



Agenda Report

Fullerton City Council

MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2019

TO: CITY COUNCIL / SUCCESSOR AGENCY

SUBMITTED BY: KENNETH A. DOMER, CITY MANAGER

PREPARED BY: NICOLE BERNARD, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER
ANISSA LIVAS, ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST II

SUBJECT: MONTHLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SUMMARY

A summary of legislative activity during October 2019 as provided by Townsend Public Affairs (TPA).

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file the Monthly Legislative Update report.

PRIORITY POLICY STATEMENT

This item matches the following Priority Policy Statements:

- Fiscal and Organizational Stability
- Public Safety
- Infrastructure and City Assets.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

BACKGROUND

The City's Legislative Platform serves as the policy document that communicates supportive or opposing advocacy of legislation having potential to impact the City of Fullerton. The City's Legislative Platform is reviewed by the City Council annually and is based upon three Guiding Principles:

1. Preserve Local Control

2. Promote Fiscal Stability

3. Support Funding Opportunities

The 2019 Legislative Platform reflects the version adopted by the City Council on February 19, 2019 and contains Policy Statements organized into the following categories:

- Administration
- Economic Development
- Air Quality
- Building
- Natural Hazards
- Solid Waste and Recycling
- Water Quality and Water Supply
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Land Use Planning and Housing
- Libraries
- Parks and Recreation
- Human Resources and Risk Management
- Public Safety
- Police
- Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- Public Works

Following the City Council's adoption, TPA has transmitted the City's 2019 Legislative Platform to the City's Federal and State representatives to provide them with guidelines to follow as they monitor relevant legislation and grant funding opportunities for the City of Fullerton. In addition, TPA provides monthly legislative updates to the City Council on state legislation, federal legislation, funding opportunities and other political issues of importance to the City of Fullerton. The monthly update reports also include a quick reference matrix identifying proposed legislation, the City's advocacy position and the date of any advocacy letters sent on behalf of the City Council. The "sent" advocacy letters are accessible to the public on the City's website under the heading of Legislative Reports within the City Manager's Office.

DISCUSSION

Monthly Legislative Update

Key highlights included in the monthly report:

State Legislative Update

Although the Legislature formally adjourned for the year in September, October was nevertheless a busy month for Legislators and the Newsom Administration. October 13 was the last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature, with most signed bills taking effect January 1, 2020.

Of the 1,042 bills that were sent to the Governor's desk, Governor Newsom signed 870 and vetoed 172. This equals a veto rate of 16.5 percent which is approximately the same as Governor Brown's highest veto rate during his total of sixteen years in office. Additionally, there are approximately 1,600 bills that are now two-year bills and will be eligible for consideration when the Legislature reconvenes in January.

Below is a list of the upcoming legislative deadlines:

- January 1, 2020 – Most statutes passed in 2019 take effect.
- January 6, 2020 – Legislature reconvenes for the 2020 Legislative Session
- January 10, 2020 – Budget must be submitted by Governor

Federal Legislative Update

In October, members of Congress spent significant time, political capital, and public messaging on the House impeachment inquiry into President Trump. Despite this, administrative staff on the Hill were working behind the scenes to identify a path forward for government funding. The Continuing Resolution passed earlier this year funds the government through November 21, 2019. As of the writing of this report, the Senate has yet to finalize its full-year funding bills. Thus, meaning Congress must pass another short-term extension bill by November 21, 2019 to avoid a government shutdown. With the impeachment inquiry ongoing concurrently, Congress is likely headed towards a potentially tense political impasse.

The current dynamic in Congress is substantially different from July, when members of Congress worked in a bipartisan manner to pass a budget agreement that set top-line federal funding amounts for the next two years. The tense tone in Washington D.C. that has ramped up over the last several months may become a barrier to progress on many legislative issues, with a limited number of bills expected to move forward for the remainder of the year.

Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations

The Senate is currently moving forward on votes for five of the bills in the House-passed spending package from the summer. The \$214 billion package includes funding for Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, among other agencies. Disputes over funding for President Trump's border wall request have historically been an obstacle in the Senate, but it is expected that agreements can be reached on other funding areas in the package.

Please see below for an update on several appropriations line items, where they are in the process, and how the House-proposed levels compare to last year's levels and the President's recommended levels.

Most priority area funding levels in FY 2019 are expected to enjoy increases during the budget process. Thanks to continued advocacy, many of the proposed funding levels for FY 2020 are similar to FY 2019 levels.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Townsend Public Affairs – October 2019 Update Report and Appropriations Limit Chart
- Attachment 2 – Townsend Public Affairs – October 2019 Advocacy Tracking Matrix
- Attachment 3 – City of Fullerton 2019 Legislative Platform