class entrepreneurial City and will support the Legislature’s work to create opportunity for all in an equitable and inclusive economy.

The City of Dallas will support legislation that acknowledges its responsible economic stewardship and encourages autonomy when passing policies that help the local economy thrive. The City will support legislation that entrusts discretion over the use of local fees, taxes, and policy tools that will continue to foster a strong economic climate.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Protecting and serving our residents

The safety and wellbeing of our residents continues to be the first priority for the City of Dallas. The City will continue to provide robust and comprehensive public safety to the residents of Dallas.

COVID-19 has introduced new challenges to public safety and the City remains committed to overcoming these challenges and implementing safety procedures to keep our first responders and our residents safe.

The City of Dallas will support legislation that will enhance its ability to protect and serve its residents.



TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Connecting our City

The City of Dallas is committed to increasing our investment in additions and updates to our existing transportation network and infrastructure. Providing efficient and safe transportation is a critical component to the City's COVID-19 response. The City is always pursuing various transit options such as bike lanes and streetcars in order to expand transportation options for our residents and improve air quality and help our City become more sustainable.

In November 2017, Dallas voters approved a \$1.05 billion bond program with a total of 1,384 approved projects to address critical infrastructure needs, upgrades to traffic signals, drainage projects, new parks, recreation facilities, housing and economic development projects. Since the 2017 Bond Program approval the City has completed 517 projects with 479 projects in progress and 388 projects remaining to be awarded.



The City of Dallas will work with the Legislature to support and improve City infrastructure, increase funding, and diversify resident transportation options across transit modes.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Supporting our workers and their families

As a result of COVID-19, our City's workforce faces unprecedented challenges. As Dallas continues to focus on recovery, the City will continue to work with the Legislature, non-profits, and the business community to meet the needs of our workforce and develop a path forward for our growing City.

The City of Dallas will support legislation that meets the individual needs of workers and allows our workforce to grow and thrive.

FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY & RESIDENT SUPPORT

Protecting our resources and residents

The City of Dallas will work with the Legislature to maintain the ability to equitably provide all necessary services to Dallas residents.

The City will pursue legislation that fairly allocates collected fees for City services and allows the City to maintain local control over developing the City's budget.

The City of Dallas will support legislation that maintains the City's ability to provide Dallas residents with equitable services while balancing our annual budget.

WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Protecting our resources

The City of Dallas prioritizes providing our residents with sustainable and equitable water utilities. The City continues to pursue policies that protect the local environment including a cutting-edge Environmental Management System (EMS), winning national awards for recycling, and creating and maintaining programs for residents and businesses to improve their environmental efforts.

The City will continue to work with legislators to ardently protect the air quality of the city and will support legislation that protects and improves the overall environment for city residents.

The City of Dallas will support legislation that preserves the City's water supply, storage options, promotes viable projects in the state-wide water plan and allows the City to provide Dallas residents with a reliable and safe water supply.



HOUSING

Creating space for everyone

The City adopted its first comprehensive housing policy in 2018. Upon amending the plan in August 2020, the City of Dallas has identified a housing shortage of approximately 20,000 units. The Housing Policy provides for tiered reinvestment strategy areas to address three market types in need of City investment: redevelopment, stabilization, and emerging market areas.



Serving our most vulnerable residents through access to affordable housing continues to be a priority for the City. As our residents faced the hardships and financial challenges presented by COVID-19, the City worked quickly to protect residents and provide those who needed it with rental assistance to stay in their homes.

The City will support legislation that protects and improves the mental health and housing options of City residents, including continued home ownership for current and future residents, reducing homelessness, increasing mental health resources, and expanding strategies to affordable housing options for its growing population.

PARKS & RECREATION

Creating a better experience outdoors

The City provides access to a variety of lakes, trails, and city parks. Access to parks across Dallas provides residents a high quality of life through recreation activities, health and wellness programs, and social equity programs. The City remains committed to creating safe parks and recreation opportunities to combat the spread of COVID-19 while allowing our residents to enjoy these leisure spaces.

The Dallas Park System is one of the largest municipal park systems in the nation with 397 parks totaling over 20,118 acres of developed and undeveloped parkland. In partnership with the Legislature, the City of Dallas will continue to support efforts to expand and maintain our expansive parks and recreation facilities to serve all residents of Dallas.

ARTS & CULTURE

Expanding on our traditions

The City of Dallas is home to the largest contiguous urban Arts District in the country. Our City's impressive collection of museums, theatres, galleries, and arts venues contributes to quality of life for our residents and the travel and tourism economy in Dallas. The City will continue to invest in improving and expanding our Arts and Culture opportunities.

The City of Dallas will work with the Legislature to pursue funding opportunities that adds to the existing parks, recreational facilities, performance and visual arts, and cultural vibrancy of the community.

SOCIAL EQUITY

Creating space for everyone

The City of Dallas continues to work towards establishing the same economic, educational, health, housing, justice, and service outcomes regardless of race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender, single parenthood, age, immigration status, criminal record, place of residence, and other characteristics.” The population of Dallas is one of the most socially and ethnically diverse in the country and the City is committed to continue expanding opportunities for all of our residents, including those who have long been underserved or underrepresented.



The City is committed to creating new and expanding existing social equity programs that improve access to opportunities for traditionally underserved communities and protect the most vulnerable residents in Dallas.

The City of Dallas will continue to support equitable policies and practices to achieve greater parity in outcomes for our communities.

City of Dallas

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