
CITY OF ANN ARBOR POLICY AGENDA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

The Ann Arbor City Council has examined its prior year policy agenda, considering priorities enumerated in the state or federal legislative agendas. By doing so it aims to focus its efforts and that of staff to the most constructive ends possible. The City Council seeks 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, nor does the council seek to prescribe the appropriate engagement on these issues.

The following issues have been and are likely to have legislative interest in the FY2025 public policy forecast and are considered **High Priority** policy goals in the FY25 Council Policy Agenda.

- Advocate for the preservation and advancement of local control and the ability of Ann Arbor to self-determine.
- Uphold the rights of voters and support changes to the process that backs the work of municipal clerks.
- 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 changes to state and federal law that eliminate financial and bureaucratic barriers to the construction of affordable housing.
- Advocate for federal and state funding for affordable housing and oppose reductions for established and effective programs.
- Advocate for the elimination of barriers to innovative community energy solutions.
- Advocate for the funding of innovative projects and pilots that encourage energy efficiency and advancement of energy solutions.
- Advocate for and support efforts for a high level of human and workers' rights.
- Advocate for state investments in a sustainable, 21st-century transportation system (increased funding for road, transit, and non-motorized).

The following issues have some potential for legislative policy action and are considered **Medium Priority** in the FY25 Council Policy Agenda.

- Support efforts to require MDOT to further define and consistently adhere to the Complete Streets and Vision Zero policies.
- Pursue funding opportunities and legislative changes 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.

As well as the aforementioned high and medium priority activities, the City Council remains keenly interested in monitoring the status of 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 preempt local control. These issues include but are not limited to: Community Choice Aggregation, rent stabilization, 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, building codes, and the permitting and use of rights-of-way. City Council continues to support repeal of the “Death Star” law, PA 105 of 2015, that preempted local governments from adopting local minimum wage ordinances, laws regulating strikes or work stoppage activity of employees or employers, laws regulating hours and scheduling of employees, laws regulating employee participation in apprenticeship or training programs, and any law that creates an administrative or judicial remedy for wage, hour, and benefit disputes.

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 electoral participation. Council will also continue to support transparency in all levels of government.

Housing Affordability

The housing affordability crisis is being driven by a lack of housing supply, and demand that is increasing every day. The solution is to build more housing available to all income levels, including affordable housing and market rate housing. Doing so through infill development of relatively underutilized parcels is an important tool in addressing housing affordability.

The housing crisis will not be solved in one city, or community. It is a collective problem, and it will be solved only when a critical mass of communities from across the state and region begin to take housing development more seriously. Encouraging more housing, and more infill housing, is an important component of solving the housing affordability crisis for every community in the state.

We recommend passing legislation that would allow municipalities to institute split-rate property taxes so the value of owned land would be much higher than the value of the buildings on them. Notably, the Headlee amendment would need to be reformed to allow for split-rate taxes and for the tax rate on land values to be significantly increased (likely

above the annual inflation cap). Additionally, some communities may need to have statutory caps on real estate taxes revised.

Human Rights, Equity, and Inclusion

City Council strongly supports all efforts to strengthen 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. 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. City 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. City Council will support and monitor efforts to eliminate inequities. Particular attention will be paid to areas of employment and economic opportunity, income/wages, housing and lending policy, criminal justice and policing, healthcare access, education access, procurement, contracting, and voting rights.

Sustainability, Climate and Natural Resources

City Council supports efforts to protect our environment and to be responsible stewards of natural resources. It will advocate for sustainable and renewable energy, solid waste reduction, and improved solid waste management. City Council will actively protect Great Lakes water resources, drinking water, and the environment by advocating for pollution reductions, polluter pay, 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.

Finance, 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. The City will monitor changes and activity at the state and federal levels that may result in adverse financial impacts to Ann Arbor.

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.

As Amended and Approved by Ann Arbor City Council on April 21, 2025.