Alameda Legislative Agenda

General Principle

The City of Alameda will strongly consider opposing ~~es~~ any legislation or regulations that preempt local authority, negatively affect the City's budget, or impose unfunded mandates on the City. The City supports the use of incentives to encourage local government action, rather than the imposition of mandates. The City supports legislation that promotes social equity and enhances the quality of life and health of Alameda residents.

The City supports legislation that support the following City Council priorities:

1. Preparing Alameda for the future;
2. Encouraging economic development across the island;
3. Supporting enhanced livability and quality of life;
4. Protecting core services; and
5. Ensuring effective and efficient operations.

Base Reuse

Support legislation and policies that preserve Alameda's interests related to base reuse, clean-up, and conveyance.

- Promote construction of the Seaplane Lagoon ferry terminal and expansion/improvement of Bay Area-wide water transit, with an emphasis on ferry service in Alameda.
- Continue work for Veterans Affairs federal construction funding and project completion.
- Seek transportation, park and open space, affordable housing, and infrastructure funds.
- Work with the Army Corps of Engineers and other relevant agencies on shoreline stabilization and seek funds for implementation.
- Promote funding of environmental clean-up and expedited property conveyance.
- Support efforts to create and enhance financing tools, such as tax increment financing, for the funding of parks and infrastructure.
- Support efforts to retain MARAD (United States Maritime Administration) ships in Alameda.
- Seek funding for dredging at the Alameda-based MARAD facility as it may relate to Homeland Security.

Redevelopment

Support legislation that assists cities to address issues stemming from the State of California's dissolution of Redevelopment in 2011.

- Support legislative efforts, commonly referred to as Redevelopment 2.0, to provide a funding mechanism and other strategies to promote economic development and affordable and middle-income housing programs.
- ~~Support the implementation of the State housing bills passed by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Brown in 2017.~~
- Support legislation regarding the unwinding of redevelopment that maximizes the former redevelopment agency's flexibility and authority regarding enforceable obligations, implementation of DDA's, etc.

Land Use

Support legislation that improves the quality of life for Alameda residents and businesses.

- Support incentives that assist local governments to accommodate new growth in existing communities.
- Support transportation, land use, and building policies that encourage maximum use of resources, ~~and~~ lower energy consumption, lower greenhouse gas consumption, and enhance resilience.
- Promote local control over drone regulations.
- Support actions that minimize noise impacts from planes on the City's residents.
- Preserve/expand maritime uses, including derelict vessels, dredging, marina upgrades/grants, and regulations.
- Oppose legislation that would limit the City's ability to control the time, place, manner, and cost of wireless communication facilities on City property and within the public right of way.

Transportation

Support measures that directly or indirectly reduce or help alleviate on- and off-island traffic concerns and safety and lower greenhouse gas emissions attributable to transportation.

- Webster/Posey Tube and Broadway/Jackson traffic improvements.
- State, County, and Federal transportation funding for:
  - Stable and reliable revenue streams for transportation reconstruction and maintenance that is available for local priorities and transportation needs.
  - Implementation of the Citywide Transportation Choices Plan, Climate Action and Resiliency Plan, ~~and~~ other City transportation efforts to minimize traffic congestion and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
  - Fruitvale lifeline bridge and other egress off of Alameda.
  - Additional crossing on the west end for bicycles and pedestrians.
  - Transit access to Oakland and BART.
  - Greenhouse gas reduction efforts such as supporting expansion of electric vehicles and their charging infrastructure.
- Funding for bicycle, pedestrian, and trail improvements.

- Support pedestrian and bike safety as well as access improvements throughout the City with an emphasis on enabling residents to get to BART, ferries, and other methods of commuting.
- Promote and support active transportation efforts.
- Protect existing transportation funding and oppose efforts that would reduce or eliminate funding for cities.

Public Safety and Homeland Security

Support legislation that funds resources for police and fire services, disaster preparedness, and resiliency.

- Seek funding and resources for disaster preparedness, prevention, recovery, and response for all-hazard threats.
- Seek funding and resources for flood protection and resiliency projects that limit the risk of, and improve the recovery after, significant flood events.
- Support legislative efforts to mitigate impacts of Public Safety Power Shutoffs.
- Maintain federal investment in resources critical to enabling local law enforcement to adequately provide public safety such as the Citizens' Option for Public Safety (COPS) program funding.
- Maintain full federal funding for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) and the Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant programs and retain the local cost share waiver for the AFG program.
- ~~Support the proposed legislation to remove public transport agencies from the Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) and Quality Assurance Fee (QAF) programs into an Inter-Governmental Transfer (IGT) program to enhance the reimbursements for emergency ambulance transports.~~
- Support the proposed legislation to allow City and County Fire Departments the same authority to implement cost recovery for emergency services as current State law applies to fire districts and special districts.
- Continue and enhance funding for estuary/marine debris removal.
- Support efforts to improve patient care and reduce costs through an adoption of a Community Paramedic Program with an alternate destination project, where patients who are suffering from minor cuts or illnesses are asked by a trained paramedic if they can be transported to an urgent care center or physician's office instead of an emergency room for treatment.
- Support the League of California Cities' strategic advocacy priority to address:
    - Protect public safety by reducing access to firearms by~~for~~ the mentally ill.
    - Support additional tools and resources to address critical community challenges such as homelessness, mental health, domestic violence, drug rehabilitation, human trafficking, and workforce development for ex-offender reentry.
    - Strengthen community and disaster preparedness, public safety, and resiliency.

- Improve community ~~preparedness and~~ resiliency to ~~respond to climate-related, natural, and man-made~~ disasters and environmental threats, and s~~,~~trengthen infrastructure stability and control, through expanding partnerships, including state and federal agencies, and securing additional resources and support for climate change adaptation, planning, preparedness, response, recovery, and sustainability in our cities.
- ~~Provide resources to cities and expand partnerships to better prepare for and recover from wildfires, seismic events, erosion, mudslides, and other disasters.~~
- ~~Improve community preparedness and resiliency to respond to climate-related, natural, and man-made disasters.~~
- ~~Protect public safety by reducing access to firearms for the mentally ill.~~
- ~~Protect existing city authority to deliver local emergency services.~~

Health & Human Services

Support legislation that increases equity, improves the physical health, mental health, and well-being of Alameda residents, and promotes social equity.

- As a Sanctuary City, the City Council has directed the City Manager to report to the City Council regarding any requests or mandates from the federal government for the use of City resources or requests for information. The City of Alameda supports efforts to provide pro bono and other low cost services to residents who are immigrants and refugees.
- Support efforts to make permanent the most cost-effective and efficient components of the State's Community Paramedicine Pilot Program to reduce hospital readmissions and provide nursing level support once released from the hospital.
- Support efforts that help address inequities that impacted minorities prior to the decriminalization of cannabis.
- Protect State rights regarding legalization and decriminalization of cannabis.
- Support the work of national organizations, such as the National Institute of Health, to conduct scientific research that studies cannabis as a substance, its uses and side effects, and its classification and possible removal as a Schedule 1 drug.
- Support research regarding the health benefits of cannabis and reducing opioid abuse.
- Support legislation on funding and other resources for testing for lead poisoning.
- Support gun safety and common-sense gun laws and policies that keep guns out of the wrong hands, including background check requirements.
- Support efforts that promote public health and sanitation.
- Support efforts to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our residents, including helping prevent youth smoking and vaping and reducing the consumption of sugary beverages.
- Support the League of California Cities' strategic advocacy priorities~~y to address~~:
  - Advocate for increased funding and resources to prevent homelessness and assist individuals experiencing homelessness.

- Secure additional resources and flexibility to provide navigation assistance, emergency shelters, and permanent supportive housing and strengthen partnerships with stakeholders to ensure mental health, substance abuse treatment, and wraparound services are available for adults and youth at risk or already experiencing homelessness in our communities.
- ~~Increase resources to provide emergency shelter, alcohol and drug treatment, housing, mental health and other wrap-around services and facilities to assist people of all ages, including seniors, experiencing homelessness.~~
- ~~Ensure the availability of adequate water supplies to support new growth.~~
- ~~Support additional tools and resources to address critical community challenges such as homelessness, mental health, domestic violence, drug rehabilitation, human trafficking, and workforce development for ex-offender reentry.~~

Parks and Open Space

Support legislation that supports the development, expansion, and maintenance of Alameda parks.

- Support State, County, and Federal funding for park development, infrastructure, and maintenance.
- Support San Francisco Bay Trail and Bay Area Water Trail development and the development of a new regional park at the Northwest Territories in Alameda Point.

Revenue and Taxation

Support or oppose legislation to ensure a positive financial impact on the City.

- Expand economic, business, and job development.
- Support legislation that will help local governments recover taxes from remote sellers (e-commerce).
- Support legislation that will prevent State from redirecting or taking away local revenue sources.
- Increase grant funding opportunities with reduced local match requirement.
- Support State efforts that would reduce the vote threshold for local initiatives.
- Maintain and when necessary defend funding allocations, particularly as it relates to Sanctuary City status.
- Reduce burdensome financial reporting.
- Support efforts at the State level regarding a solution for cannabis banking.
- Support the League of California Cities' strategic advocacy priority to address fiscal sustainability~~address~~:
  - Raise ~~Continue to work with employee organizations, CalPERS, the Administration, and the Legislature to drive public awareness of the fiscal challenges cities face as a direct result of growing unfunded pension liabilities and retirement health benefits.~~

- ~~Work collaboratively to achieve meaningful options and flexibility for cities to address these challenges in order to stabilize local budgets and ensure sufficient funding remains available to provide services to communities.~~ awareness among stakeholders about the fiscal challenges cities face and work collaboratively to secure new revenue tools and flexible prudent policies to ensure cities are able to provide essential services to their residents while maintaining their ability to meet pension obligations.

Employee Relations

Promote attraction and retention of qualified employees in the workforce.

- Maintain decisions about health and retirement benefits at the local level.
- Assistance with Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liabilities.
- Assistance with California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) liabilities.

Environment

Support legislation that promotes environmental protection and sustainability, such as resource and energy efficiency, water quality, air quality, recycling, and conservation.

- Support additional resources to assist local governments in developing and implementing energy efficiency and conservation strategies that maximize available resources, reduce costs, expand community access, and protect public health.
- Support additional resources to assist in the City's implementation of the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan.
- Support the adopted plastic bag and straw bans, efforts to expand existing bans, and Alameda's disposable food service ware reduction law.
- Promote and fund recycling and landfill diversion efforts.
- Ensure residents have access to convenient recycling facilities.
- Encourage funding and resources to promote and implement energy efficiency.
- Support resources to assist local governments in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Support funding and resources for local agencies to adapt to the impacts of climate change, including addressing sea level rise and flood protection, implementing drought tolerant, Bay-Friendly landscape (medians and passive park areas), and providing recycled water infrastructure on the main island.
- Support storm water program funding and bring additional resources to support green infrastructure planning and projects.
- Access to cap and trade revenues through appropriations for transportation, sustainable communities, and affordable housing.
- Support State efforts that would grant authority to municipalities to implement congestion pricing.

- Promote regional authority to coordinate climate change responses by local public entities.

Affordable Housing

Encourage legislation that supports the funding and development of affordable and middle-income housing.

- Support legislation and proposals that provide incentives and resources to expand local efforts that integrate housing, transportation, and land use and assist in the reorganization and replacement of existing infrastructure to support California's growing population.
- Support efforts that address the most vulnerable in Alameda and increase positive outcomes with the mentally ill and our homeless population.
- Support legislation and proposals that promote tax-increment and other financing mechanisms for the provision of affordable housing.
- Support initiatives that expand financial resources for affordable housing development, such as increased access to State bond funds for below market rate loans, grants for special needs housing, and loans and loan guarantees to preserve rental housing for long-term affordable use.
- Support full funding for the National Housing Trust Fund, Section 8, HOME, and the CDBG programs, and legislation that promotes innovation and flexibility for the administration of ~~H~~housing programs including the Moving to Work program, statutory waivers and a jurisdiction's ability to respond to housing crises locally. Support measures and funding for those who face additional housing barriers, including the homeless, veterans, seniors, and disabled members of our community.
- Support measures that would reduce income inequalities, including tax deductions for low-income renters.
- Support legislation and the ongoing implementation of bills enacted that ~~introduced to implement~~ support the key principles of the CASA Compact, a 15-year emergency policy package published in December 2018 to address the Bay Area's housing crisis by "identifying and unifying behind bold, game-changing ideas." ~~Alameda will support and oppose legislation in accordance with the following 10 Key Elements:~~
- ~~Just-Cause Eviction Policy~~
- ~~Rent Cap~~
- ~~Rent Assistance and Access to Legal Counsel~~
- ~~Remove Regulatory Barriers to Accessory Dwelling Units~~
- ~~Minimum Zoning Near Transit~~
- ~~Reforms to Housing-Approval Processes~~
- ~~Expedited Approvals and Financial Incentives for Select Housing Types~~
- ~~Unlock Public Land for Affordable Housing~~
- ~~Raise $1.5 Billion Annually from a Range of Sources to Fund Implementation of the Compact~~
- ~~Establish a Regional Housing Enterprise~~

- Support the League of California Cities' strategic advocacy priorities~~y to~~:
  - ~~-~~Improve the supply and affordability of housing.
  - Provide cities with financial tools to increase construction of housing, particularly for vulnerable populations, reform state regulatory barriers, and ensure cities retain flexibility based on the size, geography, demographics, impact mitigation, and land use needs of each community~~state and federal financial support and provide additional local incentives and tools to improve housing affordability and develop more workforce and affordable housing~~.