

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY'S 2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES.

WHEREAS, during the 2022 Colorado Legislative Session, the City Council desires to provide input to the Senators and Representatives who represent the City's constituents pertaining to the development of laws that will have a significant effect on the City's ability to provide a wide variety of services to its constituents as authorized through its Charter; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Legislative Priorities is the document that sets forth the City Council's policy position on broad public policy areas that are of concern to the City; and

WHEREAS, proposed legislation in these policy areas will be reviewed in concert with the positions identified in the 2022 Legislative Priorities; and

WHEREAS, during the 2022 Legislative Session, proposed legislation in other areas of concern to the City will be monitored and reviewed with City Council when appropriate; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the City Council to take positions of support or opposition to proposed legislation impacting the City and lobby the legislature based on these positions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THORNTON, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the City's 2022 Legislative Priorities as set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein are hereby approved.
2. That by adopting the 2022 Legislative Priorities, City Council may support or oppose proposed legislation consistent with these positions and direct staff and/or consultants to lobby on their behalf.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Thornton, Colorado, on January 11, 2022.

CITY OF THORNTON, COLORADO



Jan Kulmann, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kristen N. Rosenbaum, City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

**CITY OF THORNTON
2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

Home Rule and Local Control

The citizens of the City of Thornton adopted the Home Rule Charter in 1967, which establishes the power of local self-government to the City pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Colorado. As such, Thornton has the responsibility and authority to adopt rules and regulations that govern the operation of this community in the interest of its citizens.

Policy Positions:

- Oppose efforts to diminish municipal Home Rule powers.
- Oppose unfunded mandates at the local level.
- Oppose any legislation that reduces the City's ability to successfully develop or redevelop Thornton, such as new restrictions on the use of tax increment financing.
- Oppose criminal justice or education related legislation that will have a detrimental impact on municipal court services.

Transportation

A reliable multimodal transportation network is necessary to enhance the economic vitality of the community and to improve the quality of life for City of Thornton residents.

Policy Positions:

- Support the concept that safety is the first and highest priority in allocating State transportation funds from either the State General Fund or the Colorado Department of Transportation dedicated funds.
- Support State maintenance of State roads and highways; do not shift the burden of maintaining the roads to local governments without an appropriate level of compensation.
- Support the concept that interstate highways are not the same as State highways. Construction and maintenance, including streetlights, should use 100% State funds.
- Oppose any legislative attempts to repeal or mitigate existing State transportation infrastructure funding.
- Oppose any legislative attempt to repeal the Funding Advancements for Surface Transportation and Economic Recovery Act of 2009 (FASTER).
- Support the concept that higher frequency transit, higher geographical transit service coverage, improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and improved capacity help reduce greenhouse gases and other transportation generated pollutants.

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- Support the concept that all residents and businesses currently shouldering taxation for the Regional Transportation District (RTD) receive all associated services and the full, promised benefit of the completion of the entire system.
- Support the concept that if RTD refuses to provide adequate service to an area, that Bustang or others may provide transit service with RTD providing, at no cost, connection points/bays with the RTD system.
- Support legislation that improves RTD's transparency, public input, and accountability.
- Support the concept that State transit funds must be equally distributed in the metro area.

Water Supply & Quality

Thornton has been responsible and proactive in developing its water supply over many decades. The region faces significant water supply challenges now and in the future, and water suppliers need more tools, not more hurdles, to help meet those challenges. In order to continue to provide safe, high quality water to customers, the City needs to protect the quality of its water supplies.

Policy Positions:

- Support measures to facilitate efficient and streamlined local permitting processes for water projects.
- Oppose the expansion of established rules or adding new restrictions pertaining to the development and transfer of water supplies, including the transfer of water between basins.
- Support measures to facilitate the goals and implementation of Colorado's Water Plan.
- Support providing tools that allow for sharing of water supplies among water rights owners for multiple uses, including, but not limited to, municipal, agricultural, and environmental uses.
- Oppose measures that reduce water quality standards for dischargers.
- Support measures that provide flexibility in the regulatory framework to allow for more cost effective water quality improvements using collaborative local approaches.

Public Safety

The City is committed to supporting the long-term health, safety and success of Thornton's public safety personnel to and desire to engage in public regarding legislation that would impact the operations of the City's public safety departments.

Policy Positions:

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- Oppose state mandates that do not also provide the corresponding long-term funding necessary to enact and maintain the goals of the new mandates.
- Oppose legislative efforts that seek to restrict local control of law enforcement.
- Support legislation and funding to reduce and prevent gun violence, crime, drug use, and gang violence, and to promote public outreach and community engagement programs.
- Support legislation and funding to improve fire suppression and prevention, hazardous materials mitigation, rescue emergency medical services, health and safety and disaster and emergency preparedness.
- Support legislation and funding that addresses mental health and homelessness issues.
- Support funding for direct services for public safety departments and individuals to promote first responder mental health wellness.

Housing

The City recognizes that the affordability and availability of housing is vital to a diverse and vibrant community.

Policy Positions:

- Support legislative efforts to increase the tools available to provide affordable, owner-occupied, and multifamily housing consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- Support legislative efforts that allocate more resources to assist income-eligible first-time homebuyers.
- Support measures to increase State funding and incentives to produce and preserve low-to moderate-income affordable housing for residents earning at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI), as well as supporting measures to increase State funding for attainable workforce housing for residents earning up to 120% of the AMI.
- Support legislative efforts that allocate resources to homelessness prevention and diversion, including emergency mortgage/rent and utility assistance, foreclosure/eviction prevention, transitional housing, legal and educational services, and housing support for victims of domestic violence.
- Support the allocation of resources to residents who are typically excluded from other assistance-based programs, such as undocumented residents.
- Support legislative efforts to reduce or eliminate processing/acquisition fees for vital documents acquired for homeless individuals, such as birth certificates, educational transcripts, and driver licenses.

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Education

The City recognizes that policies that strive for appropriate funding for schools and equitable outcomes for students are essential for the long-term success of Colorado youths.

Policy Positions:

- Support legislation to enhance youth after school programs and summer programs.
- Support legislation efforts that seek to address the many COVID-19 related complications school districts are currently confronting.
- Support legislation that provides stable, adequate and equitable funding to all Colorado school districts and that seeks to close the gaps experienced by historically underserved students.
- Support legislative efforts that recognize the need and provide funding for more mental health support for students, teachers and staff.

2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic Relief/Recovery

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the City of Thornton community at virtually every level. The State of Colorado received Federal funding for COVID-19 relief/recovery efforts and the City supports legislation that allocates these funds to those who are in most need of direct support.

Policy Positions:

- Support legislative efforts that would provide assistance to residents, businesses, non-profits, and municipalities that have been impacted by the COVID-19 virus.
- Support legislative efforts that would provide resources to municipalities administering COVID-19 testing and vaccines.