
CITY OF ANN ARBOR POLICY AGENDA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023
(FY22FY23)

The City Council adopts the following policy agenda items for FY22FY23:

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 and encourage more opportunity for virtual meeting flexibility.
4. Support improved voter enfranchisement through the modification or elimination of term limits for state legislators.
5. Oppose any efforts to disenfranchise voters, or to create unreasonable encumbrances upon an individual's right to vote.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.

9. Advocate for the inclusion of ~~gender-inclusive~~non-binary bathrooms in the ~~uniform~~Michigan building code.
10. Advocate for legislation that allows speeding fines in school zones to be increased.
11. Advocate for the adoption of a so-called *Clean Slate Bill*, as supported by the organization Safe & Just Michigan.
12. Support the expansion of the Elliott Larson Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes.
13. Advocate for a statewide ban on conversion therapy, a practice that seek to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity including efforts to change behavior or gender expression.
14. Monitor and support efforts to promote equity and eliminate systemic racism, especially in the areas of employment & economic opportunity, income/wage inequality, housing & lending policy, criminal justice & policing, access to healthcare, access to education, procurement and contracting, and voting rights.
15. Pursue changes in state law that would ~~allow for~~facilitate the elimination of racially restrictive property covenants.
16. Support any effort to amend the state's constitution to overturn the antiquated ban on marriage equality and the ban on affirmative action.
17. Support and advocate for changes to Michigan Public Health Code §§ 333.2831, to strike the requirement of sex-reassignment surgery as a requirement to request a new certificate showing a sex designation other than that designated at birth.
18. Support and advocate for changes to Michigan Department of Corrections policy and state law to require the housing of transgender and gender non-confirming individuals in accordance with their gender identity, to address transgender inmates based on the pronouns of their choice, and to require officers to search inmates based on the search policy of their gender identity.

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. Advocate for efforts to reform the Headlee Amendment and/or Proposal A to allow a reasonable and sustainable level of property tax revenue growth for municipalities in Michigan.
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 ensure appropriate revenue distribution from the legalization of marijuana and from related 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. Support and advocate for the ability of cities to incorporate inclusionary zoning practices and affordability incentives into their land development codes.
3. Oppose any legislation that pre-empts municipalities from regulating so-called "Airbnbs" or short-term rentals.
4. Support efforts to give local municipalities zoning control over the placement of and use of property for billboards.

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

1. Advocate for solid waste management legislation that focuses 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. Support adoption of the 2021 building, energy, and construction codes - including the zero code appendix.
6. Advocate for action to incent the installation of sustainable and renewable energy resources of any variety and in any form.
7. Monitor and actively engage with any effort to support the remediation and Gelman/Pall site, and any effort at the state or federal level to regulate 1,4 Dioxane, PFAS, or other known pollutants of interest to the Ann Arbor community.
8. Support and advocate for continued funding for initiatives that protect the Great Lakes water system.
9. Monitor and pursue Natural Resources Trust Fund project funding.
10. Advocate for changes in state law that would allow municipalities to ban single use plastics such as straws and plastic bags (HB 4157 of 2021).
11. Advocate for and support efforts to authorize Community Choice Aggregation, as necessary to accomplish A2Zero goals.
12. Advocate for the passage of the so-called Polluter Pays bills in the state legislature (HB 4212 and SB 116 of 2020).

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. 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.

4. 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.
5. Advocate for the passage of HB 4117, a change in state law that would give municipalities increased flexibility to set speed limits below the 85% percentile of speed in a corridor, and would also allow speed limits to be set below 25 MPH in some corridors.
6. Propose, advance, and advocate for a uniform statewide crosswalk statute that complies with the recommendations of the [City's Transportation Commission](#).
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Advocate for legalization of video surveillance and automated enforcement of speeding, traffic, and parking violations, provided that no video systems utilize facial recognition or collect personally identifiable information other than a license plate number, and ensure that license plate numbers are not retained or used for any other purpose than to adjudicate the original infraction.
10. Amend the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) act to enable the Regional Transit Authority to proceed with a funding request/transit plan that applies to a subset of the full RTA jurisdiction, as well as to enable additional funding mechanisms beyond property taxes.
11. Pursue legislation that would allow municipalities to move away from 'level of service' as a means to assess impact of projects on the road network in favor of other metrics that don't prioritize vehicular speed above all else, such as Vehicle Miles Traveled.
12. Advocate for increased transit funding, both local (AAATA) and regional.

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 safety in all workplaces.
2. Monitor and advocate for the right of employees to choose to be represented by labor organizations and support the repeal of Michigan's so-called "Right to Work" legislation.

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 LGBTQIA+ individuals in employment, housing, education, and access to public accommodations.
5. Propose, advance and advocate for changes to state law that permit local governments to regulate conditions of employment such as prevailing wage, living wage and civil rights.

As Amended and Approved by Ann Arbor City Council on ~~May 17, 2021.~~

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