

CITY OF HEMET
LEGISLATIVE
PLATFORM
2024-26



LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The City of Hemet's legislative platform serves as a foundation for advocating at the local, state, and federal levels of government. This platform reflects the City Council's priorities, goals, and initiatives to enhance our residents' well-being, foster economic growth, and improve the overall quality of life in Hemet.

Hemet seeks to preserve and enhance local revenue streams, protect local decision-making, and continue building reforms to promote and preserve the City's interests. This platform supplements new initiatives, including the City's Strategic Plan and associated action items.

**HEMET IS A CITY BUILT BY PEOPLE,
PLANNING, AND PROGRESS.**

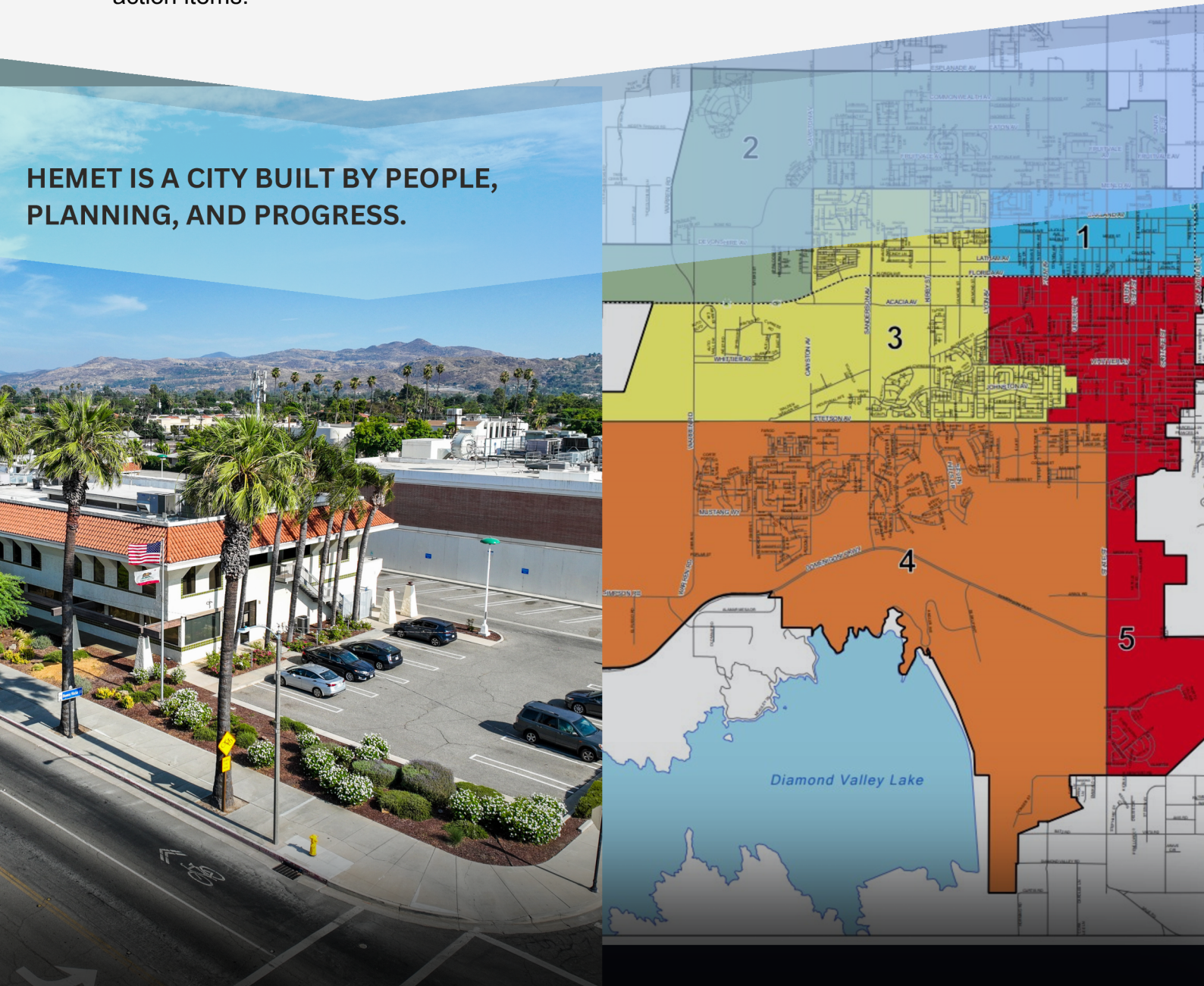


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GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Support measures to preserve and protect the City's general law powers and duties to enact legislation and policy direction.
2. Protect and secure long-term, sustainable, and essential fiscal revenues and strategies to enhance the City's revenue base.
3. Support measures that pursue strategies and resources to address crime homelessness and support other safe and clean initiatives in the community.
4. Support funding opportunities to offset and leverage capital expenditures to support the City's priorities and Strategic Plan initiatives.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

SUPPORT

1. Support legislation that would provide greater local control over how local funds are expended.
2. Support legislation that would protect or propose any constitutional amendment that provides a guarantee for local government finances.
3. Support legislative policies, and programs that protect or expand funding eligibility for local governments, such as tax revenues, block grants, and formula-based funding allocations.
4. Support efforts to enhance and strengthen local representation on regional commissions, task forces, and governing boards.

OPPOSE

1. Oppose measures that would impose State and Federal-Mandated costs for which there is no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits (i.e., unfunded mandates).
2. Oppose any measure that restricts or limits a public entity's ability to use tax-exempt debt or tax increment financing to purchase or construct public purpose improvements.
3. Oppose any measure diverting local funds to the State or any other entity to balance the budget.
4. Oppose efforts that either increase the City's liability or decrease outside parties' liability concerning municipal finances.
5. Oppose any change in tax allocations, which would negatively affect local government.
6. Oppose legislation that would reduce local discretion over locally imposed taxes such as transient occupancy tax.
7. Oppose legislation restricting or eliminating the availability of traditional government financing instruments or practices.
8. Oppose any legislation regarding short-term residential rentals that creates a cost burden to local government services.
9. Oppose legislation limiting local government's power to negotiate indemnification protection in public contracts.
10. Oppose legislation that would prohibit or limit local government's ability to contract out for the provision of services.
11. Oppose policies that broaden definitions of injury under worker's compensation.
12. Oppose policies that mandate additional responsibility to provide fringe benefits to employees.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUPPORT

1. Support additional efforts to provide local governments with the tools necessary for economic development.
2. Support legislation and efforts to re-establish tax increment financing and other economic development tools.
3. Support policies and programs that encourage working with other cities, counties, and government agencies to jointly leverage resources and assets to create and strengthen regional economic clusters.
4. Support economic development initiatives that preserve and enhance a positive business climate and maintain and grow the business tax base.
5. Support all attempts to bring higher education opportunities to the region.
6. Support property tax reform, allowing cities to restore and capture a more significant share of property taxes to fund critical infrastructure, services, and economic development activities.
7. Support efforts encouraging the development of vacant and underutilized space to plan for growth creatively.
8. Support legislation to encourage State business incentives in communities with larger vehicle miles travelled (VMT) to job centers.
9. Support local economic development efforts and endeavors to create new products, services, and businesses that will expand wealth and job opportunities for all social and economic levels.
10. Support Vibrant City Centers and give preference to the redevelopment and reuse of city centers and existing transportation corridors by supporting and encouraging Mixed-use development, housing opportunities for all income levels, retaining businesses, and promoting new business opportunities that produce quality local jobs.

OPPOSE

1. Oppose policies and programs that may create additional barriers of entry for small businesses.
2. Oppose policies or legislation that would preempt local land use authority and control.
3. Oppose legislation that would shift parking, zoning, or development guidelines away from local control.



TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

SUPPORT

1. Support legislation that supports proposals to expand funding for critical infrastructure projects within the City.
2. Support legislation and full funding eligibility to leverage private, non-traditional funding sources, alternative financing options, and project delivery methods to advance the design and construction of the City's infrastructure and repair projects.
3. Support measures that provide local and regional funding opportunities for local transportation and system projects.
4. Support legislation encouraging sustainable transportation options, including bike lanes, sidewalks, and public transit.

OPPOSE

1. Oppose measures that limit the ability of cities to remove or immobilize vehicles that chronically ignore moving and/or parking violations and/or are operating unlawfully on public roads.



HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

SUPPORT

- 1.Support legislation and funding that addresses the complex issues of homelessness from a regional perspective that employs best practice strategies to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness by:
 - Preventing homelessness of those at risk.
 - Providing emergency and supportive housing.
 - Expanding affordable permanent housing.
 - Promoting self-empowerment through counseling, job training, and other supportive services.
- 2.Support efforts that maintain local control to exercise flexibility of local housing governance to best address the needs of the community.
- 3.Support efforts for the preservation of existing mobile home parks as an important source of affordable housing.
- 4.Support measures that provide resources for local governments to coordinate services to assist displaced residents and communities recover from wildfires, earthquakes, and other natural disasters.

OPPOSE

- 1.Oppose efforts that preempt local land use control and authority.
- 2.Oppose unfunded mandates on matters of housing, zoning, land use, and pricing.

PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

SUPPORT

- 1.Support legislation that provides adequate and consistent funding to support the acquisition, development, and operation and maintenance requirements of recreation, parks, and community services agencies at the local, State, and federal levels.
- 2.Support legislation that provides funding to support public art, both performing and visual.
- 3.Support legislation that provides funding for, or otherwise assists, the preservation of historical sites and buildings.
- 4.Support legislation that provides funding or otherwise promotes programs to address and increase the level of physical activity among our community's children.



PUBLIC SAFETY

SUPPORT

1. Support legislation that establishes greater City Council latitude in setting speed limits.
2. Support legislation to oppose the early release of prisoners.
3. Support measures to increase the capacity of the judicial branch in Riverside County to address the shortage of judges and staff, and implement programs and incentives to retain experienced judges.
4. Support legislation that limits the issuance of alcoholic beverage licenses in areas of high crime or where excessive numbers of permits exist.
5. Support legislative efforts to address the negative impacts of AB 109, Proposition 47, and Proposition 57 on local governments and provide local law enforcement with the appropriate tools to reduce criminal activity.
6. Support legislation that provides funding assistance to local agencies to increase police and firefighter staffing levels.
7. Support measures that provide funding to local agencies for training, effective disaster preparedness, information systems, security, homeland security, and emergency planning.
8. Support measures that provide the use of local, state, and federal collaborative prevention and intervention methods to reduce youth and gang violence.

OPPOSE

1. Oppose legislation that would impede local law enforcement from addressing crime problems and recovering costs resulting from a crime committed by the guilty party.
2. Oppose legislation that would decrease funding to the various Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) programs.
3. Oppose legislation that would decrease funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program within the Department of Homeland Security.



EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

OPPOSE

1. Oppose any measure that imposes upon local government mandated employee benefits that are more properly decided at the local level.
2. Oppose legislation that imposes further restrictions on local jurisdictions (or adds additional burdens) on employer/employee negotiations.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

SUPPORT

1. Support all efforts to create efficiencies within CEQA and support efforts to limit delays in the local planning and development process.
2. Support legislation that allows State agencies and local governments to continue to retain full authority to reject projects or to condition project approvals and impose mitigation measures.
3. Support legislation that prevents CEQA lawsuits from being filed for any reason other than a bonafide environmental impact.

LAND USE PLANNING

SUPPORT

1. Support efforts that are consistent with the doctrine of “home rule” and the local exercise of police powers through planning and zoning processes over local land use.
2. Support legislation that would provide additional resources, including adequate funding, to local agencies to address regional growth issues such as air quality, water quality, air pollution, transportation corridors, and homelessness.

OPPOSE

1. Oppose legislation that imposes undue hardship on local agencies to implement environmental regulations.



GENERAL GOVERNMENT

SUPPORT

1. Support tort reform efforts specific to ending frivolous lawsuits aimed at municipalities.
2. Support legislation that would provide local jurisdictions with increased authority to regulate the sale of automobiles on public streets.
3. Support legislation requiring mortgage lenders to adopt a uniform tracking method for mortgage instruments, which enables local government to locate owners of titles reliably.
4. Support legislation promoting alternative and electronic posting and noticing of public hearings and meetings, including online posting.
5. Support legislation that provides greater local control, including but not limited to reorganization of special districts, labor relations, city council vacancies, and interagency cooperation.
6. Support measures that provide the use of local, state, and federal collaborative prevention and intervention methods to reduce youth and gang violence.

OPPOSE

1. Oppose legislation that preempts local control, including, but not limited to, land-use planning, formation of a charter city, and local public meeting procedures.
2. Oppose legislation that would increase employer liability for unemployment compensation or reduce local discretion to manage this risk.
3. Oppose legislation that would provide presumptive eligibility for the award of benefits for workers' compensation or other employee health benefits.
4. Oppose legislation eliminating abandoned vehicle programs and a local government's ability to remove abandoned vehicles immediately.
5. Oppose legislation that would further restrict the use of eminent domain to acquire land not zoned for residential use for redevelopment purposes.
6. Oppose legislation to decrease Federal Community Development Block Grant funding.



MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Joe Males - Mayor (District 4)

Jaculin “ Jackie” Peterson - Mayor Pro Tem (District 2)

Carole Kendrick - Council Member (District 1)

Malcolm Lilienthal - Council Member (District 3)

Linda Krupa - Council Member (District 5)

