



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – November 3, 2021

Agenda Item 1

Voting Session

Resolution Adopting 2022 Legislative Priorities

Recommended Council Action

Consider and vote on the resolution.

Context with Key Issues

The City Council determines its legislative priorities in advance of the General Assembly Session in order to focus the resources of Council, staff, and the City's legislative advocate. The Council discussed priorities for 2022 at a work session on October 20, 2021.

A City Council legislative subcommittee, comprised of Mayor Stewart, Councilmember Kovar and Councilmember Dyballa for 2022, will work with the Legislative Advocate and City staff to monitor proposed state legislation. The legislative subcommittee policies are attached for reference.

Council Priority

Environmentally Sustainable Community; Community Development for an Improved and Equitable Quality of Life; Mitigate the Impact of COVID-19 on the Community and City Operations; Engaged, Responsive, and Service-oriented Government.

Environmental Considerations

The City's Climate Emergency Response Framework calls for more aggressive action on climate change mitigation and adaptation at the county, state, and federal levels.

Fiscal Considerations

There may be fiscal impacts related to specific legislative actions or lack of action.

Racial Equity Considerations

Legislative action related to housing affordability and evictions, and focusing revenue generated from cannabis legalization to communities disproportionately impacted by the "war on drugs" would have the most benefit for lower income households and people of color.

Attachments and Links

Draft Resolution

Legislative Subcommittee Policies

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2021-

ADOPTING 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

WHEREAS, the City Council determines state legislative priorities in advance of the General Assembly Session in order to focus the resources of Council, staff, and the City's legislative advocate; and

WHEREAS, the following legislative priorities have been identified for 2022:

- Mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on residents, businesses and the City of Takoma Park by supporting efforts to:
 - Increase the ability of renters to access legal counsel and emergency rental assistance that supports landlords and property owners;
 - Provide funds to directly support residents, businesses, and local government; and
 - Address food insecurity
- Increase access to affordable and energy efficient housing for residents of Takoma Park by supporting efforts to:
 - Increase funding to support the development of affordable housing and other community development projects, including in areas with rising property values and rents resulting from infrastructure improvements, transit projects such as the Purple Line, and redevelopment;
 - Require that the District Courts collect and share timely and dynamic data related to executed evictions to improve programming and neighborhood development efforts;
 - Pass “just cause” eviction legislation in order to stabilize housing and communities;
 - Provide targets and resources to dramatically improve the energy efficiency of buildings, especially low- and middle-income housing and multifamily buildings; and
 - Shield court records related to failure to pay rent judgements that are used to prevent renters from obtaining housing
- Mitigate the impacts of climate change by supporting efforts to:
 - Pass legislation establishing aggressive statewide targets and actions for climate mitigation and adaptation;
 - Facilitate greater use of zero-emission vehicles, public transit, and other de-carbonizing transportation strategies;
 - Assist municipalities with resources and technical support to meet state and local climate mitigation and adaptation goals; and
 - Establish environmental health as a human right

- Reimagine public safety by supporting efforts to:
 - Continue to enact reforms that support and hold police accountable, including at the municipal level; and
 - Increase support for a behavioral health crisis system that increases the opportunity for intervention by health professionals and minimizes the presence of police
- Encourage timely Purple Line construction and mitigation efforts
- Support expanded funding flexibility for municipalities to mitigate funding dependent on property taxes
- Continue efforts to meet Vision Zero goals for pedestrian safety
- Ensure that any movement toward the legalization of cannabis utilizes the revenue generated to invest in communities disproportionately impacted by the “war on drugs”
- Support efforts to consolidate election ballots.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THAT the City’s state legislative advocacy in 2022 will focus on the priorities listed above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT establishment of these legislative priorities does not limit the City’s advocacy in support of or opposition to legislation based on conformance with positions the Council has taken in the past or new positions to be taken by adoption of a Council resolution.

Adopted by the Council of the City of Takoma Park this ____.

Attest: _____
 Jessie Carpenter, CMC
 City Clerk

The City of Takoma Park

Legislative Sub-Committee Policies

The City of Takoma Park closely monitors public policy activities that take place at the State level that impact the City and its residents. Maintaining municipal authority over our operations is a perennial priority, along with discouraging measures that create unfunded mandates or significant, negative fiscal impacts on the City.

In addition, Takoma Park annually develops a list of policy priorities prior to each Maryland General Assembly Session. Along with considering taking positions on proposals directly reflecting those priorities, the City considers other proposals that are either indirectly related to its priorities, or upon request from legislators, organizations and residents.

Takoma Park's City Council Legislative Sub-Committee considers the specific proposal made during the annual Maryland General Assembly Session. In general, the Committee considers them with the following criteria:

- How does the proposed issue forward our policy priorities and/or directly affect City residents and operations?
- What expertise does the City have concerning the issue?
- What is the potential of success?
- How important is Takoma Park's visibility on the issue?
- What is the willingness of the City to take the specific actions needed in support of a position?

Priorities Identified for 2022

- Mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on residents, businesses and the City of Takoma Park by supporting efforts to:
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 - Address food insecurity
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