

City of Dallas Intergovernmental Affairs Structure

**Ad Hoc Committee on
Legislative Affairs**

March 5, 2020

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Government Affairs**



Overview

- Overview of the City's Intergovernmental Affairs Program
- Federal and State Legislative Agendas
- Parties Involved in Intergovernmental Affairs Program
- Opportunities for Participation in External Organizations
- Things to Remember

Overview of the City's Intergovernmental Affairs Program

- The City of Dallas' intergovernmental/legislative program is designed to:
 - Enhance the City's ability to influence legislative issues that impact local government
 - Support the City's federal and state legislative programs
 - Maximize federal and state support/resources for programs and special projects of interest to the City
 - Increase the City's influence and presence with external organizations, including the National League of Cities (NLC), the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), the Texas Municipal League (TML), and others
 - Link the City with federal and state governments by fully utilizing the City's most effective lobbyists – the Mayor and City Council

Federal and State Legislative Agendas

- Prior to each legislative session, the City Council adopts a federal and state legislative agenda
- The agendas include 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 agendas serve as official policy guides for City elected officials, City staff, and contract lobbyists engaged in the legislative process
- The agendas are presented to federal and state elected offices upon adoption

Intergovernmental Affairs Program - Parties Involved

- In order to achieve the City's strategic goals, many parties are involved in the intergovernmental program:
 - Mayor and City Council
 - Office of Strategic Partnerships and Government Affairs
 - City Attorney's Office
 - City Manager's Office and City departments
 - Contract lobbyists

Mayor and City Council

- Provides direction and policy formulation
- Approves federal and state legislative programs
- Meets with legislators/policy makers
- Provides testimony at committees and public hearings
- Participates in external organizations

Office of Strategic Partnerships and Government Affairs

- Implements and monitors the City's legislative agendas in conjunction with the City Attorney's Office
- Liaises with federal, state, and local governments, external organizations, and state and national advocacy groups
- Identifies and seeks external funding resources based on City Council priorities
- Manages miscellaneous special projects, programs, and events

City Attorney's Office

- Directs the City's state legislative activities
- Provides, in conjunction with the Office of Strategic Partnerships and Government Affairs, federal legislative support
- Works closely with other "Big Texas Cities" officials and state advocacy groups on issues of common concern
- Provides legal guidance on federal and state legislative issues

City Manager's Office and City Departments

- Offers expertise, guidance, and informed responses to issues that arise during the legislative sessions
- Provides analysis and comments on proposed federal and state rulemaking
- Prepares and provide testimony at legislative hearings
- Implements policies as required by legislation at the direction of the City Attorney's Office

Contract Lobbyists

- Conducts necessary research, information gathering, and other supporting activities, especially through maximizing the use of legislative contacts and expertise
- Reviews, analyzes, and monitors legislation
- Advocates for the City's legislative priorities

Opportunities for Participation in External Organizations

- The Mayor and City Council members have opportunities to serve in a variety of local, state, and national organizations
 - This offers the Mayor and City Council members a forum to network with peers, share best practices, and impact public policy at the local, state, and national level
- Dallas has historically had strong representation in these organizations, and many current and former Mayors and City Council members have served in leadership roles
- Mayor and City Council members are the City's most effective lobbyists as the voice of our City

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Examples of Opportunities for Participation

- United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)
- National League of Cities (NLC)
- Texas Municipal League (TML)
- North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)
- Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition (DRMC)
- North Texas Commission (NTC)
- Transportation Excellence for the 21st Century (TEX-21)

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Things to Remember

- The U.S. Congress and the Texas Legislature address a number of issues that impact City of Dallas operations
- The City adopts a legislative program prior to the beginning of each federal and state legislative session
- The City has a comprehensive intergovernmental program involving a number of departments and individuals
- The Mayor and the City Council = most effective lobbyists
- There are a number of opportunities to serve in various local, state, and national organizations
- Participation in these organizations allows the City to stay at the forefront of issues, provides an opportunity to network with peers, and share best practices

Discussion



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