



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

Report: **Legislative Update**

1. Motion to note and file report
2. Motion providing direction on bills as recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women

COUNCIL ACTION

Item Type: Action Item

Approved for August 8, 2023 **calendar**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides City Council with an update of state legislation over the course of the past year, which includes information about the state budget as well as the bills that the City of Glendale is supporting, opposing, and watching. This report also asks City Council to consider six bills for support as recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

The City's Legislative Platform supports legislation in line with Council's Priorities in the FY2023-24 Workplan, as follows:

- Financial Sustainability
- Economic Development
- Operational Efficiency
- Mobility, Traffic & Pedestrian Safety

RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully recommends that the City Council note and file the report regarding the legislative update. Staff also seeks Council's direction on support for legislation recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women.

BACKGROUND

The City of Glendale's Legislative Platform outlines the City's position on legislative matters and serves as the foundation for the City to support, remain neutral, or oppose positions on legislation. Based on the 2022 Legislative Platform, the City has, with the assistance of its lobbyists, Emanuels Jones & Associates (EJA), monitored and taken action on legislation when appropriate. The City of Glendale's Legislative Platform is included as Exhibit 1 of this report. For the 2023 calendar year, the California State Legislature reconvened on January 4, 2023, for the first year of its two-year session. They introduced 2,632 bills by the February 17th deadline. The State Legislature is currently on summer recess, and will reconvene on August 14, 2023. The last day for each house to pass bills is September 14, after which point they will go into fall recess. The Governor will have until October 14 to sign or veto all bills passed by the Legislature.

ANALYSIS

State Budget

In May 2023, Governor Newsom issued his May budget revise which indicated an additional \$9 billion deficit from January, projecting a total gap of \$31.5 billion in the 2023-24 state budget.

The 2023-2024 State Budget enacted on June 27th reflects a \$310.8 billion spending plan and notably does not include any direct cuts to city core programs or redirection of local government funds.

Highlights from this year's budget include:

Infrastructure Package

The budget includes the Governor's Infrastructure Permitting Reform package to facilitate and streamline project approval for major infrastructure projects to maximize California's share of competitive federal infrastructure dollars, expedite and streamline the completion of major infrastructure for future housing, and expedite the

implementation of projects that meet the state’s economic, climate and social goals including water recycling, energy transmission, and transit and rail construction. Of note, the package does not apply to housing development projects. The legislation includes methods to offer a streamlined and process for project delivery to reduce project timeframes and costs. It also expedites court review and streamlines documentation. It speeds up judicial review to avoid long delays and advance projects without reducing the environmental and government transparency benefits of CEQA.

Investments in Housing and Homelessness Prevention

The budget provides \$1 billion in additional funding for the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) grant program, so that our local agencies have the resources to continue tackling homelessness.

The budget also makes available \$2 million to qualified immigrant rights organizations to provide immigrant individuals with consistent, comprehensive support when entering a public shelter.

Additionally, the budget will support homeowners through additional investments in the Multifamily Housing Program and Cal Home Program, while restoring funds to support accessory dwelling units and the Dream for All program to assist first-time homebuyers.

Transportation

The budget restores the full \$2 billion Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) budget giving agencies the flexibility to spend those dollars on transit operations which improve services throughout Southern California.

Students, Youth, and Children Education and Development

The budget provides \$2.5 million to support the East Los Angeles Community College Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center whose mission is to accelerate startup and growth-phase minority, women, veteran, formerly incarcerated, and LGBTQIA owned business in the communities of East Los Angeles.

The budget increases funding for student housing and student basic needs at the university systems and community colleges, and significant enrollment increases at both UC and CSU.

The budget also includes \$50 million annually until 2026-27 to expand the California Youth Jobs Corps at Cal Volunteers to include eligible AB 540 California Dream Act students, DACA recipients and immigrant youth with work authorization.

Finally, the budget includes a childcare funding cost of living adjustment, increasing funding by 25%, which is intended to stabilize the childcare sector and help parents struggling to find providers.

Workforce Investments

The budget extends the California Film & Television Tax Credit Program for 2025 to 2030 at \$330 million per year to attract more production to California, while creating jobs and increasing opportunities in these industries for diverse communities.

The budget includes \$45 million in funding to establish health and safety protections for domestic workers under California's Occupational Safety and Health Act, and allocates \$500,000 to convene a working group consisting of state and local stakeholders to explore ways of creating and supporting a permanent fund for excluded immigrant workers to access unemployment benefits paid for by their employers.

The budget restores/grants:

- \$25 million for the California Workplace Outreach Program to provide workers' rights education by organizations that support workers in California's low-wage industries, who face hazards and exploitation.
- \$15 million for the Women in Construction Priority Unit, created to assist and provide resources to women in the construction workforce.
- \$5 million in one-time funds to support the Firefighter Cancer Prevention and Research Program to reduce the incidence of cancer among California firefighters.
- Invests \$1,000,000 to create a strategic cultural equity plan to guide the resources and investments needed to build California's creative economy, which includes fine and performing arts, and other related services.

California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program

In 2021, the State established the California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program (CWWAPP) and funded the program with federal COVID Fiscal Recovery Funds from the American Rescue Plan of 2021. Of the \$27 billion California received, the Legislature appropriated \$985 million to CWWAPP for water and wastewater arrearages through June 15, 2021. As of January of 2023, there was still over \$300 million of unspent fund remaining in the account. The budget language extends the eligibility window for CWWAPP funds to December 31, 2022. These funds are allocated to utilities, including Glendale Water and Power, to benefit customers with arrearages.

Legislation

The City is currently tracking 147 pieces of legislation, which are provided as Exhibit 2 of this report, and include the City's position on each bill. Below are significant bills of note to the City:

Transportation

[AB 645 (Friedman) Vehicles: speed safety pilot program.]

Position: Co-Sponsor

Summary: Speed safety system pilot program which would authorize the cities of Los Angeles, San Jose, San Francisco, Long Beach, Oakland, and Glendale to install speed camera systems in school zones, on high-injury streets, and in areas with a history of speed racing

[AB 1082 (Kalra) Authority to remove vehicles.]

Position: Watch

Summary: Peace officers and other public employees are allowed to remove or immobilize a vehicle if the owner or person in control has not responded to 5 or more parking violations within a designated time period. There could be a lien sale to cover towing and storage expenses. This bill would only allow agents of public higher educational institutions (like UCs, CSUs, and Community Colleges) to do this, and expand payment plans for the violators. It also would give people in juvenile or prison facilities a waivable penalty, and give those who do not qualify as low-income a payment plan option. Beginning in 2027, the Department of Motor Vehicles will refuse to renew registration for a vehicle if the owner/lessee has 3 or more unpaid violations or opts into their notification program.

[AB 1594 (Garcia) Medium-and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles: public agency utilities.]

Position: Support

Summary: The Air Quality Improvement Program provides funding for projects related to reducing air pollution and it also includes a program to make it easier to get financing and other support for transitioning vehicle fleets to zero-emission vehicles. The bill also says that when a traditional utility-specialized vehicle that is at the end of its life needs to be replaced, public agencies like electric, water, and wastewater utilities can get a zero-emission vehicle to do the job.

[SB 55 (Umberg) Vehicles: catalytic converters.]

Position: Watch

Summary: This bill would require core recyclers that accept or sell used catalytic converters to keep specific records about sales and purchases, and they would have to provide payment in the form of a check, credit card, or other traceable form of payment other than cash. It would also be illegal for motor vehicle dealers or retailers to sell new or used vehicles with catalytic converters that aren't marked with the vehicle identification number.

Housing and Homelessness

[AB 1490 (Lee) Affordable housing development projects: adaptive reuse.]

Position: Watch

Summary: This bill requires local agencies to give priority to, and increase funding for, affordable housing projects that involve "adaptive reuse". Adaptive reuse means retrofitting and repurposing of a residential or commercial building that currently allows temporary dwelling or occupancy. The bill would also require a local source of funding to include adaptive reuse as an eligible project.

[AB 1607 (Carrillo) Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency.]

Position: Watch

Summary: The Los Angeles County Regional Housing Finance Act established the Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency to increase the supply of affordable housing in the County of Los Angeles. This bill would authorize the Agency to transfer a portion of the revenue raised by a tax measure to the County of Los Angeles for programs that provide supports and services to prevent and combat homelessness. It would also limit the Agency's jurisdiction to prevent it from performing or undertaking any functions related to supports and services provided to people experiencing homelessness.

[SB 7 (Blakespear) The Homeless Housing Obligation Act.]

Position: Watch

Summary: 2-YEAR BILL. This law outlines a plan for addressing homelessness by requiring all cities and counties to ensure that homeless individuals have access to housing opportunities. This means by January 1, 2030, each city and county must have

a housing obligation plan in place to guarantee that homeless individuals can experience safe and secure housing. This plan must include goals, completion timelines, projects, and progress towards reducing the number of homeless individuals in the jurisdiction. Additionally, the bill would require "homeless" to be a new income category when assessing the regional housing need.

[SB 423 (Wiener) Land use: streamlined housing approvals: multifamily housing developments.]

Position: Watch

Summary: The bill would provide a streamlined ministerial approval process for certain multifamily housing developments that meet certain objective planning standards, such as affordable rent and wages to construction workers. It would extend the process to 2036, provide an exemption for developments in equestrian districts, modify the planning standards, and provide for public input prior to the approval in certain areas. It would require local governments to approve the development if they determine it is consistent with the planning standards and would prohibit local governments from requiring compliance with post entitlement requirements before approval.

[SB 584 (Limon) Labor force housing: Short-Term Rental Tax Law.]

Position: Watch

Summary: 2-YEAR BILL. This bill would create the Labor force Housing Financing Act of 2023. It would provide assistance for emergency housing, multifamily housing, farmworker housing, and downpayment assistance for first-time homebuyers. It would also establish the Labor force Housing Fund in the State Treasury to provide money to create labor force housing by public entities, local housing authorities and mission-driven nonprofit housing providers. It would also impose a new 15% tax on short-term rental occupancies for 30 days or less.

[SB 684 (Caballero) Land use: streamlined approval processes: development projects of 10 or fewer residential units on urban lots under 5 acres.]

Position: Watch

Summary: This bill would allow local agencies to ministerially approve certain conditional applications for housing development projects, such as 10 or fewer residential units, subject to certain minimum parcel size and density requirements, and located on a lot zoned for multifamily or single-family dwelling that can be up to 5 acres in size. The local agencies must approve or deny the application within 60 days, and if they do not respond within that time the application is automatically approved.

Revenue and Taxation

[AB 1679 (Santiago) Transaction and use taxes: County of Los Angeles: homelessness.]

Position: Watch

Summary: This bill would allow the County of Los Angeles to impose a new tax of up to 0.50%. This tax would combine with other existing taxes and exceed the 2% rate limit set by existing law. All of the revenue from this new tax would be dedicated to addressing and preventing homelessness in the County. In order for the tax to take effect, the voters of the county must approve an ordinance proposing the tax in accordance with certain requirements.

[SB 734 (Rubio) Property tax: possessory interests.]

Position: Oppose

Summary: Under existing laws, all property - including possessory interests - must be taxed at their full value. Possessory interests are independent and exclusive rights to land or improvements, except as provided by law. When the state or local government enters into a contract to create a possessory interest, there must be a statement saying the property is taxable and the party holding the possessory interest may need to pay taxes. This bill states that a tenancy of a low-income household in a publicly owned housing project with affordable rents will not create a possessory interest, and it sets up a new program for local tax officials.

Human Resources

[AB 1484 (Zbur) Temporary Public Employees]

Position: Watch

Summary: This bill relates to temporary employees hired by public employers in California. It requires the public employer to provide the temporary employee with their job description, wage rates, eligibility for benefits, anticipated length of employment, and procedures to apply for open permanent positions. It would also require the temporary employees to be automatically included in the same bargaining unit as the permanent employees as requested.

Legislation Recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women

At this time, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is recommending support of six bills to Council for their approval on behalf of the City of Glendale. These bills were recommended based on the CSW's adopted legislative platform, which reflects the following priorities:

1. Women in the Workplace
2. Women's Health
3. Women's Safety
4. Women in the Budget
5. Women in the Military and Military Families
6. Women in Postsecondary Education.

The six bills supported by CSW Include:

[AB 246 (Papan, D Product safety: menstrual products: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.)]

CSW Recommendation: Support

Summary: The bill would require a manufacturer of a menstrual product to provide persons that offer the product for sale or distribution in the state with a certificate of compliance stating that the menstrual product is in compliance with these provisions and does not contain any regulated PFAS.

[AB 1015 (Calderon) Diaper and wipe distribution program.]

CSW Recommendation: Support

Summary: This bill requires the Department of Social Services to administer a program to provide diapers and wipes to low-income families with infants or toddlers. The department will use existing infrastructure and contracts from their Diaper Bank Program to start distributing the diapers and wipes. The department will also require participating entities to report, on a quarterly basis, the number of diapers and wipes distributed, and the total amount of money spent. Finally, the bill requires the department to make the information available online and make sure the funds are spent within 36 months.

[AB 1203 (Bains) Sales and use taxes: exemptions: breast pumps and related supplies.]

CSW Recommendation: Support

Summary: This bill on or after April 1, 2024 and before April 1, 2029 would make it so that breast pumps, breast pump kits, breast pump collection and storage supplies, and breast pads will be exempt from a sales and use tax which is the gross receipts from the sale in the state. This bill would also have specific goals and data collection requirement for how this tax expenditure would be used. It will also make it so that the state does not have to reimburse counties and cities for lost revenue from this tax exemption.

[AB 1432 (Carrillo) Health Care Coverage]

CSW Recommendation: Support

Summary: The existing law, the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975, requires health care service plans and health insurers to provide equal coverage to partners of employees or policyholders as they provide to spouses. This bill would extend this law and require that health care service plans, policies, or certificates of health insurance have to provide coverage for abortion, abortion-related services, and gender-affirming care to anyone in California, no matter where they live. This could be punishable by law.

[SB 257 (Portantino) Health care coverage: diagnostic imaging.]

CSW Recommendation: Support

Summary: This bill would require health care service plans, policies of disability insurance and self-insured employee welfare benefit plans issued, amended or renewed on or after January 1, 2025 to provide coverage for screening mammography, diagnostic breast imaging, and any medically necessary breast imaging following an abnormal mammography result. This coverage would be required to be provided without any cost sharing (e.g. deductibles, co-payments, co-insurance, etc.). The bill would also require coverage of any breast imaging needed for an enrollee with a risk factor associated with breast cancer, unless otherwise specified. However, this bill does not require the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for any costs due to implementing these mandates.

[SB 260 (Menjivar) CalWORKs: supportive services.]

CSW Recommendation: Support

Summary: This bill would provide financial assistance in the form of a \$20 payment per month to menstruating people in California between the ages of 10 and 55 who are qualified for the CalWORKs program. The State Department of Social Services, the County Welfare Directors Association of California, and the California Statewide Automated Welfare System will work together to develop and implement the necessary system changes by April 1, 2025. The bill would also create a continuous appropriation from the General Fund to defray a portion of county costs for implementing the bill and provide that the state will reimburse local agencies and school districts for any mandated costs.

STAKEHOLDERS/OUTREACH

Staff and City Council regularly take requests from stakeholders into consideration when considering supporting or opposing state legislation.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA/NEPA)

The legislative update provided to the City Council is exempt from environmental review because it can be seen with certainty that the act of providing information about state legislation would not have any effect on the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

This item is exempt from campaign disclosure requirements.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: Note and file the legislative update as received and approve support for the list of bills recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women.

Alternative 2: Note and file the legislative update as received, provide alternative direction on the list of bills as recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women.

Alternative 3: Consider any other alternatives not proposed by staff.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Prepared by:

Stephanie Mkhlian, Senior Administrative Analyst
Dr. Suzie Abajian, City Clerk

Approved by:

Roubik Golanian, City Manager

EXHIBITS/ATTACHMENTS

1. City of Glendale's Legislative Platform
2. Legislative Tracking List