



2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



The City of Rancho Cordova incorporated on July 1, 2003 and celebrated 20 years of cityhood in 2023. The city is home to over 81,000 residents, 3,500 businesses and a workforce of over 65,000.

Located in Sacramento County along a six-mile stretch of the beautiful American River, Rancho Cordova is an emerging urban center and one of the fastest-growing cities in the region. The city is growing in an innovative and sustainable manner, as seen in projects like:

- Mather Veterans Village, a place for 150 homeless and disabled veterans to call home, with a Phase 4 of this project in development.
- Key infrastructure projects that create walkable, bike-friendly and connected neighborhoods, as well as new and expanded infrastructure to accommodate growth and provide increased safety.
- An urban forestry program that is creating a healthy tree canopy and an environmentally conscious citizenry.
- A Youth Center that serves the city’s diverse youth through mentoring, academics and athletics.
- Mills Crossing, a civic amenity in the heart of the city, that will provide between 80,000–92,000 sq. ft. of community-serving amenities, including health and wellness, the arts, community event and meeting spaces, and new housing.

Whether you call Rancho Cordova an All-America City, Playful City USA, Tree City USA, or one of America’s Top 25 Boomtowns, our neighborhoods and business districts reflect diversity and opportunity, making the city a place where everyone can live, work, learn and play.



The Legislative Advocacy Platform is adopted annually to authorize the city’s active participation in the decision-making process for federal and state legislation and budget issues. It also guides city staff and the city’s advocacy partners in pursuing federal or state funding, and/or to act upon legislative issues.

Using the Legislative Advocacy Platform as a guide, the city will take positions on specific legislation and amendments. The mayor or appointed designee will sign legislative letters based on the city’s identified interests, and Council Members may be actively involved in advocacy efforts. The legislative programs of Cal Cities, the National League of Cities, and other organizations may also influence city activities when there are common interests.

Areas of support and opposition are stated broadly in most cases to provide the flexibility needed to respond in a timely manner and to serve as a guide to assist staff in identifying specific issues that are important to the city, as well as to determine interest in specific legislation. In addition, these priority areas will help Council Members, city staff and advocacy partners focus on key issues and funding areas when speaking to representatives.

In addition, the city will evaluate legislation and pursue funding to enhance the community based on specific policy areas, such as transportation and infrastructure, economic development, planning, public safety, and housing.

Generally, the city will evaluate legislation based on the following broad criteria:

- Protection of local revenues
- Protection/increase of local government discretion
- Protection/increase of funding for specific programs or services
- Support of key programmatic goals
- Prevention of unfunded mandates
- Consistency with existing city policy
- Direct impact upon the city and the region

Based on the above criteria, the following policy positions are recommended:

Brown Act/Elections Code/Political Reform Act/Public Records Act

SUPPORT:

- Legislation on administration of the Brown Act and the Public Records Act that provides additional opportunities to recover costs.
- Legislation that seeks to protect the City’s ability to obtain confidential advice from legal counsel on items such as anticipated and pending litigation and real estate acquisition.
- Legislation that explores the use of virtual meeting technology to provide additional opportunities for meeting participation.

OPPOSE:

- Additional mandates in this policy area without full cost recovery.
- Legislation that would invade the attorney-client privilege and upset the balance between the public’s right to know the conduct of its business and a city’s need for privileged conversations with legal counsel.

Economic Development

SUPPORT:

- Legislation, strategies, and policies that: attract, retain, and expand business; support job creation, retention, expansion, extended opportunity zones, and new redevelopment plans; maximize revenue opportunities; foster place making; support workforce development; and enhance community amenities.
- Legislation that promotes the state as an economically viable and strong destination for businesses to locate.
- Legislation that supports the CHIPS and Science Act.

OPPOSE:

- Legislation that, under the guise of environmental protection, restricts its land use authority.
- Legislation that deletes local government representation and participation on state and federal environmental regulatory bodies.
- Legislation that overburdens small business with costly and resource-intensive environmental regulations.

Education

SUPPORT:

- Legislation that promotes access, affordability and success.
- Legislation that supports training and education in the area of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Environment

SUPPORT:

- Legislation that ensures local government representation and participation on state and federal environmental regulatory bodies.
- Legislation to standardize and streamline state and federal environmental regulations.
- Legislation that provides the city with the flexibility to enact environmental standards that are stricter than state or federal standards if the city so chooses.
- Legislation that increases funding or revenue sources for water quality and stormwater reuse projects.

OPPOSE:

- Legislation that, under the guise of environmental protection, restricts its land use authority.
- Legislation that deletes local government representation and participation on state and federal environmental regulatory bodies.

Housing

SUPPORT:

- Legislation that provides needed resources and flexibility to local governments to produce housing that meets all socioeconomic needs and local demands.
- Legislation that supports and facilitates affordable housing production of special needs populations (e.g., veterans, homeless, seniors).
- Measures that would provide local governments with greater flexibility in the housing element process.
- Legislation that provides or enhances needed federal and state incentives that help facilitate the production and preservation of affordable housing units including, but not limited to, housing bond funds and tax credits, project-based vouchers, and relief from prevailing wage requirements.
- Adequate and fair funding for the city and equitable distribution of housing dollars in the region.

OPPOSE:

- Legislation that eliminates opportunities for public review, project-level environmental review and restricts design review.

- Legislation that eliminates or weakens the low-income housing tax credit, the new markets tax credit, or Community Development Block Grants.

Local Control

SUPPORT:

- Legislation that enhances local control of resources and tools that allows the City Council to make decisions that address the needs of residents and businesses within the local jurisdiction they serve, as well as the broader interest of the region.

OPPOSE:

- Legislation that erodes local control, whether by state or federal legislation, or ballot propositions.
- The Taxpayer Protection & Government Accountability Act.

Mandates

SUPPORT:

- Legislation that encourages the use of state and federal incentives for local government action rather than mandates.
- Legislation to enhance local government's ability to comply with state and federal mandates.
- Measures to provide funding for federal and state mandates.
- Measures to streamline the process by which local governments are reimbursed by the state for the cost of unfunded mandates.
- Future legislation that repeals previously unfunded mandates.

OPPOSE:

- Legislation that seeks to impose additional unfunded mandates on local governments that produce inequitable burdens and financial and other hardships.
- Measures that would further delay reimbursement for unfunded mandates.

Planning

SUPPORT:

- Measures that seek to enhance the flexibility of local planning agencies to meet community needs, strengthen local land-use policies and provide community enhancement.
- Legislation to resolve ambiguous or unworkable planning and environmental statutes so that local agencies have clear direction from the federal and state governments.
- Legislation that provides technical and financial support for streamlining Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act permitting programs.

OPPOSE:

- Legislation to impose additional mandatory and arbitrary reviews by non-local agencies of local planning documents.

Public Safety

SUPPORT:

- Legislation and measures to enhance public safety by providing additional funding for local agencies in their efforts to safeguard the public, increase the quality of life, reduce or prevent crime, educate citizens, and build community partnerships.
- Legislation that provides local law enforcement with additional tools to protect the public and prevent crime.
- Measures that establish task forces, which unite multiple public safety resources in an effort to combat criminal acts, which extend beyond the jurisdictional borders.
- Legislation to assist local law enforcement in its role as "first responders" to natural and man-made disasters.

OPPOSE:

- Legislation that limits the public safety policy tools available to local governments to deal with local conditions.
- Measures to reduce subventions and grant programs for public safety.
- Legislation that will limit or restrict public safety professionals from the efficient performance of their duties or that limits the law enforcement tools available to local public safety professionals.
- Legislation that provides local enforcement with additional tools to protect the public from substandard housing and dangerous structures.

Revenue Protection

SUPPORT:

- Measures that give local government greater stability and independence in the state-local fiscal relationship, including full, constitutional protection of all local government revenues.
- Legislation that provides additional opportunities for local governments to be financially self-sufficient and oppose legislation that erodes the fiscal independence of local governments.
- Legislation that will enhance the state's fiscal stability and minimize the impact to local governments of state budget deficits.

OPPOSE:

- Legislation that would give the state or federal government greater control over local revenue sources or in any way reduces or diminishes city authority over local revenues.

- Legislation that would result in the permanent loss of city revenues unless it is part of a broader local government revenue protection package.
- Legislation that further exacerbates the state's long-term budget imbalance and further exposes local governments to the effects of state budget deficits.

Technology and Telecommunications

SUPPORT:

- Legislation that maintains local control over public rights-of-way; protects local revenues used for essential local services, including public safety; guarantees access to, and funding for, public, educational and government access television.
- Legislation that ensures that the public is appropriately compensated by telecommunications providers that use the public's rights-of-way.
- Legislation that supports the increasing need for cybersecurity and the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

OPPOSE:

- Any legislation that does not adhere to the principles above or includes unfunded mandates.

Transportation and Infrastructure

SUPPORT:

- Additional funding for local transportation and other critical unmet infrastructure needs.
- Adequate and fair funding for the city and equitable distribution of transportation dollars within the SACOG region.

OPPOSE:

- Legislation that would reduce the ability of growing communities to address transportation and infrastructure needs with adequate funding (from diversified sources) and with as much flexibility as possible.
- Legislation that would in any way unduly restrict the city's ability to ensure that necessary public improvements are completed as part of new subdivisions.



<p>Rancho Cordova Parkway Interchange</p>	<p>This project will construct a new interchange on US Highway 50 between Sunrise Boulevard and Hazel Avenue, and a six-lane road connecting south to White Rock Road. This project is part of a concerted, regional effort to improve overall mobility and spur economic development, including job creation and affordable housing. The project accomplishes these goals by strengthening the connection between 65,000+ jobs in the City of Rancho Cordova and surrounding communities. The project has full environmental approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Project Costs: \$154 million
<p>Sunrise Boulevard - Kiefer Boulevard to State Route 16 (Jackson Highway)</p>	<p>This project would widen Sunrise Boulevard from two at-capacity lanes to four lanes from Kiefer Boulevard to State Route 16 (Jackson Highway) and construct intersection improvements at Sunrise Boulevard and State Route 16. The project includes modifications to the bridge on Sunrise Boulevard, Laguna Creek and Folsom South Canal. This project will include raising a portion of Sunrise Boulevard above a local flood plain. When this section of Sunrise Boulevard floods, it cuts off a critical connection to the southeast county.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Project Cost: \$36.5 million
<p>Douglas Road, Sunrise Blvd. to West City Boundary</p>	<p>This project will widen Douglas Road from two to four lanes from Sunrise Boulevard to the west city boundary. The scope includes removing the existing bridge over the Folsom South Canal and replacing it with a six-lane bridge. This will be a complete streets project and will provide better access for bicycle and pedestrian mobility. This project will also provide relief to the congestion along Sunrise Boulevard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Project Cost: \$18 million
<p>White Rock Road Improvements, Macal Drive to Eastern City Limits</p>	<p>This project represents the final phase of the White Rock Road Safety and Congestion Relief parent project. This project is part of an innovative planning effort to alleviate regional congestion, improve roadway safety, nurture economic development, and promote the livability and quality of life in the greater Sacramento region. The proposed project will improve the final 2.0 miles of White Rock Road from Macal Drive to the City limits, provides parallel capacity and be a reliever route to U.S. Highway 50, replace the deteriorating segment of roadway, realign and widen the road from two to four travel lanes to add critically needed capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Project Cost: \$24 million
<p>Mills Crossing Mixed-Use Transit-Oriented Development Project</p>	<p>The Mills Crossing project will revitalize the city’s most underinvested neighborhoods with over 100,000 square feet of community-serving facilities, including a health and wellness center, black box theater, artist gallery and meeting spaces, a community event center, and retail. The project also features over 100 units of new housing and nearly three acres of plaza and accessible open spaces. Located adjacent to a Regional Transit light rail station this project will stimulate mode-switching to transit and active transportation. In addition to creating a new regional destination, this project will be the catalyst for additional transit-oriented development all along the Folsom Blvd corridor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Project Cost: \$107 million

<p>Mather Veterans Village Housing and Community Space Development, Phase 5</p>	<p>This project will be the fifth phase in the City of Rancho Cordova’s efforts to transform a closed former air force base into housing for homeless and low-income veterans’ households within close proximity to the regional VA Northern California Medical Center. This phase will add 60 units of family-oriented townhomes and apartment units and will expand the Mather Veterans Village to encompass a more wholistic community by adding housing for households successfully moving on from the 150 units of veterans homeless housing adjacent to this project. This phase will also include a 4,000 square feet commercial component that will introduce new uses to the neighborhood and act as a central gathering area for residents of all five phases to create a true community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Project Cost: \$39 million
<p>Capital Southeast Connector</p>	<p>The Capital Southeast Connector is a vital 34-mile connection between communities in the greater Sacramento region including the City of Rancho Cordova. The first phase within Rancho Cordova and Sacramento County’s shared jurisdiction includes realigning Grant Line Road generally from White Rock Road to Jackson Highway and adding a separated walking and cycling path. The regionally important project will provide critical emergency access routes, improve safety, foster economic growth, and connect communities through active modes of transportation. The project alignment is approximately seven miles long with proposed improvements valued at \$100 million dollars. Environmental is approved with construction expected to begin in 2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Project Cost: TBD





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