

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS, ADOPTING THE 2023 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ACT WITH REGARD TO THE CITY'S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Legislative activities are ongoing with the State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that many legislative issues affecting local government will be considered during the legislative session; and

WHEREAS, City staff prepared the recommended City of Mesquite 2023 Legislative Program, attached hereto as Exhibit A, and the Legislative Program has been reviewed by the City Council of the City of Mesquite; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is of the opinion that such Legislative Program is in the best interest of the City and its residents, should be adopted, and should be forwarded for consideration by the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is of the further opinion that the City Manager or his designee should be directed to take action with regard to the Legislative Program as outlined below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That the City of Mesquite 2023 Legislative Program that is attached hereto as Exhibit A is hereby adopted and approved as the Legislative Program for the City of Mesquite.

SECTION 2. That the City Manager or his designee is directed to communicate the items included in the City's Legislative Program to members of the Texas Legislature, in general, and/or to the appropriate legislative committees, committee members and others designated by the City Manager.

SECTION 3. That for those items designated as "support," the City Manager or his designee is directed to actively pursue passage of the appropriate legislation if it is introduced. The City Manager's efforts to obtain passage of this legislation may include drafting appropriate legislation, seeking a sponsor and actively pursuing the passage of such legislation by providing testimony and through other means.

SECTION 4. That for those items designated as "oppose," the City Manager or his designee is directed to attempt to impede the passage of any such legislation.

SECTION 5. That it is recognized that this policy will often be implemented in the context of great numbers of legislative proposals being considered within short time periods. City representatives, under the direction of the City Manager, shall be authorized to act on behalf of the City consistent with the necessary broad policy concerns set forth in this program.

SECTION 6. That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage.

DULY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mesquite, Texas, on the 21st day of November 2022.

Daniel Alemán, Jr.
Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

Sonja Land
City Secretary

David L. Paschall
City Attorney



City of Mesquite 2023 Legislative Program 88th Texas Legislative Session

The City of Mesquite has identified the listed legislative priorities that are based around the City's Strategic Goals to help guide the City in support or opposition of certain legislation that is filed in this next legislative session.

Local Control

The City of Mesquite strongly supports local control and preserving the ability of elected officials to govern in the best interest of Mesquite Citizens.

- Oppose any legislation that would impose additional revenue caps, reductions in the voter approved rate, or limit expenditures of the city.
- Oppose any legislation that would reduce the appraisal growth cap currently established by law.
- Oppose legislation that preempts municipal authority over land use and zoning, local amendments to building codes, permitting fees, and eminent domain.
- Oppose any attempt to reduce or eliminate municipal authority over rights-of-way or the compensation for the use of rights-of-way.

Safe Community

The City of Mesquite strongly supports legislation that enhances the ability of police and fire departments to effectively make communities safer.

- Support legislation that increases the penalties and fines for the burglary of a motor vehicle and auto thefts.
- Support legislation that increases the penalties for unlawfully discharging firearms in public an on a residential property in Mesquite.
- Support legislation that addresses catalytic converter theft with stronger penalties and better regulation on the sale, purchase, and possession of used equipment.
- Support legislation that provides grant funding or resources for equipment and training for local police and fire departments.
- Oppose legislation that limits asset forfeiture or the use of forfeiture funds for police departments.
- Support legislation that prioritizes the manufacture of public safety vehicles.

Attractive Neighborhoods

The City of Mesquite requires the ability to effectively address nuisance issues and maintain quality development and infrastructure in neighborhoods.

- Support legislation that allows cities to utilize job order procurement for infrastructure projects.

- Support legislation that clearly defines operating standards for group homes within residential zoned areas.
- Oppose legislation that imposes additional time limitations and standards for the development process.

Improved Transportation and Mobility

The City of Mesquite strongly supports legislation that provides for the maintenance and enhancement of the local transportation infrastructure system.

- Support funding for highway improvements with a focus on projects that impact congestion and safety.
- Support legislation that increases transportation funding options and identifies a sustainable method of generating additional transportation revenues.
- Support funding that expands regional transportation options for transit services like Star Transit and provides enhanced services at lower costs for communities.
- Support legislation that increases funding for mobility projects that include bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

Vibrant Economy

The City of Mesquite supports legislation that provides local governments with the tools and abilities to attract, retain and enhance businesses in Texas.

- Support legislation that would continue to support the Texas Enterprise Fund, Chapter 312 & 313 of the Tax Code, Skills Development Fund, Tax Increment Financing and Section 380 Agreements.
- Support Legislation that continues local control of Type 4B/4A sales taxes and its current use categories.
- Oppose legislation that would limit the City's existing economic development authority.
- Oppose legislation that further erodes the City's ability to voluntarily annex property or regulate development within a city's extra territorial jurisdiction.
- Support legislation that limits the ability and use of Municipal Utility Districts.
- Support legislation that ensures and protects adequate funding for public school districts to meet the state's education standards.
- Support legislation that funds workforce development and community college programs for workforce training and expansion.

High Performing/Transparent Government

- Oppose any legislation that would impact the City's ability to issue debt or fund local projects through municipal bond financing.
- Oppose legislation that erodes local control of pension, insurance, and compensation to public employees.
- Support legislation that would allow local governments to post legal ads and notices on the City's web site rather than publishing in a newspaper.
- Support legislation that will eliminate the requirement to physically post meeting notices if the city maintains a web site.

- Support legislation that expands the exception of public information to include the name and contact information of a complainant and allow for a governmental body to be able to redact this information without the necessity of an Attorney General opinion.
- Support legislation to improve Public Improvement District filing efficiency by eliminating county clerk filing requirements or providing a more efficient options including filing with the City Secretary or online.

Quality Recreation and Culture

- Support legislation that expands the use of Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax Revenues.
- Support funding for libraries including services that support workforce development, job training and services to residents seeking employment opportunities.
- Support funding for expanded parks and recreation facilities for local governments.

City of Mesquite Sponsored Legislation

The City of Mesquite has identified legislation that the City will draft and work with the City's legislative representatives to introduce to the legislative body for consideration.

- **Mesquite Convention Center and Hotel Occupancy Tax Expansion**

The City of Mesquite is proposing legislation that would allow Mesquite to use state and local hotel tax rebates to help fund the construction of a local convention center hotel project and convention center expansion.

Originally enacted in 2003 for large cities, this legislation has been expanded over the years to allow certain mid-sized and smaller cities to participate in the program. Under the Qualified Hotel Project Program, the hotel tax revenue generated by a convention center hotel can be used to mitigate the costs of developing the project. Additionally, the City would be entitled to receive a rebate of state hotel occupancy taxes, state sales taxes, and local alcoholic beverage taxes from the eligible convention center project for the first 10 years after the project opens for occupancy. The City of Mesquite would need specific legislative authority to participate in this program.

The City of Mesquite is proposing legislation that would allow the City of Mesquite to increase its Hotel Motel Occupancy Tax rate by two percent from the current rate of seven percent for the price paid per room to not exceed nine percent. The additional two percent would be allocated for the construction, expansion, maintenance, and operation of convention center facilities.

- **Expansion of Department of Public Safety Hangar Facility at Mesquite Metro Airport**

The City of Mesquite will support legislation including an amendment to the Supplemental Appropriations Bill that would appropriate \$5 million to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Aviation Division to construct a new hangar used by DPS at the Mesquite Metro Airport. This DPS Air Station serves the entire North Texas Region and is a vital part of law enforcement support to North Texas cities through the support of criminal search, criminal surveillance, SWAT operations support, lost persons and victims search, disaster response and other law enforcement and public safety missions.