

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE 6 February 2015

TO The Honorable Members of the Legislative Ad Hoc Committee: Vonciel Jones Hill, (Chair) Mayor Pro Tem
Tennell Atkins, Jerry Allen, Dwaine Caraway, Carolyn Davis, Sheffie Kadane, and Philip Kingston

SUBJECT **Review of the Legislative Program for the 114th Session of the United States Congress**

On 9 February 2015 you will receive a briefing on the proposed legislative program for the 114th Session of the US Congress. The briefing will be given by Ralph Garboushian, our Washington lobbyist, and Brett Wilkinson, Managing Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Services. The briefing materials are attached for your review.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require additional information.



A.C. Gonzalez
City Manager

c: Honorable Mayor and City Council
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager
Eric D. Campbell, Assistant City Manager

Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor & Council

Review of the Legislative Program for the 114th Session of the United States Congress

Legislative Ad Hoc
Committee
9 February 2015



City of Dallas

Introduction

- Overview of key dates and issues
- General Statements of Legislative Focus
- Specific Issues
- Support
- Oppose
- Monitor
- Next Steps

114th Congress, 1st Session

Key Dates & "Cliffs"

- February 2: President Obama releases FY 2016 Budget Proposal
- February 28: Homeland Security funding expires
- March or sometime thereafter: Debt ceiling reached
- March – September: FY 2016 appropriations process

114th Congress, 1st Session

Key Dates & "Cliffs"

- May: Highway & Transit programs expire & Highway Trust Fund depleted
- September 30: Aviation programs expire
- September 30: Internet Tax Freedom Act expires
- October 1: FY 2016 begins

114th Congress, 1st Session

Key Issues

- Budget
 - Sequestration is back for FY 2016, putting pressure on all discretionary spending, especially core local government programs

114th Congress, 1st Session

Key Issues

- Tax
 - Congress will take a hard look at corporate tax reform; comprehensive tax reform; for cities: tax exemption for municipal bonds is the key issue.
 - Extenders: New Markets Tax Credits, Work Opportunity Tax Credit, sales tax deduction, etc.

114th Congress, 1st Session

Key Issues

- Transportation
 - Highways & Transit
 - Aviation
 - Passenger/High Speed Rail
- Infrastructure
 - Water Resources Development Act ["WRDA"]
 - Water & Wastewater

General Statements of City's Legislative Focus

- Oppose any federal action that:
 - Erodes the home rule authority of municipalities,
 - Imposes unfunded mandates; or
 - Constrains the ability of cities to allocate resources to locally-determined priorities.

General Statements of City's Legislative Focus

- Support legislation that:
 - Creates opportunities for individuals and businesses to thrive and prosper,
 - Provides an equitable distribution of federal funds; and
 - Addresses the concerns and issues confronting large metropolitan cities, including urban transportation, crime reduction, affordable housing and healthy neighborhoods.

General Statements of City's Legislative Focus

- Unfunded Mandates
 - Oppose unfunded federal mandates.
- Deficit Reduction
 - Support a balanced approach to deficit reduction; reduction should not disproportionately harm national defense or core local government programs, nor should it delay much-needed investments in infrastructure.

Specific Issues

- Transportation & Infrastructure
- Public Safety & Criminal Justice
- Education/After School Care/Child nutrition/Early Childhood Education
- Economic Development
- Tax Issues
 - Marketplace Fairness Act
 - Municipal Bonds
- Funding for Core Local Government Programs
- Local Control
- Travel/Tourism/Arts & Culture
- Clean Air/Climate Change
- Trinity River Corridor

Support

- Reauthorization of highway, transit and aviation programs
- Reauthorization of New Markets Tax Credit, Brownfields and other economic development programs, with an eye to GrowSouth and other City initiatives and programs
- Sales tax fairness (Marketplace Fairness Act)

Support

- Full funding of core local government grant programs
- Programs to increase international travel and tourism
- Programs that promote art and culture
- Programs that support education, after school care, child nutrition, and early childhood education

Oppose

- Capping or repealing the tax exemption for municipal bonds
- The Internet Tax Freedom Act in general and repeal of the “Texas carve out” in particular
- Preemption of local authority (public rights-of-way, zoning, taxing)
- Mandatory Social Security for local governments

Monitor

- Congressional and FCC action on telecommunication policy
 - House Energy & Commerce studying comprehensive rewrite of Communications Act
- Various EPA rulemakings (Such as Waters of the United States, ozone, greenhouse gases)
- SEC implementation of Dodd-Frank re: municipal finance
- Consumer Finance Protection Bureau re: payday lending rules
- All grant opportunities of potential interest to the City

Next Steps

- On 25 February 2015 Agenda for consideration
- 7 – 11 March NLC Congressional Cities Conference Washington, D.C.

Questions and Comments