Austin

2027 State Legislative Program

Austin Government Relations
Adopted by the Austin City Council on July 23, 2026

Responsible Use of Taxpayer Dollars & Efficiency

Protect Financing Tools: Maintain local authority to employ cost-saving project delivery financing tools.

Support First Responders: Support addition of covered line-of-duty illnesses and funding for firefighters and emergency technicians.

Housing Access & Affordability

Preserve Local Authority: Protect City's ability to promote smart land use & incentivize affordable housing.

Support FYI Vouchers: Expand supportive services matching dollars for federal Foster-Youth-to-Independence (FYI) housing vouchers.

Public Infrastructure

Support Critical Infrastructure & Services: Fund critical mobility infrastructure and preserve ability to govern residents' investment in municipally-owned utilities.

Promote Responsible Innovation: Support the safe and responsible use of emerging technologies, including autonomous vehicles (AVs) and artificial intelligence (AI), and prioritize data privacy.

Workforce & Economic Development

Expand Career Pathways: Support opportunities, including job training, apprentice programs, & student loan forgiveness.

Maintain Economic Tools: Preserve and support local government tools to foster economic development.

Mental Health, Homelessness, & Public Safety

Strengthen Crisis Response: Seek additional tools and funding to address mental health, homelessness and public safety, including emergency mental health holds for high-acuity individuals, and closing the gaps between crisis and long-term care for those in greatest need of intervention.

Invest in Transitional & Acute Care Beds: Secure approval and funding for step-down, transitional housing as well as scaling of state supported living centers to aid people in need of higher levels of care.

Emergency Preparedness & Natural Resources

Strengthen Climate & Disaster Resilience: Support efforts to effectively mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters, including flooding, wildfires, extreme temperatures, and public health disasters.

Protect Natural Resources: Support policies to further conservation, reuse, and water supply strategies in Austin's 100-year water plan. Ensure sustainability of the State's natural resources and support efforts to improve local air quality.

Public Health & Quality of Life

Strengthen Public Health Systems: Support and fund core local public health functions, including disease surveillance, prevention services, immunizations, environmental health, and access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food.

Enhance Community Resources: Support funding for parks, recreation, open space, trails, libraries, and tourism. Support municipal animal shelters and efforts to improve outcomes for pets and wildlife.

Scan for more information

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