

EFFECTIVE: January 12, 2026

SUBJECT: State Legislative Platform

PURPOSE

The intent of the Redwood City Legislative Platform is to convey to state legislators, policymakers, and the public where the City stands on important policy issues. This Platform provides the direction needed for the City to engage on state initiatives that affect the City’s key priorities, programs, and/or operations.

In line with the City’s adopted strategic plan, the Legislative Platform reaffirms the City’s commitment to its strategic guiding priorities of housing and homelessness, transportation, children and youth and its foundational guiding principle of equity. Redwood City defines equity as a state in which, regardless of race, income, ability, gender, citizenship status, or any other identity, every person who lives, works, studies or plays in Redwood City experiences a long, healthy life full of opportunity. This encompasses fair outcomes in:

- Housing
- Economic Empowerment
- Public Safety
- Mental & Physical Wellness
- Civic Participation & Public Accountability
- Education
- Social Inclusion
- Sustainability & Built Environment

Additionally, the City’s adopted Vision statement, *A community where people of all backgrounds and income levels can thrive*, informs the City’s legislative advocacy.

Preserving local decision making and fiscal stability including pension sustainability are underlying principles of this Platform.

Housing and Homelessness

Housing and homelessness has emerged as an especially challenging policy issue, as rising housing costs, low vacancy rates, and income disparity throughout the region threaten to displace some residents, and negatively impact the quality of life of many more. Redwood City supports efforts to meet its unique community housing needs for people of all walks of life and all income levels. The City understands that addressing housing and homelessness requires a holistic approach grounded in preservation, protection, production, and partnerships.

Working with the State and regional partners is vital to achieve measurable success. In that spirit, Redwood City outlines the following guiding policy principles for housing and homelessness:

1. Support legislation that will enable the City to meet its Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) goals including legislation that increases funding for housing and legislation that increases flexibility in housing types that count toward RHNA goals including RHNA credit for each bedroom constructed within a multi-unit development.
2. Support legislation that preserves existing affordable housing stock while protecting housing options for extremely low, very low, low- and middle-income residents.
3. Support statewide anti-displacement legislation that promotes and protects the ability of our City's most vulnerable residents, including seniors and those who are physically and/or developmentally disabled to remain in the community. Policies include tenant protection and anti-price gouging policies.
4. Support legislation that would incentivize increased production of market rate, middle, low, very low and extremely low-income housing production while retaining local land-use authority.
5. Review and evaluate legislation that would ministerially increase housing production without the ability for community engagement and City Council oversight.
6. Support legislative or funding mechanisms that promote affordable and regional housing projects to meet the unique populations of city residents—including workforce housing and those with special needs.
7. Support legislation that allows for affordable housing ownership opportunities to help create an avenue for economic mobility.
8. Support funding opportunities provided to local jurisdictions through state and/or regional bond efforts.
9. Oppose measures that attempt to tie funding dedicated to transportation with housing production requirements.
10. In lieu of the loss of revenues generated by redevelopment agencies, support legislation and state funding that would enable the City to enter into or extend local affordability covenants.
11. Review and evaluate legislation that would directly tie production mandates to the regional housing needs allocation (RHNA) process.
12. Review and evaluate legislation that would place additional time constraints on the housing element process.
13. Support legislative and/or funding mechanisms for safe parking programs—including removing all sunset provisions set to expire.
14. Support efforts to increase Federal and State funding to prevent and reduce homelessness in Redwood City and throughout San Mateo County.
15. Support legislation and/or funding mechanisms that promote regional programs to address homelessness and support formerly homeless individuals—including funding for temporary emergency shelters, rapid rehousing, and other supportive services for vulnerable populations.
16. Support measures that provide resources to address the moderate and severe mental health needs of persons experiencing homelessness.
17. Support legislation that makes first time homeownership easier.
18. Support a constitutional amendment to repeal Article 34 of the California Constitution which requires majority approval by the voters of a city or county for the development,

- construction, or acquisition of a publicly funded affordable housing project.
19. Review and evaluate ballot measures that would authorize public agencies within San Mateo County, under Article 34, to annually develop, construct, or acquire housing units for low-income persons.
 20. Review and evaluate legislation to create a State Housing Authority to produce and preserve mixed income social housing.
 21. Review and evaluate financing and funding initiatives to build social housing at the state and local levels.
 22. Support legislative efforts that provide increased funding and policy incentives for Prohousing certified jurisdictions including exemptions from legislation that diverts staff time and finite resources away from furthering our housing production goals.
 23. Oppose legislation that removes the City's ability to collect fees or places arbitrary caps on fees associated with housing development at all income levels.
 24. Support legislation that streamlines the City's housing element process by establishing clear guidelines and timelines for the Airport Land Use Commission's review.

Transportation

The City understands the importance in ensuring residents have a resilient, equitable and sustainable transportation system. Both safety and ease of travel are of utmost priority. As such, the City supports efforts to increase affordable, accessible, efficient, and safe travel throughout the City as well as the region. The City believes that close alignment with regional transportation partners is critical to meeting its goals. Redwood City outlines the following policy principles for transportation:

1. Support legislation that embraces innovation in all forms of emerging technologies, especially in ways to creatively manage congestion and the overall transportation system.
2. Support existing efforts to maximize SB 1 funding dollars to address local streets and road rehabilitation in an effort to ease congestion and safer streets.
3. Support legislation and/or funding mechanisms that will promote regional multimodal, safe and accessible transportation network.
4. Support legislation that aids the City in achieving its "zero emissions trips" goals and its expanded greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions goals.
5. In addition to increased road transportation funding, the City supports increased state funding for city-wide bicycle, and pedestrian projects and legislation that encourages the creation of walking and bicycling friendly communities.
6. Support legislation, programs and/ or funding mechanisms that will help the City achieve its goal of zero traffic fatalities and severe injuries (Vision Zero) as outlined in the city adopted "*Redwood City Walk Bike Thrive*" Final Plan.
7. Support regional funding efforts to increase access for public transportation—including funding for increase access to community colleges, schools, and community destinations.
8. Support legislation that balances local law enforcement authority for parking enforcement while taking into account potential hardships such enforcement places on our most vulnerable city residents.
9. Advocate for legislative and/or funding mechanisms that will support the Redwood City ferry terminal project.
10. Oppose legislation that shifts traffic onto local streets and roads without providing adequate

state funding to address any potential resulting effects.

11. Advocate for funding mechanisms that will support gap closure projects, such as bicycle and pedestrian bridges around major highways and roads and connect neighborhoods.
12. Review and evaluate vehicle miles traveled funding model to generate funding for maintaining local roads; support other legislative approaches to providing new funding for maintaining local roads in light of declining State gasoline tax revenues.
13. Advocate for expanding the eligible list of cities under AB 645 that help with achieving the City's Vision Zero goals.
14. Support and advocate for efforts that enable the City to effectively engage on regional transportation measures.

Children and Youth

Redwood City strives to improve our community for people of all backgrounds and income levels. We believe the foundation of this vision is to create opportunities for children and youth to grow, learn and play in a safe and healthy environment. The City believes that there are many ways to achieve these goals—chief among them, is creating equitable access to programs and services and working collaboratively with regional stakeholders and state legislative leaders to explore new policies to provide local flexibility and innovative approaches. As such, Redwood City outlines the following policy goals to support children and youth:

1. Support legislation that encourages youth development, including student enrollment, equitable access to internet and technology, and youth services.
2. Support legislation that promotes youth wellbeing and school safety.
3. Support legislation that would allow for additional childcare funding including funding dedicated to the preservation of existing childcare facilities and the creation of additional childcare facilities.
4. Support legislation that reduces barriers and/ or streamlines the process for the development, access, and affordability of more childcare facilities.
5. In situations when a school district is forced to consolidate school sites, the City supports legislation that would allow state grant dollars allocated for before and after school programs to be redirected locally (on a per-pupil formula) in order to provide continual care—particularly for underserved areas.
6. Support legislation and funding opportunities that promote the City's ability to promote physical activity—which can include the maintenance and expansion of city parks, playgrounds, sports facilities, and community facilities.
7. Support legislation and funding opportunities for youth and teen programming as an investment in the future of our community.
8. Support efforts to increase school district funding.
9. Support programs and funding efforts aimed at increasing access to mental health resources and services for all members of the Redwood City population including children and youth.
10. Support policies that increase wages and access to resources for childcare workers
11. Support legislation and funding opportunities (e.g., federal and state park grant funds, conservancy grant funds, project mitigation funds, etc.) that helps cities build better, stronger communities by providing funding to improve air, water, parks, open space, natural resources,

historic preservation, the arts, and cultural resources.

12. Oppose efforts that erode funding for vital regional and community services that negatively impact Californian's access to parks, open space, bike lanes, after school programming, youth services, food programs, facilities that promote physical activity, protect natural resources, and strengthen safety and security.
13. Promote local agency control over policies that recognize the benefits of parks and recreation facilities.
14. Support full funding of the California Library Services Act, Public Library fund, Lunch at the Library, English as a Second Language Literacy, and other local public library programs.
15. Support legislation that preserves or enhances library patron privacy.
16. Support legislation protecting the freedom to read and fostering access to library materials representing various perspectives.
17. Support legislation promoting fair pricing for libraries to purchase digital content, including eBooks, at the same rate as consumers.

Supporting Public Health

Although the State and City have ended emergency declarations related to the COVID-19 pandemic, COVID-19 and other communicable diseases continue to negatively impact residents. In many cases, vulnerable community members are at elevated risk for poor health and other outcomes associated with these diseases. The City believes that it is imperative that it do all it can to ensure the health and safety of both its community members and City staff. This includes working with County, state, and federal officials in exploring all funding opportunities that support community members, businesses, and the City's workforce. The City outlines the following Platform statements in furtherance of this important goal:

1. Support legislative efforts that provides direct City funding to offset General Fund cost increases caused by public health emergencies or initiatives.
2. Support legislative and/or funding efforts to assist the City with employee support programs, increased personal protective equipment (PPE), on-site testing, and other programs that promote employee wellness—particularly for the City's frontline essential workers.
3. Support legislation that promotes regional collaboration on public health initiatives including funding opportunities to support local businesses.

Governmental Transparency and Public Meeting Access

While the fallout from the COVID-19 global pandemic cannot be understated, the public health crisis forced local agencies to become more flexible in conducting public meeting process. As a result, local agencies across the state have utilized virtual/remote public meetings as a way to protect the public, agency staff as well as elected and appointed officials. Moreover, it has been observed that this approach has increased constituent participation in the public process while upholding the highest levels of transparency.

1. Support legislation that balances increased public trust, confidence and access to public meetings while realizing the fiscal and operational constraints of local government.
2. Support legislation that would increase civic participation and engagement including the continued allowance of legislative sub-committees, advisory committees, and commissions to

participate virtually (post COVID-19 state of emergency) without physical location posting requirements under the Ralph M. Brown Act.

3. Support legislation that would permit a minority number of council members to virtually participate in meetings without having physical location posting requirements, so long as a physical in-person meeting quorum is present.
4. Support legislation that would allow councilmembers who serve by appointment on multi-jurisdictional legislative bodies to participate remotely without having physical location posting requirements.
5. Support state funding efforts to assist with enhanced public access for members of the community.
6. Oppose legislation that increases the cost of municipal hearings through unnecessary new requirements.
7. Monitor and evaluate proposals that create new mandates under the California Public Records Act without state reimbursement provisions.
8. Monitor and evaluate proposals that require a one-size fits all approach for local record retention polices.

Other policy-related matters important to the City of Redwood City Include:

Utilities, Infrastructure, and Climate Adaptation

1. Support legislation that promotes the development and long-term sustainability of locally run Community Choice Aggregators (CCA).
2. Support legislation that promotes ratepayer equity between CCAs and other public and private electrical utilities.
3. Oppose legislative attempts that shift wildfire costs associated with investor-owned utility-caused events to the City and its residents.
4. Oppose legislation that would require that street light poles and traffic signal poles be made available for the placement of small wireless facilities without City review, engagement, and approval.
5. Support legislation that collectively and collaboratively mitigates the effects of sea level rise and flood mitigation efforts.
6. Support and monitor legislation that would increase the availability of, and funding for, water conservation, water reuse technologies, water recycling, local water storage and other water supply technologies.
7. Support legislation that would enhance the City's ability to maintain and improve City utilities and infrastructure.
8. Advocate for increased funding for stormwater management initiatives and ongoing maintenance of stormwater infrastructure.
9. Oppose legislation that would overhaul stormwater quality programs, establish new penalties and increase local cost pressures.

Solid Waste and Recycling

1. Support measures that maintain and enhance local authority and economic flexibility to regulate solid waste and recyclables.
2. Support adequate state funding for programs that would impose new requirements on solid waste recycling to help offset increased program costs.
3. Support legislation and funding opportunities that facilitate development of local and regional recycling and composting facilities.

Administration and Fiscal Sustainability

1. Support efforts to assist local governments stabilize rising pension obligations using excess State budget surplus revenues.
2. Support efforts made by San Mateo County to advance a statutory revision that properly allocates excess Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) funds.
3. Support legislation and ballot measures that would protect the City's finances, responsibilities, legal authority, or operations; support existing City policy, past action, or current City Council strategic priorities; or support specific programs, services or infrastructure utilized in Redwood City.
4. Oppose legislation and ballot measures that would negatively impact the City's finances, responsibilities, legal authority, or operations; negatively impact existing City policy, past action, or current City Council strategic priorities; or negatively impact specific programs, services or infrastructure utilized in Redwood City.
5. Support legislation or ballot measures that would provide additional tools to fund the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public infrastructure, affordable housing, or permanent supportive housing, or the acquisition or lease of real property for those purposes.
6. Oppose legislation that undermines the City's authority to contract for professional services or imposes new, costly delays in the contracting process.

Public Safety and Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

1. Support legislation, ballot measures, policy and funding mechanisms for a fire and police regional training center.
2. Support legislation, ballot measures, policy and funding mechanisms that support mental health and trauma intervention programs for first responders.
3. Review and evaluate legislation that recognizes increased EMS response times due to increases in density, traffic calming and increased call volume.
4. Support legislation that strengthens community-oriented public safety policies and practices, which may include efforts to incorporate mental health service providers when appropriate.
5. Support legislation that strengthens local law enforcement and encourages regional collaboration for deployment of resources and specialized taskforce operations.
6. Support legislation that strengthens penalties for repeat retail crime offenders.
7. Review and evaluate legislation on implementation of best practices regarding law enforcement procedures.