



Report regarding requests for policy advocacy  
including for letters of support or opposition  
for State and Federal legislation

March 25, 2026 City Council Meeting

# Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that City Council, by motion, direct staff to develop a legislative platform which would include granting the Mayor authority to sign documents implementing the platform.



# Background

- Staff is receiving requests to provide letters of support or opposition to specific legislative bills.
- Currently, staff has no formal authority or process for responding to requests.
- Difficult to determine whether policy advocacy reflects the collective City Council position.
- Tonight, seeking direction if and when to engage in policy advocacy on behalf of Council.



# Considerations

- Discretion of City Council to determine if and how the City engages in advocacy work
- Differing city approaches



# Options for Consideration

1. Create a Council-adopted Legislative Platform (*recommended option*)
2. Prepare letters for every Councilmember request
3. Delegate decision authority to the Mayor
4. Delegate decision authority to an established Council subcommittee
5. Request City Council consideration of any advocacy work as requests arise



# Fiscal Impact

- Primary cost: Staff time
- Townsend Public Affairs could assist with preparation of the draft legislative platform



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Staff recommends that City Council, by motion, direct staff to develop a legislative platform which would include granting the Mayor authority to sign documents implementing the platform.



# Thank You



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