



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** January 14, 2018
SUBJECT: Discuss 2019 State Legislative Program
PRESENTER: Karen Bostic, Assistant City Manager

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The legislative program is intended to be a guide for 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 12, 2018 with almost 1,000 bills filed through January 3. The 86th Texas Legislative Session convened at noon on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 and lasts 140 days ending on Monday, May 29, 2019.

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. They 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 modified as needed throughout the session as new issues arise. We expect the workload of the 86th Texas Legislative Session to be about the same as the last regular session where more than 6,500 bills or significant resolutions were introduced; more than 2,000 of them would have affected Texas cities in some substantial way. In the end, over 1,200 bills or resolutions passed and were signed into law with almost 300 of them affecting cities in some way. Staff will be monitoring city related bills and will provide updates to Council throughout the legislative session.