



## CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

**FROM:** The Office of the City Manager   **DATE:** February 13, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Discuss 2017 State Legislative Program

**PRESENTER:** Karen Bostic, Assistant City Manager

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

The legislative program is intended to be a guide to our legislators to inform them of the City's position on issues we expect will be raised during the legislative session. Pre-filing of bills started on Monday, November 14, 2016 with almost 2,700 bills filed to date. The 85<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session convened at noon on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 and last 140 days ending on Monday, May 29, 2017.

As in the past, we have used four guiding principles to determine positions on various issues. These four guiding principles are:

- Opposition of any legislation that erodes the authority to govern our own local affairs;
- The need for a predictable and sufficient level of revenue to build and maintain capital infrastructure and for ensuring citizens health and safety;
- Opposition of unfunded mandates; and
- Support for legislation that enhances the quality of life for our citizens.

Based on these guiding principles, staff has identified a number of priority legislative issues. There are as follows:

- Preserve cities ability to govern their own affairs;
- Preserve local control of land use planning and zoning;
- Preserve an equal, fair and uniform property tax system;
- Preserve local revenue sources;
- Preserve the ability to use debt financing for capital projects;
- Preserve the ability to provide public safety for our citizens.

These priority issues will be added to and modified as needed throughout the session. We expect the workload of the 85<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session to be about the same as the last regular session where almost 6,500 bills were filed with over 1,300 of those passing. Staff will be monitoring city related bills and will provide updates to Council throughout the legislative session.