



**City of Dallas**

# **Consideration of 2025 Legislative Priorities**

**Quality of Life, Arts and Culture  
Committee  
December 5, 2023**

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City of Dallas

# Overview



- Review current program priorities
- Discuss priorities to update the City's proposed legislative program for the 89th Texas Legislative Session and the 119th Congress
- Next steps



# City of Dallas Legislative Process



- Prior to each legislative session, the City Council adopts a state and federal legislative agenda outlining official City of Dallas positions on various legislative issues.
- Input is sought from the Mayor and City Council, City executive leadership, City departments, and external organizations.
- The program serves as guiding principles for City elected officials, City staff, and the legislative team engaged in outreach and policy discussions
- The agenda is communicated to elected offices upon adoption.





# 88th Texas Legislature Priorities



## 2023 CITY OF DALLAS STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

### PUBLIC SAFETY IS THE TOP PRIORITY FOR DALLAS.

Support legislation that provides additional resources for local governmental law enforcement agencies for public safety.



- Address unauthorized production and distribution of temporary tags.
- Fund a new Dallas police training facility, body-worn cameras, and additional public safety equipment.
- Prioritize emergency vehicle production for first responders.
- Address responsibility of school crossing guards and related equipment for large cities.
- Expand Monica's Law, a statewide protective order database, to include family violence convictions.
- Implement a statewide 9-1-1 fee to reinvest in emergency response systems.
- Amend the definition of reflexology businesses as massage parlors.
- Continue funding for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice re-entry services program.
- Pursue revenue streams that could support future public safety pension obligations.

### ECONOMIC VIBRANCY AND WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE FUTURE OF DALLAS.



Support legislation that promotes job creation and private investment to grow the tax base and create economic opportunities for all members of our community.

- Secure additional options for property tax relief for Dallas residents.
- Strengthen Dallas' workforce development pipeline through investments in reskilling programs in high-demand fields and improved coordination between state agencies.

### EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT GOVERNANCE IS AT THE HEART OF PUBLIC SERVICE.



Support legislation that allows the City to deliver effective and efficient government services, while being fiscally responsible.

- Ensure privacy and security of resident and commercial data.
- Require mandatory disclosure of residential and commercial real estate prices.
- Establish a database of homestead exemptions.
- Preserve local authority to collect franchise fee revenues.
- Expand options for publication of legal notices.
- Amend Government Code Chapter 2274 regarding prohibition from service contracts with institutions that have policies that may restrict gun or ammunition sales and fossil fuels investments.

### HOUSING STABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY MUST BE WITHIN REACH FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF DALLAS.



Support legislation that ensures tenant protections for residents at greatest risk of displacement.

- Advance income-based property tax abatements for homeowners in neighborhoods experiencing rapidly rising property values.
- Prevent Housing Finance Corporations and Public Facility Corporations from providing property tax exemptions outside their jurisdictions.
- Require transportation entities to harden underpasses and fund the engagement and cleaning of areas affected by those who are unsheltered.
- Establish a "Know Your Rights" document that all landlords must include in eviction notices.

## 2023 CITY OF DALLAS STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



### SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE DRIVES ECONOMIC GROWTH IN DALLAS.

Support legislation that protects and enhances the City's infrastructure network while continuing to deliver innovative, safe, and equitable solutions.

- Enhance and fund mobility infrastructure, including but not limited to bike and pedestrian improvements.
- Improve water, stormwater, and wastewater infrastructure through dredging and other sustainable practices.
- Allow municipalities to lower the *prima facie* speed limit in residential areas from 30 to 25 miles per hour.
- Elevate broadband service as a critical utility.
- Strengthen the state's electric grid.



### NATURAL RESOURCES MUST BE SUSTAINED FOR THE RESIDENTS OF DALLAS.

Support legislation that focuses on resource sustainability, conservation, climate change, and environmental equity to build a more resilient city.

- Require local approval of standard permits for polluting industries and impose minimum distances from schools, hospitals, and residences.
- Advance the deployment of – and infrastructure for – solar power and electric vehicles.



### A THRIVING COMMUNITY ENHANCES THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

Support legislation that fosters clean and appealing neighborhoods while offering recreational, educational, and cultural activities.

- Increase funding for Dallas parks, trails, and playgrounds.
- Increase funding for the Texas Cultural Association's Cultural District Grant Program.
- Increase funding for the Texas State Library Archives Commission relating to technology and digital inclusion.
- Decriminalize fentanyl testing strips.



### DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF OUR DALLAS COMMUNITY.

Support legislation that ensures Dallas is a welcoming community for all residents, businesses, and visitors.

- Protect the rights of all vulnerable communities, including LGBTQIA+ individuals, seniors, and refugees.
- Increase funding for the Department of Family and Adult Protective Services.
- Expand Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Women, Infants and Children Program benefits to include diapers and period products and improve digital access for applicants.

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# 118<sup>th</sup> Congress City Federal Legislative Priorities



## 2023 CITY OF DALLAS FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

**PUBLIC SAFETY IS THE TOP PRIORITY FOR DALLAS.**

Support legislation that provides additional resources for local governmental law enforcement agencies for public safety.



- Increase existing and create new grant programs to support a new policy training facility, body-worn cameras, and additional public safety equipment.
- Prioritize emergency vehicle production for first responders.
- Pursue revenue streams which could support public safety and re-entry services.

**ECONOMIC VIBRANCY AND WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE FUTURE OF DALLAS.**



Support legislation that promotes job creation and private investment to grow the tax base and create economic opportunities for all members of our community.

- Strengthen Dallas' workforce development pipeline through investments in reskilling programs in high-demand fields and improved coordination between agencies.

**EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT GOVERNANCE IS AT THE HEART OF PUBLIC SERVICE.**

Support legislation that allows the City to deliver effective and efficient government services, while being fiscally responsible.



- Ensure privacy and security of resident and commercial data.
- Maintain the tax exemption for municipal bonds, including private activity bonds, and reinstate advance refunding for municipal bonds.



**HOUSING STABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY MUST BE WITHIN REACH FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF DALLAS.**

Support legislation that ensures tenant protections for residents at greatest risk of displacement.

- Expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program to include blight remediation.
- Continue and expanding funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program.
- Increase funding for homelessness services.



**SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE DRIVES ECONOMIC GROWTH IN DALLAS.**

Support legislation that protects and enhances the City's infrastructure network while continuing to deliver innovative, safe, and equitable solutions.

- Enhance and fund mobility infrastructure, including but not limited to bike and pedestrian improvements.
- Improve water, stormwater, and wastewater infrastructure through dredging and other sustainable practices.

## 2023 CITY OF DALLAS FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



**NATURAL RESOURCES MUST BE SUSTAINED FOR THE RESIDENTS OF DALLAS.**

Support legislation that focuses on resource sustainability, conservation, climate change, and environmental equity to build a more resilient city.

- Mitigate the impact of climate change through adaptation actions.
- Advance the deployment of – and infrastructure for – solar power and electric vehicles.



**A THRIVING COMMUNITY ENHANCES THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.**

Support legislation that fosters clean and appealing neighborhoods while offering recreational, educational, and cultural activities.

- Increase funding for Dallas parks, trails, and playgrounds.
- Decriminalize fentanyl testing strips.



**DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF OUR DALLAS COMMUNITY.**

Support legislation that ensures Dallas is a welcoming community for all residents and visitors.

- Protect the rights of all vulnerable communities, including LGBTQIA+ individuals, seniors, and refugees.
- Increase funding for the Department of Family and Adult Protective Services.
- Expand Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Women, Infant and Children Program benefits to include diapers and period products and improve digital access for applicants.
- Ensure proper healthcare for all residents of Dallas.
- Support funding and resources for local government and non-profit services for immigrants and humanitarian responses.



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# 2023 Quality of Life Priorities Adopted



## State

*Support legislation that fosters clean and appealing neighborhoods while offering recreational, educational, and cultural activities.*

- Increase funding for Dallas parks, trails, and playgrounds (**Secured \$5 million for the Southern Gateway/ HB 1526**)
- Increase funding for the Texas Cultural Association's Cultural District Grant Program (**Secured \$5.0 million in increased formula funding for the Cultural District Grant Program**)
- Increase funding for the Texas State Library Archives Commission relating to technology and digital inclusion (**HB 9**)
- Decriminalize fentanyl testing strips (**The legislature chose not to advance testing strips and instead chose to advance increasing the penalties for those selling fentanyl.**)



# 2023 Quality of Life Priorities Adopted



## Federal

*Support legislation that fosters clean and appealing neighborhoods while offering recreational, educational, and cultural activities.*

- Increase funding for Dallas parks, trails, and playgrounds
- Decriminalize fentanyl testing strips



# 2023 Quality of Life Priorities Adopted



## Federal – What We're Doing

- White Rock Lake Authorization
- White Rock Lake Community Project Funding
- Urban Forest Tree Inventory Community Project Funding (FY23)
- Supporting comprehensive mental health and substance abuse legislation
- Supporting maximum funding for nutrition programs in Farm Bill
- Pursuing all applicable IIJA and IRA grant opportunities and tax incentives
- Tracking IRS implementation of IRA tax incentives





# Proposed Quality of Life Priorities



Proposed Legislative Item	State/Federal
Address restrictions and regulations of public library books	State
Increase Medication Assisted Treatment for opioid addiction in minority areas, particularly South Dallas and Southern Dallas County	State
Increase funding for the Texas Cultural Association's Culture District Program	State
Increase funding for the Texas State Library Archives Commission relating to technology and digital inclusion	State
Ensure proper physical and mental healthcare for all residents of Dallas	State
Increase per-patient reimbursement for state-funded treatment to make sober/supportive housing an eligible expense for state reimbursement	State
Seek funding mechanisms to support the 2025 FIFA tournament	State
Seek more funding for mental health resources and treatment	Both
Decriminalize the use of fentanyl testing strips	Both



# Key Dates and Next Steps



- December 11, 3 p.m. – Ad Hoc Legislative Committee
- December 15 – Due date for legislative priorities
- January 8, 2024 – Ad Hoc Legislative Committee meeting to review all legislative priorities submitted by each committee
- January 24 – Soonest date for City Council to consider adoption of program (not currently scheduled)
- Communications and outreach to key stakeholders





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