
CITY OF ANN ARBOR POLICY AGENDA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 (FY20)

The City Council adopts the following policy agenda items for FY20:

In the interest of preserving the right of self-determination in our community, the City Council strongly opposes action to pre-empt the ability of municipalities to make decisions in support of the wishes of their community, and generally opposes policies that pre-empt local control over quality of life and public safety issues such as the possession of fireworks, carrying of firearms into public facilities, zoning and land development, the 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 sewers into water bodies, except as otherwise noted in this document.

In the interest of enabling a safe, welcoming, and inclusive community, the Council directs the following:

1. Monitor and advocate for measures that protect the rights of residents of Ann Arbor without regard to immigration status.
2. Monitor and pursue cultural arts funding at current or increased levels.
3. Monitor potential state actions on Open Meeting Act and Freedom of Information Act requirements.
4. Support improved voter enfranchisement through the development of the nonpartisan redistricting commission, modification or elimination of term limits for elected officials at the state level, and implementation of early voting and “no reason” absentee balloting.
5. Advocate for the inclusion of gender neutral bathrooms in the uniform building code.
6. Advocate for legislation that allows speeding fines in school zones to be increased.

In the interest of providing a financially stable local government, the Council directs the following:

1. Monitor and support any effort to restore state revenue sharing to a level commensurate with the needs of municipalities across the state.
2. Monitor efforts to reform the Headlee Amendment or Proposal A regulations.
3. Monitor funding provided from the distribution of fuel taxes and other revenues from the state and actively support increases in the distribution to local government.

4. Monitor potential state actions on pension and post-employment benefit regulations and funding.
5. Monitor and advocate for the maximum funding level under the state's Fire Protection Grants program and support the creation of a similar Public Safety Protection Grants program to provide funding for the costs associated with police and emergency medical services on state owned properties. Explore opportunities for similar programs at the federal level.
6. Monitor and take appropriate actions to address the legalization of marijuana and ensure appropriate revenue distribution from licensed facilities within the City.
7. Monitor and support new potential sources of tax revenue including the creation of a local option sales tax, a ticket tax on large scale ticketed events, a tax on short-term rentals and a tax on the business activities of non-profit organizations.
8. Work with the county and Destination Ann Arbor to optimize the use of locally generated hotel taxes.

In the interest of promoting responsible economic development, the Council directs the following:

1. Strongly support federal and state funding for affordable housing and oppose reductions for established and effective programs.
2. Collaborate with Washtenaw County on the development of the County Farm/Platt Road site to provide a significant and sustainable affordable housing component.
3. Support and advocate for the ability of cities to incorporate inclusionary zoning practices and affordability incentives into their land development codes.
4. Oppose any legislation that pre-empts municipalities from regulating so-called "Airbnbs" or short-term rentals.

In the interest of protecting the environment as responsible stewards of natural resources, the Council directs the following:

1. Update strategies for solid waste management that focus on reduction strategies, greater diversion and recovery of materials, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved efficiencies, and increased resident satisfaction.
2. Monitor potential state or federal actions on water quality levels for drinking water and wastewater discharges.
3. Monitor and pursue opportunities to secure funding to protect, develop, and upgrade water, wastewater, drainage, and natural area resources and systems.

4. Support and advocate for the incorporation of water reuse and reclamation systems and high-performance energy efficiency standards into the Uniform Building Code.
5. Pursue remedies that incent the installation of sustainable and renewable energy resources, including but not limited to residential and community solar and wind systems, and specifically advocate for the reintroduction and adoption of HB 5143 and HB 5680 from the 99th legislative session.
6. Monitor and actively engage with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the US Environmental Protection Agency on the remediation of contamination at the Gelman/Pall site and the impacted groundwater resources.
7. Support and advocate for continued funding for initiatives that protect the Great Lakes water system.
8. Monitor and pursue Natural Resources Trust Fund project funding.
9. Advocate for changes in state law that would allow municipalities to ban single use plastics such as straws and plastic bags.

In the interest of building and maintaining a sustainable infrastructure, the Council directs the following:

1. Propose, advance, and monitor initiatives that enhance the safety and accessibility of the right of way for vulnerable and at-risk users.
2. Monitor and advocate for MDOT to further define and consistently adhere to their complete streets and vision zero policies.
3. Pursue the optimization of parking assets in the downtown, ensuring that supply meets real demand while promoting modal-shift to the maximum extent possible.
4. Monitor and advocate for state laws that recognize and allow mobility-sharing companies to operate while protecting municipalities' ability to regulate the right-of-way.
5. Monitor and advocate for 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.
6. Propose, advance, and advocate for a uniform statewide crosswalk statute that reflects best practices and optimizes the safety of all users.

In the interest of supporting workplace safety, job security and the right of employees to organize, the Council directs the following:

1. Propose, advance, and monitor initiatives that enhance the safety in all workplaces.
2. Monitor and advocate for the right of employees to choose to be represented by labor organizations.
3. Monitor and oppose attempts to dilute or eliminate the right of public safety unions to arbitrate their terms and conditions of employment as a viable alternative to public safety employee work stoppages.
4. Propose, advance, and advocate changes to state law to prohibit discrimination against LGBT individuals in employment, housing, education, and access to public accommodations.
5. Propose, advance and advocate changes to state law that permit local governments to regulate conditions of employment such as prevailing wage, living wage and civil rights.