

City Council Legislative Policy Agenda

The City Council Legislative Policy Agenda is a document that serves as statement of values for the City of Ann Arbor and provides policy guidance for City leaders and elected officials when engaging with state and federal policy makers. The Council Policy Agenda Committee drafts the agenda from suggestions from Council Members, Boards and Commissions, and staff and is provided to City Council for its adoption.

Submissions from Boards and Commissions for Consideration for FY- 2021

Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) – SmartZone

The Board recommends the addition of:

In the interest of creating a vibrant and diverse local economy, the Council directs the following:

- 1) Monitor and advocate for funding MEDC programs that support and encourage a high tech ecosystem.

Monitor and advocate that Treasury continue supporting the SmartZones (Local Development Financing Authorities)

Greenbelt Advisory Commission

At their November 11th meeting, the Greenbelt Advisory Commission voted to put forth the following policy agenda item for Council's consideration:

- 1) Monitor and support state funding to partners, when applicable, to leverage the Open Space and Parkland Preservation Millage funds."

GAC suggested it be included under the agenda section that reads: "In the interest of protecting the environment as responsible stewards of natural resources, the Council directs the following:", or a similar subsection of the greater policy agenda.

Election Commission

The Election Commission Passed a Resolution in October making Policy Agenda Recommendations

Whereas, The Election Commission desires to provide policy guidance for City leaders and elected officials when engaging with state and federal policy makers on election Issues;

Whereas, Voters adopted a measure amending Section 4 of Article II of the Michigan Constitution, adding several provisions pertaining to voting rights including, allowing for same-day registration and adopting "no reason" absentee balloting; and

Whereas, Michigan Election Law places restrictions on Michigan voters exercising their constitutional rights;

RESOLVED, that the Election Commission recommends the following additions to the City Council Policy Agenda to improve voter enfranchisement:

- 1) Advocate for and support changes to Michigan Election Law that would allow voters to receive absentee ballots for an entire calendar year with a single application.
- 2) Advocate for and support changes to Michigan Election Law that would remove the current requirement to issue challenged ballots to electors registering in-person with the City Clerk during the fourteen-day period before an election who are not in possession of a Michigan Driver's License or Personal Identification Card with their current address.
- 3) Advocate for and support changes to Michigan Election Law that would allow Absent Voter Count Boards to begin the tabulation of absentee ballots prior to Election Day.

Transportation Commission Response

- 1) Advocate for the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to make the process easier and more accessible for local jurisdictions to request and implement crosswalks, sidewalks, bike lanes, speed reduction, and road reconfiguration on state roads.
- 2) Advocate for MDOT to further define, and consistently adhere to, their Complete Streets and Vision Zero policies.
- 3) Strengthen partnerships with community stakeholders to achieve common goals. Including but not limited to MDOT, Ann Arbor Public Schools (AAPS) and the University of Michigan (UM).
- 4) Advocate for policy and land use investments that encourage opportunities for transit oriented development.
- 5) Support policy, and inclusive zoning, that enables transit oriented development where contextually appropriate.
- 6) Advocate for a revision to the Michigan Manual on Uniform Traffic Control (MUTCD) to expand bicyclist signage options, including R4-11 "May Use Full Lane" which is shown in the [FHA MUTCD](#) but omitted from the Michigan MUTCD.

Energy Commission

RESOLUTION ADVISING CITY COUNCIL ON ENERGY TOPICS FOR ITS 2021 POLICY AGENDA

Whereas, by the purpose and duties set out in its bylaws, the Ann Arbor Energy Commission is charged with “Proposing, evaluating, recommending, and responding to policies and practices” related to energy and climate;

Whereas, the Ann Arbor City Council is preparing its policy agenda for Fiscal Year 2021;

Be it resolved, the Ann Arbor Energy Commission recommends that the City Council incorporate the following into its policy agenda, in the priority order as laid out here, because achievement of those higher-priority items will make the others more likely to follow naturally:

- 1) Support for a national carbon tax resolution passed by the Energy Commission
- 2) Support for federal legislation, consistent with the Green New Deal
- 3) Support for a State of Michigan carbon neutrality target
- 4) Support for changes to the state building code that lead to more energy efficient and sustainable structures, and/or which give local jurisdictions authority to implement building codes with stricter energy efficiency / sustainability criteria than those at the state level
- 5) Support for State of Michigan legislation consistent with the Energy Freedom Package

Environmental Commission

The Commission adopted the first six recommendations that were compiled by staff. The Chair will be working with Councilmember Smith to collect other policy agenda ideas from Commissioners and submit them for consideration.

RESOLVED, that the Environmental Commission recommends that City Council adopt the “staff recommendations” from the December 5, 2019 file for the 2021 Policy Agenda Items.

- 1) Greater local control over building and electrical codes
- 2) Adoption of the Zero Energy Code (which will be an appendix to the soon to be adopted ICC code)
- 3) Ability to install microgrids (certainly for emergency responders and critical facilities, but also for anyone)
- 4) Support for energy choice
- 5) Removing the cap for distributed generation (it's currently set at 1% and that needs to go away)
- 6) Going back to net metering