



113<sup>th</sup> Congress

# City of Austin Federal Legislative Program

# Current Congress - National



- Senate:
  - 53 Democrats
  - 45 Republicans
  - 2 Independents
  
- House:
  - 233 Republicans
  - 201 Democrats
  - 1 vacancy

# Current Congress - Texas



## ■ Texas Delegation:

- Senate – John Cornyn (R), Ted Cruz (R)
- House – 24 Republicans, 12 Democrats

## ■ Central Texas Delegation:

- Michael McCaul (R-10), Homeland Security; Foreign Affairs; Science, Space & Technology
- Bill Flores (R-17), Budget; National Resources; Veterans' Affairs
- Lamar Smith (R-21), Science, Space & Technology; Homeland Security; Judiciary
- Roger Williams (R-25), Budget; Transportation & Infrastructure
- John Carter (R-31), Appropriations
- Lloyd Doggett (D-35), Ways and Means



# Congress – Budget Issues



- Budget:
  - \$984 Billion Continuing Resolution ends September 30
  - House version passed March 21
  - Senate version passed March 23
  - White House version proposed April 10
- Sequester:
  - \$85 Billion cut for remainder of FY2013 Budget

# Consultants



- Capital Edge
  - Onion Creek
  - General Appropriations
  - Scheduling
- Holland & Knight
  - Aviation
  - Surface Transportation
  - Scheduling
- National League of Cities
- U. S. Conference of Mayors

# General Principles



The City of Austin opposes any legislative or regulatory actions that:

- Erode the home rule authority of municipalities,
- Constrain the ability of the City of Austin to allocate resources to areas of locally determined concern, or
- Preempt City of Austin authority in matters generally and traditionally the domain of local government.

# General Principles



The City of Austin supports policies and legislation that:

- Provide an equitable distribution of federal funds,
- Address the concerns and needs of large metropolitan center cities in the areas of transportation, public safety, affordable housing, vibrant and healthy neighborhoods, energy and the environment,
- Recognize the important role of strong central cities in our nation's economy and as innovators in broad areas of public policy,
- Provide a solid safety net for economically vulnerable populations, and
- Recognize the challenge of climate change and the need to develop economically sustainable ways to address it.

# Federal Program



- Onion Creek
- Surface Transportation
  - Urban Rail
  - IH-35
  - Intercity Passenger Rail
  - Violet Crown Trail System
  - Waller Creek Multi-Use Trail
- Tax Exempt Bonds



# Federal Program



- General Statement of Legislative Focus
  - Federal Mandates
  - Deficit Reduction
  - Citizens United
  - Comprehensive Immigration Reform
  - Gun Control
- Aviation
- Housing & Community Development
  - CDBG and HOME
  - Cultural Arts

# Federal Program



- Public Health
- Public Safety
  - Public Safety Communications
  - Firefighting
  - Homeland Security
- Tax Credits and Revenue
  - Sales Tax Fairness
  - New Markets Tax Credit

# Federal Program



- Telecommunications
  - Local Authority
  - Rights of Way
  - Fees and Revenues
  - Internet Content Privacy
- Water and Wastewater Infrastructure
  - Water Reclamation



# Questions?

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