

LEGISLATIVE POLICY GUIDE

2021



La Quinta
CALIFORNIA

2021 LEGISLATIVE POLICY GUIDE

The Legislative Policy Guide (Guide) is a tool for the City to navigate through the legislative landscape. This document details the City's policy positions on priority issues and provides a comprehensive approach to allow staff to take immediate action on pressing legislation under City Council direction. The guide identifies legislative trends and active legislation that may have an impact on the City's interests and affairs and supplements other Council-established goals and policies. It is intended to be updated on a regular basis.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

I. ENHANCE LOCAL AUTHORITY

The City of La Quinta is a charter city that supports legislation aimed at preserving local authority. Additional regulations or mandates that undermine local control are detrimental to quality service delivery.

II. SUSTAIN FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The City of La Quinta has been able to successfully maneuver through redevelopment dissolution and economic downturn through prudent, disciplined spending and cost-effective stewardship of City resources. Therefore, the City supports measures that promote fiscal stability.

III. FOSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The City of La Quinta generally supports legislative efforts designed to foster economic development tools and funding options for effective service delivery.

IV. PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS

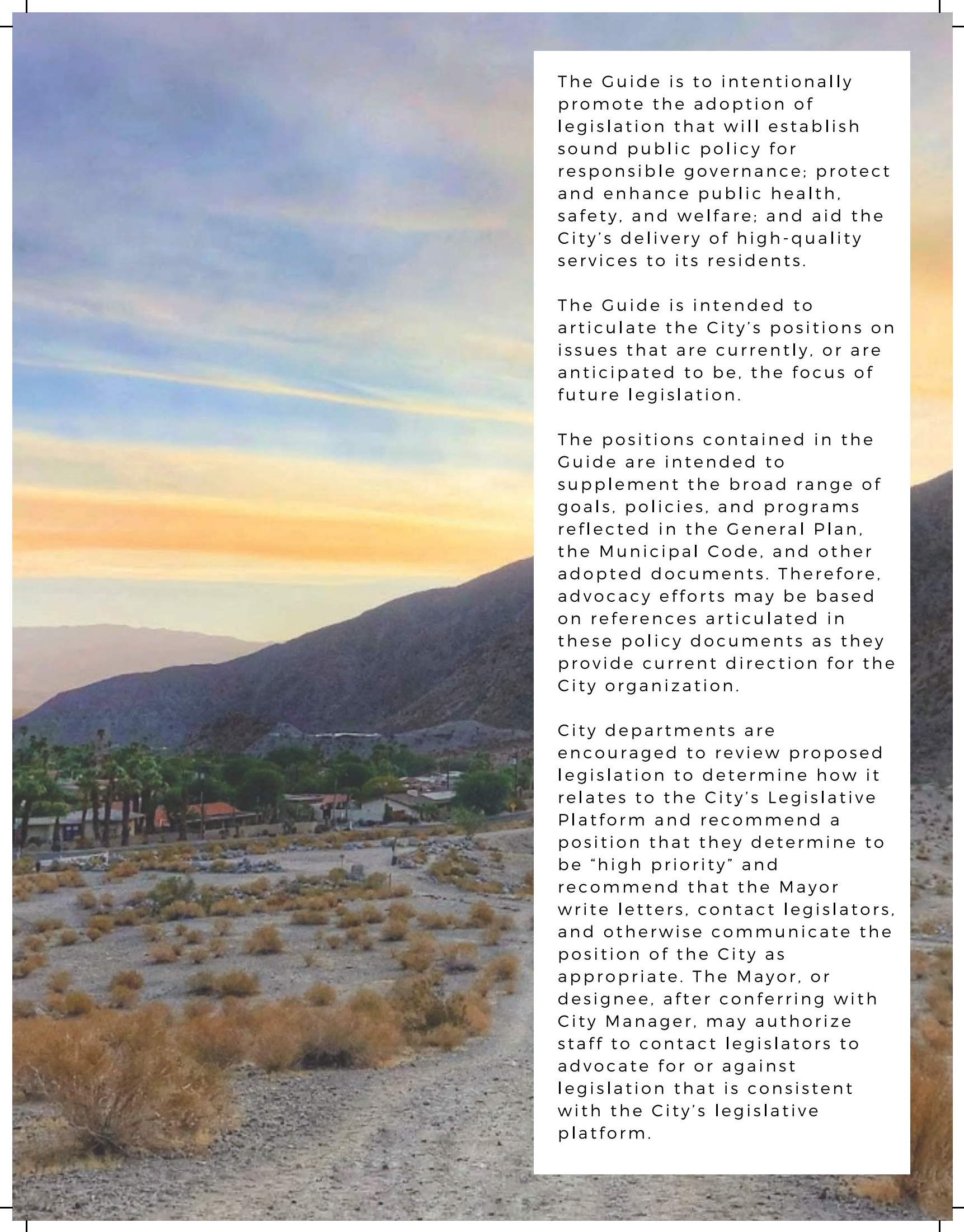
The City of La Quinta actively seeks to promote a healthy and vibrant community that provides various recreational activities and opportunities for residents to enjoy the unique benefits of La Quinta.

V. SUPPORT PUBLIC SAFETY

The City of La Quinta strongly supports community safety by providing high-quality law enforcement and fire services and maintaining health and safety standards for its residents.

VI. ENCOURAGE PRESERVATION OF ENVIRONMENT

The City of La Quinta is a thriving desert oasis that supports a proactive and thoughtful stance regarding the enhancement and conservation of the desert environment that surrounds us including the Salton Sea.



The Guide is to intentionally promote the adoption of legislation that will establish sound public policy for responsible governance; protect and enhance public health, safety, and welfare; and aid the City's delivery of high-quality services to its residents.

The Guide is intended to articulate the City's positions on issues that are currently, or are anticipated to be, the focus of future legislation.

The positions contained in the Guide are intended to supplement the broad range of goals, policies, and programs reflected in the General Plan, the Municipal Code, and other adopted documents. Therefore, advocacy efforts may be based on references articulated in these policy documents as they provide current direction for the City organization.

City departments are encouraged to review proposed legislation to determine how it relates to the City's Legislative Platform and recommend a position that they determine to be "high priority" and recommend that the Mayor write letters, contact legislators, and otherwise communicate the position of the City as appropriate. The Mayor, or designee, after conferring with City Manager, may authorize staff to contact legislators to advocate for or against legislation that is consistent with the City's legislative platform.

LEGISLATION IMPACTING US

The public policy landscape is constantly changing, and it is incumbent on the City to stay up to date on the latest developments. Anticipating the effects emergent legislation may have on the community is therefore imperative. Below is a short outline of impact in key areas.

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS

GOVERNOR NEWSOM'S ZERO-EMISSION 2023 EXECUTIVE ORDER N-79-20

In September 2020, the Governor announced an executive order that directs the State to require that, by 2035, all new cars and passenger trucks sold in California be zero-emission vehicles. Transportation currently accounts for more than 50 percent of California's Greenhouse Gas Emissions. The order also directs the State to take more actions to look at transitioning away from fossil fuels while reviewing oil extraction methodology.

GOVERNOR'S TRANSPORTATION BUDGET

The Governor's budget provides a total of \$22.4 billion from all fund sources for the state's transportation departments and programs in 2021-22. This is a net decrease of \$3.1 billion, or 13 percent, fewer estimated expenditures for the current year. Specifically, the budget includes \$14.5 billion for the California Department of Transportation, \$612 million for the High-Speed Rail Authority, \$2.7 billion for the California Highway Patrol (CHP), \$1.4 billion for the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), \$822 million for transit assistance, and \$1.8 billion for various other transportation programs.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Based on a forecasted need of 1.8 million new homes by 2025, the Senate introduced a housing package called the "Building Opportunities for All" Senate Housing Package. It is the goal of this housing package for each bill to individually address a variety of causes that have contributed to the lack of housing production in the state.

SB 5 (ATKINS) AFFORDABLE HOUSING BOND ACT OF 2022

Senate Bill 5 Enacts the Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2022 which places a \$6.5 billion dollar bond before the voters on the November 2022 ballot to fund affordable rental housing and homeownership programs.

SB 6 (CABALLERO) THE NEIGHBORHOOD HOMES ACT: LOCAL PLANNING: HOUSING: COMMERCIAL ZONES

Senate Bill 6 authorizes residential development on existing lots currently zoned for commercial office and retail space such as strip malls or large “big box” retail spaces. This bill requires the development of residential units be at a minimum density to accommodate affordable housing and abide by existing local planning and development ordinances.

SB 7 (ATKINS) THE HOUSING + JOBS EXPANSION & EXTENSION ACT: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY: JOBS AND ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2021

The Housing + Jobs Expansion & Extension Act - Senate Bill 7 seeks to improve the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process by extending and expanding provisions of AB 900, which streamlined paperwork and expedited legal challenges to large, multi-benefit housing, energy, and manufacturing projects. This bill extends the 2021 ‘sunset’ of AB 900, which created jobs and investment in the state, through 2026.

SB 8 (SKINNER) HOUSING CRISIS ACT OF 2019

Senate Bill 8 extends the provisions of SB 330, the Housing Crisis Act of 2019, until 2030. This bill adds clarifying language to ensure the intent of SB 330 to streamline the production of housing that meets a local jurisdiction’s existing zoning and other rules is met.

SB 9 (ATKINS) CALIFORNIA HOUSING OPPORTUNITY & MORE EFFICIENCY (HOME) ACT: HOUSING DEVELOPMENT: APPROVALS

California Housing Opportunity & More Efficiency (HOME) Act - Senate Bill 9 promotes neighborhood-scale residential development by streamlining the process for a homeowner to create a duplex or subdivide an existing lot in residential areas. This bill builds on the approach of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and expands options for homeowners.

SB 10 (WIENER) PLANNING AND ZONING: HOUSING DEVELOPMENT: DENSITY

Senate Bill 10 allows cities to upzone areas close to job centers, transit, and existing urbanized areas to allow up to ten units without having to go through the lengthy CEQA process.



PUBLIC SAFETY

SB 45 (PORTANTINO) WILDFIRE PREVENTION, SAFE DRINKING WATER, DROUGHT PREPARATION, AND FLOOD PROTECTION BOND ACT OF 2022

The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018, approved by the voters as Proposition 68 at the June 5, 2018, statewide primary direct election, authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4,100,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program. This bill would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$5,595,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for a wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program.



ENVIRONMENT

AB 1397 (GARCIA) PUBLIC CONTRACTS: CALIFORNIA LITHIUM ECONOMY ACT

The California Lithium Economy Act would revise the definition of “eligible materials” to include lithium, commencing January 1, 2023. The bill would require an awarding authority, by January 1, 2025, to require the successful bidder for a contract that includes electric vehicles to be provided as part of that contract, to disclose the sources of lithium used in the manufacture of the electric vehicles’ batteries. The bill would also require, by January 1, 2035, that at least 35% of the lithium used in electric vehicle batteries pursuant to a contract under the act be produced in California. The Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area is home to the largest deposits of lithium in North America, with the potential to supply more than one-third of worldwide lithium demand, according to experts. Accelerating lithium development at the Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area could anchor a domestic battery supply chain. Developing lithium from the Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resources Area could also enable the creation of numerous revenue streams from California’s enormous purchasing power.

AB 1021 (MAYES) IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT

This bill would require the commissions for the County of Imperial and the County of Riverside to conduct and publish on their internet websites a joint study of voting rights in the Imperial Irrigation District, options for providing electricity in the Imperial Irrigation District, and options for alternative governance structures for the Imperial Irrigation District board of directors, as specified. The bill would make the joint study contingent upon funding by the Legislature and would require the study to be published no later than 18 months after receipt of funds from the Legislature. By imposing new duties on the specified local agency formation commissions, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Additionally, this bill would require the membership of the board of directors of the Imperial Irrigation District to increase from 5 to 6 members, with the additional director being a nonvoting member with all of the other rights as the existing directors and meeting certain qualifications. The bill would require the nonvoting director to be appointed by the county supervisor who represents the largest amount of population in the electrical service area. The bill would require the nonvoting director to serve a term of 4 years. The bill would require the nonvoting director to represent the electrical service area and to live in the service area at the time of their appointment and throughout their tenure on the board, and if the nonvoting director relocates outside of the electrical service area, the director's membership on the board would terminate and a new member would be required to be appointed. The bill would require that, if the Imperial Irrigation District no longer serves electricity to the electrical service area, the nonvoting director's membership on the board terminate, and membership of the board of directors decrease from 6 to 5.



COVID-19 RECOVERY

GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED 21-22 STATE BUDGET

Governor Gavin Newsom submitted his 2021-22 State Budget proposal on January 8, 2021, to the Legislature - a \$227.2 billion fiscal blueprint that provides funding for immediate COVID-19 response and relief efforts with claims to target Californians who need it most while making investments for an equitable, inclusive and broad-based economic recovery. The following is an overview while noting it is subject to change before approval.

- \$372 million for the administration of vaccines across all 58 counties.
- \$2.4 billion for the Golden State Stimulus - a \$600 state payment to low-income workers who were eligible to receive the Earned Income Tax Credit in 2019, as well as 2020 Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) filers.

- \$575 million grants to small businesses and small non-profit cultural institutions disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.
- \$70 million to provide immediate and targeted fee relief for small businesses including personal services and restaurants.
- \$2 billion targeted specifically to support and accelerate safe returns to in-person instruction starting in February, with priority for returning the youngest children (transitional kindergarten through 2nd grade) and those with the greatest needs first.
- \$1.1 billion immediate relief for small businesses
- \$777.5 million for a California Jobs Initiative to provide incentives targeted at accelerating investment and job creation.
- The Budget proposes an overall \$353 million investment in workforce development. It includes a \$250 million one-time General Fund to support workforce development and better linkages between higher education and gainful employment.
- The Budget includes the creation of a new Office of Health Care Affordability.
- The Budget proposes to implement the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative to reduce variation and complexity in the state's Medi-Cal program, manage member risk and need and improve outcomes through payment reform.
- Through Project Homekey - a nation-leading effort to acquire motels for homeless housing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic - the state has awarded \$846 million to 51 local agencies to secure over 6,000 units of permanent housing for individuals and families who had been homeless. The Budget includes \$1.75 billion one-time General Fund to purchase additional motels, develop short-term community mental health facilities and purchase or preserve housing dedicated to seniors.



POLICY POSITIONS




ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- The City of La Quinta supports economic development policies and funding mechanisms that foster a hospitable and thriving business environment.
- Considering budget shortfalls, the City supports public-private development opportunities that encourage economic activity and promote health and wellness within the City.
- The City supports retaining financial flexibility and authority with regard to redevelopment dissolution matters.
- Opposes measures that would make the City more dependent on the State for financial stability.
- Supports legislation that facilitates the recoupment of City costs derived from State and Federal mandates.

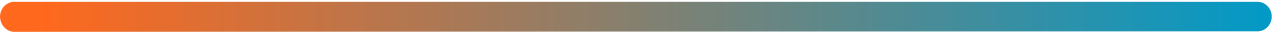
FINANCE

- The City of La Quinta is a charter city that relies on contract services to provide efficient service delivery.
- Opposes any change in revenue allocations that would negatively affect local governments.
- Opposes any action that would preempt local control over locally imposed taxes and other funding sources.
- Oppose any unfunded mandates.

HOUSING

- Supports legislation that develops programs to increase housing opportunities to meet growing demand in our area.
 - Supports legislative efforts that provide incentives to local governments and private developers to develop additional housing opportunities including affordable housing for low-income and disabled seniors, adults, and veterans.
- 

ENVIRONMENT

- The City of La Quinta supports the preservation of our environment.
 - Supports financial incentives for water reuse and legislation that encourages the treatment of municipal wastewater for non-potable reuse and promotes the development of reasonable regulations to encourage and maximize the responsible use of reclaimed water as an alternative to California's fresh water supply.
- 

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

- The City of La Quinta supports measures that provide financing tools for increasing effective, clean transportation.
- Supports clean energy alternatives that are adequately funded.
- Supports State clean energy programs that are financially viable and direct funding to local government to invest in clean energy.
- The City of La Quinta supports developing vital infrastructure and streamlining the local, state, and federal process for infrastructure development to better meet local needs.
- Supports legislation that strengthens local authority over land use and infrastructure development.


PUBLIC SAFETY

- The City of La Quinta generally supports legislation that strengthens local law enforcement and safeguards communities.
- Supports measures aimed at providing sustained support for law enforcement to deal with the additional supervision and enforcement requirements of State-mandated realignment provisions.
- Opposes expansion of "early release" for offenders without necessary mechanisms in place for local law enforcement to provide corresponding services.

TOURISM

- The City of La Quinta strongly supports attracting tourism.
- Supports efforts that help promote the City's hospitality, parks and recreation, health and wellness offerings, and entertainment venues.
- Supports working closely with public and private agencies to help boost advertisement and other means of garnering tourism.
- Supports measures that provide funding for parks and recreation programs.





MONTHLY OVERVIEW LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR 2021

BELOW IS AN OVERVIEW THAT SUMMARIZES MAJOR LEGISLATIVE EVENTS AND KEY DATES THAT OCCUR MONTH TO MONTH.

JANUARY: THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S LAWS GO INTO EFFECT DURING THIS MONTH. LEGISLATURE RECONVENES TO DISCUSS THE NEW YEAR OF LEGISLATION AHEAD, AND ALL BILL REQUESTS MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH. BUDGETS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE GOVERNOR DURING THE BEGINNING PORTION OF THE MONTH.

FEBRUARY: THE LAST DAY FOR BILLS TO BE INTRODUCED OCCURS ON FEBRUARY 19.

MARCH: SPRING RECESS UPON ADJOURNMENT. MARCH 25 - APRIL 5.

APRIL: LAST DAY FOR POLICY COMMITTEES TO HEAR AND REPORT TO FISCAL COMMITTEES FISCAL BILLS BEING INTRODUCED, APRIL 30.

MAY: POLICY COMMITTEES MUST REPORT NON-FISCAL BILLS BY MAY 7. POLICY COMMITTEES ARE GIVEN THEIR LAST DAY TO MEET BEFORE CONVENING IN JUNE NEAR THE END OF THIS MONTH AND REPORT FLOOR BILLS FOR THEIR HOUSE.

JUNE: FLOOR SESSION CONDUCTED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH, THE LAST DAY FOR BILLS TO BE PASSED OUT OF THE HOUSE OF ORIGIN OCCURS, AND THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS RESUME. ALL BUDGETS MUST BE PASSED BY THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH.

JULY: THE LAST DAY FOR POLICY COMMITTEES TO MEET AND REPORT BILLS OCCURS DURING THE MONTH BEFORE SUMMER RECESS BEGINS, JULY 16 - AUGUST 16.

AUGUST: LEGISLATURE RECONVENES FROM SUMMER RECESS. THE LAST DAY FOR FISCAL COMMITTEES TO REPORT BILLS TO THE FLOOR OCCURS AT THE END OF THE MONTH. FLOOR SESSION BEGINS AT THE END OF THE MONTH AS WELL.

SEPTEMBER: THE LAST DAY TO AMEND BILLS ON THE FLOOR OCCURS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH, WITH THE LAST DAY FOR EACH HOUSE TO PASS BILLS OCCURRING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH. INTERIM STUDY RECESS BEGINS SHORTLY AFTER. ADDITIONALLY, OCTOBER 10 IS THE LAST DAY FOR GOVERNOR TO SIGN OR VETO BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE BEFORE SEPTEMBER 10 AND ARE IN THE GOVERNOR'S POSSESSION ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 10.