CITY OF ARLINGTON

2021-2022 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
ARLINGTON, THE AMERICAN DREAM CITY

Arlington, located in the center of the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington metropolitan area, is The American Dream City. We are home to the Texas Rangers’ Globe Life Field, the Dallas Cowboys’ AT&T Stadium, the General Motors Arlington Assembly Plant, D.R. Horton, Six Flags Over Texas, Texas Live!, the University of Texas at Arlington, and the Tarrant County College Southeast Campus and the proud future home of the National Medal of Honor Museum as well as a host of global, domestic and family-owned businesses. The American pride in our more than 398,000 culturally diverse residents is undeniable.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The City of Arlington supports legislation that requires additional training and experience for jurisdictional emergency managers as well as supports additional direct and flexible emergency management funds to cities, local public health authorities and emergency operation centers.

In order to address economic hardship due to natural and man-made disasters, the City also supports additional economic support for residents, small business assistance, the expansion of telework resources, the expansion of E-rate funding beyond schools and libraries, and other legislation that provides necessary resources to cities.

RACIAL EQUITY

The City of Arlington is committed to true equity for its residents of all racial, ethnic and national origins. To achieve this, the City of Arlington seeks the passage of legislation that breaks down systemic racial inequality and uplifts all communities.

Legislation includes but is not limited to policing, increasing access to broadband, additional resources to better digital connectivity of all residents, non-profit capacity building especially for MWBE-run non-profits and non-profits that serve the minority community, additional resources for Career and Technical Education, government procurement standard changes that allow for more opportunity for MWBE vendors and employment practices that promote diversity in executive leadership.

LEGISLATIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

As a general policy, the City of Arlington seeks to maintain decision making in the hands of local elected leaders and preserve the wellbeing of its residents and economy. Arlington City Council acknowledges that Arlington residents have the right to influence decisions impacting their home through the election of council members, participating in public hearings and attending town halls among other things. The City will also form strategic partnerships with cities, political subdivisions and private sector entities, like NLC and USCM, when their adopted positions are in alignment with the City’s legislative objectives and goals. Collaboratively, the City will seek legislative solutions which:

• Maintain or enhance municipal decision-making authority in the areas of public health and safety, public property, conservation, revenues and economic development.

• Eliminate or reduce the impact of unfunded mandates.

• Provide an equitable distribution of federal funds; and

• Address the needs of large metropolitan cities.
**PUBLIC SAFETY**

In order to provide the level of public safety deserved of its residents, the Arlington City Council supports legislation that:

- Creates a national commission to study and recommend comprehensive improvements to the criminal justice system, including funding for community policing, efforts to strengthen police-community relations and police brutality;
- Reforms the mental health system and increases mental health funding and training;
- Assists local government with challenges associated with implementing text to 9-1-1 technology; and,
- Fully funds the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), the Department of Justice COPS Office, Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program.

The City of Arlington opposes proposals to allocate funding from the above programs solely to the states; any proposal to reform or modernize these programs must continue to allocate funds directly to cities.

**TRANSPORTATION**

From ground to air transportation, the City of Arlington actively seeks to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its transportation system to support our economy and better the quality of life for our residents. To best provide transportation service, the City Council supports solutions that maintain and grow Arlington’s transportation funding as well as supports legislation that preserves the City Council’s flexibility to create, implement and enforce policies related to Arlington’s transportation needs. This includes:

- Contract Tower Program;
- FAA Regulations and airport funding; and,
- Highway and roadway infrastructure funding

As Congress reauthorizes the Federal Surface Transportation programs, the City of Arlington encourages:

- Increased allocation of funds to metropolitan and urban areas via an increase in the local share of the Surface Transportation Block Grant/Surface Transportation Program and the Transportation Alternatives Program;
- A focus on the mobility needs of metropolitan and urban areas, including improving the resiliency of surface transportation infrastructure;
- Intercity passenger rail programs that support extension of high speed technologies between Fort Worth, Arlington and Dallas; and
- Continued eligibility of the City’s Via On-Demand Rideshare Service for transit formula funds.

**SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY**

The City of Arlington recognizes the need for municipalities to create an environment where local economies can thrive. For this reason, the City Council supports fully funding essential neighborhood development programs including Community Development Block Grants, HOME Program Funds, and Emergency Solutions Grants, protecting the Community Reinvestment Act and the reauthorization and regular annual funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.

The City opposes any proposal or regulation that limits its ability to manage rights-of-way and any that limits the tax exemption for municipal bonds.

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

The City of Arlington supports preserving local authority in determining the most effective and efficient use of local communications services. The City opposes federal intervention in its ability to manage and control the public rights-of-way and to collect compensation for their use and management in an equitable and nondiscriminatory manner. The City also opposes any federal preemption of its ability to collect revenue from telecommunications providers doing business in the City, particularly when that revenue is collected as reasonable compensation for the private, profit-making use of public rights-of-way owned and maintained by the City.

The City encourages Congress to provide funding for access to broadband services and digital literacy skills training to increase digital inclusion in the United States. The City encourages the creation and maintenance of one website with links to all federal digital inclusion resources.
CITY OF ARLINGTON
ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Mayor and Districts 6, 7 and 8 are elected at-large and represent the entire city.

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