
CITY OF ANN ARBOR POLICY AGENDA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

The Ann Arbor City Council examined its prior year policy priorities with an eye to those policies that are likely to come to the state or federal legislative agenda. By doing so it hopes to focus its efforts and that of staff to more effective ends.

The City Council has a desire to be nimble and opportunistic with the legislative agenda priorities. City Council does not want to limit its ability to respond to issues that move to the agenda.

The following issues have been deemed *likely to see movement* in the FY2023 public policy forecast and are considered **High Priority** policy goals in the FY23 Council Policy Agenda.

- Advocate for and support changes in state law that would allow for the elimination of racially restrictive property covenants.
- Advocate for and support any effort to restore state revenue sharing to a level commensurate with the needs of municipalities across the state.
- Advocate for and support the passage of HB 4117, a change in state law that would give municipalities increased flexibility to set speed limits below the 85th percentile of speed in corridors and would also allow speed limits to be set below 25 MPH.
- Advocate for and support the ability of cities to incorporate inclusionary zoning practices and affordability incentives into land development codes.

The following issues are also posed for legislative policy action and are considered **Medium Priority** in The FY23 Council Policy Agenda.

- Support improved voter enfranchisement through the modification or elimination of term limits for state legislators.
- Support federal and state funding for affordable housing and oppose reductions for established and effective programs.
- Support efforts to require MDOT to further define and consistently adhere to the Complete Streets and Vision Zero policies.
- Support the maximum funding level under the Michigan Fire Protection Grant Program and support the creation of a similar Public Safety Protection Grant Program to provide funding for the costs associated with police and emergency medical services on state owned property and explore opportunities for similar programs at the federal level.
- Pursue opportunities to secure funding to protect, develop, and upgrade water, wastewater, drainage, and natural area resources and systems.

- Pursue and support the award of federal, state, county, and private funds for the advancement of infrastructure projects that promote transportation system capacity improvements, transit enhancement, active transportation (including bicycle facilities, safe pedestrian movement, and urban trails), and advanced mobility operating systems.

The City Council remains keenly interested in monitoring the status and opportunities for additional public policy issues. Should they receive legislative attention and opportunity arises, the Ann Arbor City Council will direct efforts on their behalf related to the policy values.

Local Control

City Council maintains strong interest in preserving the right of self-determination in our community. City Council generally opposes policies that pre-empt local control. These issues include but are not limited to: Community Choice Aggregation, single-use plastic, short-term rentals, billboard placement, possession of fireworks, carrying of firearms into public facilities and the regulation of firearms generally, zoning and land development, preservation of the natural environment, oversight and control of oil and gas extraction facilities, siting of cell towers, telecommunications equipment, utilities, and the discharge of storm water into water bodies, and the permitting and use of rights-of-way.

Voting, Elections, and Government

The City Council strongly opposes policies that seek to disenfranchise any voter or discourage the engagement of citizens with government and democracy. It supports changes to election law that reduce barriers to elector participation. Council will also continue to support transparency in all levels of government.

Human Rights, Equity, and Inclusion

The City Council strongly supports all efforts to support human rights, equity, and inclusion in all levels of government and all aspects of our community. City Council will advocate and support civil rights of all persons regardless of immigration status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The City Council strongly supports efforts of local, state, and federal entities to strengthen and enforce hate crime laws and anti-domestic terrorism laws with resources for enforcement.

Council will propose, advance, and advocate changes to state and federal law to prohibit discrimination against LGBTQIA+ individuals in employment, housing, education, access to public accommodations and include these groups as protected classes—specifically under the state’s Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act.

City Council will support and monitor efforts to promote equity and eliminate systemic racism. Particular attention will be paid to equity in areas of employment and economic opportunity, income/wage inequality, housing and lending policy, criminal justice and policing, access to healthcare, access to education, procurement and contracting, and voting rights.

Sustainability, Climate and Natural Resources

The City Council supports efforts to protect our environment and to be responsible stewards of natural resources. It will advocate for sustainable and renewable energy,

improved solid waste reduction and management. City Council will actively protect Great Lakes water resources, drinking water, and the environment by advocating for pollution reductions and improved remediation efforts. City Council will support actions that advance A2Zero climate goals.

Infrastructure

City Council supports efforts to build and maintain safe and sustainable infrastructure that supports a vibrant community. The City Council supports improved safety signage, crossings, bike lanes, speed reductions, and road configurations for motorized, non-motorized, and pedestrian use of infrastructure on state owned roads. City Council will advocate for mechanisms that improve access and delivery of mass transit and other transportation solutions.

Revenue and Funding

The Ann Arbor City Council supports efforts that improve the ability to create a fiscally sound and sustainable city government aligned with the policy priorities and values set forward in earlier statements. This support includes advocacy for modification to current tax law, equitable distribution and optimized use of current revenue, and generation of new revenue.

Labor

City Council affirms its interest in supporting workplace safety, job security and the right of employees to organize. It will therefore propose, advance, and monitor initiatives that enhance safety in all workplaces and advocate for the right of employees to choose to be represented by labor organizations.