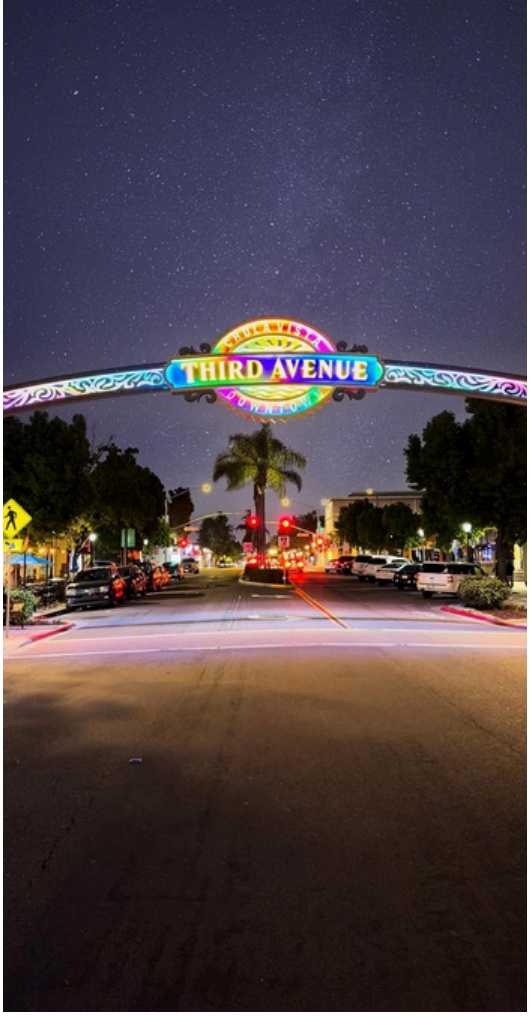












CITY OF CHULA VISTA

2025-2026

Legislative Platform

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Overview of the City of Chula Vista

Incorporated in 1911, Chula Vista is located at the center of one of the richest cultural, economic and environmentally diverse zones in the United States. It is the second largest city in San Diego County with a population of 278,247 and boasts more than 52 square miles of coastal landscape, canyons, rolling hills, mountains, quality parks, and miles of trails. Chula Vista is a leader in conservation and renewable energy, has outstanding public schools, and has been named one of the top safest cities in the country. The City continues to enjoy tremendous growth and is posed for further economic expansion.

The cornerstones of Chula Vista's economic expansion is anchored between the 535-acre Chula Vista Bayfront redevelopment and University-Innovation District. Construction is well underway on a world-class waterfront resort and convention center- Gaylord Pacific with other amenities such as parks and residential housing also advancing. Plans are moving forward on the 375-acre University and Innovation District in the eastern section of the city which will establish a four-year university and an innovation district that will act as a regional economic engine to make Chula Vista and the South Bay a global hub for cinematic arts, green technology, and building a binational economy.

This Legislative Platform provides a foundation for the City of Chula Vista Legislative Program to help Chula Vista advance its interests with California policy makers, agency representatives, industry leaders and others.

This platform also is intended to be a living document that will be updated periodically as circumstances and goals change but the foundation will focus on efforts to enhance our city and the quality of life for our residents.

Legislative Advocacy Guidelines

The purpose of the Legislative Advocacy Guidelines is to describe the City's internal procedures related to federal, state, and local advocacy. Through the procedures described, potentially impactful federal, state, and local legislation is identified, analyzed, tracked, and the City's position is communicated to legislators.

Coordination of the Legislative Program

Legislation and issues of interest are brought to the City's attention through several means: League of California Cities, National League of Cities, Councilmembers, legislators, City staff, community members, and professional or governmental organizations.

All legislation or issues of interest should be referred to the City Manager's Office for analysis.

The City Manager's Office, in consultation with City staff and legislative consultant, will review the proposed legislation, and determine the nature and extent of its potential impact on the city and develop an appropriate City response.

Action can then proceed in either of two ways:

1. If the Council has previously adopted a position on the legislation through the existing Legislative Platform, the City Manager will coordinate and implement appropriate response. Council will be notified and kept updated on progress and issues.

2. If the legislation is not addressed by the existing Legislative Platform or by Council direction, the proposed legislation will be referred to Council for direction. Staff will place the item on a City Council agenda, including a specific bill number, if any, an analysis of the item, and a recommendation if warranted, for Council deliberation. Staff will follow the direction from Council related to the specific item.

The Role of the Mayor and City Council

The Mayor and City Council has ultimate responsibility for determining the City's position on legislative issues. The Council's specific responsibilities include:

1. Establish legislative priorities.

2. Meet with the City's state and federal legislative advocates as needed.

3. Work with external entities on issues of shared policy concerns.

4. Determine positions on resolutions proposed for adoption by the League of California Cities, the National League of Cities, and similar regional entities, as requested.

5. Assume an active advocacy role with legislators on behalf of the City. If travel is required, such travel will be consistent with current City travel policies.

The Role of the City Manager

The City Manager implements and coordinates the City's Legislative Program. The City Manager may designate a legislative liaison to assist with coordinating the Legislative Program. The responsibilities and activities of the City Manager include:

1. Ensuring alignment of city actions on legislation with the City's Legislative Platform.

2. Coordinating contacts and communications with legislators and their staff.

3. With departmental assistance, evaluating proposed legislation that may affect the City.

4. Disseminating information on public policy items of interest to City departments.

5. Directing and overseeing the City's lobbyists, including setting priorities for action that are consistent with City Council direction.

6. Preparing advocacy letters expressing the City's position on legislation that is consistent with adopted platform. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor or City Manager may sign advocacy letters on behalf of the City. Copies of the communication will be distributed to the Mayor and City Council.

7. Serving, as needed, as the liaison to stakeholder groups, legislative offices, and local jurisdictions concerning legislative activities.

8. Coordinating, briefing, and providing support to Mayor and City Council members for visits with state and/or federal legislators, as needed.

The Role of City Departments

City Department participation is essential to the success of the Legislative Program. Departmental employees can provide technical assistance and unique insight into issues potentially impacting the City. Responsibilities of the departments include, but are not limited to:

1. Informing the City Manager, or designee, of policy issues of importance to the City and any specific bills that may impact the department

2. Designating key contacts within the department or division who are responsible for evaluating legislation and/or assisting with legislative analysis and advocacy letters

3. Suggesting organizations, individuals, publications, and/or legislators who may be partners in advocating the City's position on certain legislation

Signatures on Legislative Communication

Letters and other communications expressing the City's position will customarily bear the signature of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor or City Manager. In order to keep the Council and others informed of all City communication on legislation, copies of the letters will be distributed to the Mayor and City Council.

Communication With Elected Officials

From time to time, members of the City Council may meet with the City's local, state, and/or federal representatives. These meetings are an important component of building legislative relationships and sharing issues of significance to Chula Vista. Any meetings or communication with local, state, or federal elected officials must be done in a coordinated way to ensure conformity with the approved Legislative Platform, consistency of messaging, accurate information and record keeping, and sharing of resources. Therefore, as a matter of best practice, any communication with a local, state, or federal elected official or legislative staff regarding the City's Legislative Platform should be coordinated through the City Manager.

Advocacy Methods

Drafting position letters is one advocacy tool, best used in conjunction with others. The Mayor, City Council, City Manager, and lobbyists may use any, or a combination of the below additional advocacy methods:

1. Calls to policymakers, their staff, or legislative committee staff

2. Meeting with legislators and their staff, stakeholders, and other groups active on the same issue or bill

3. Testifying at a committee hearing regarding the City's position and/or concerns

4. Building coalitions and partnerships with entities that advance the Legislative Program

Guiding Principles of Legislative Platform

The Legislative Platform is a tool to protect, promote, and guide our City's interests on priority issues and legislative/regulatory matters that may impact the City at the state and federal level. The guiding principles and broad policy statements allow City staff and legislative advocates to address legislative and regulatory issues in a timely and directed manner, without precluding City Council consideration of additional legislative matters arising throughout the year.

With the continued growth of the City and planned development in the future, the City's Legislative Platform is aimed at securing legislative policies and resources that will help the City manage this growth, fund critical infrastructure needs, keep the City safe, and maintain and enhance quality-of-life.

1) Maintain Local Control

- Support efforts that preserve and protect our local authority to enact policy pertaining to local affairs. Oppose measures that seek to preempt local control without the concurrence of the City.

2) Promote Fiscal Responsibility

- Support efforts that promote fiscal stability, predictability, and financial independence. Support efforts that preserve and promote the City's revenue base. Oppose efforts that mandate costs with no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits, or that shift local funds to the county, state or federal government without offsetting benefits.

3) Promote Economic Development

- Support efforts that provide local governments with the tools necessary to bolster economic development and efforts streamlining initiatives that would enhance our ability to attract and retain businesses as well as encourage business expansion and job retention.

4) Support Funding Opportunities

- Support efforts that allow the City to compete for its fair share of regional, state and federal funding including competitive grants and other funding programs. Support efforts that promote dedicated funding streams at the regional, state and federal levels allowing our City to maximize local revenues, offset and leverage capital expenditures, and maintain our goals and standards.

2025-2026 Legislative Priorities

1. Assistance in obtaining State and/or Federal funds for Grade Separations at major railroad/transit crossings.

With construction almost complete on the Gaylord Pacific Resort and Convention Center and the anticipated increase in visitors and residents, mobility and the flow of people and goods to and from Chula Vista is becoming increasingly critical. Because of this, it is essential that we continue to expand and increase frequency of our public transit system. To do so, grade separations along the Blue Line Trolley are urgently needed at Palomar Street, F Street, H Street, and E Street. Palomar Street has been identified by SANDAG as vitally needed to reduce congestion in the western part of Chula Vista and was ranked in the top two most urgently needed grade separations within the entire MTS trolley system. The City already has invested over $3 million for planning and design of the Palomar Street grade separation project. In 2023, SANDAG was awarded $21.5 million through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) federal program which will fund right-of-way acquisitions and utilities relocation. An additional $128 million in funding is needed to begin construction and complete the project.

2. Secure support and funding for the University-Innovation District and associated infrastructure needed.

The City is actively engaged in planning efforts on the University-Innovation District related to the infrastructure needed to make the site shovel-ready. A feasibility study is currently underway on an initial phase of development on about 20-30 acres of the 383-acre site. The City will continue working with state legislators and other stakeholders as we continue to pursue support and funding mechanisms necessary to construct infrastructure improvements, prepare for a university partner and protect this key City asset.

3. Secure support and agreement with the State and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) to eliminate the toll-only operation of State Route 125.

During the 2021-2022 Legislative session, Senator Ben Hueso secured $20 million for SANDAG to dedicate to the outstanding debt on the State Route 125 (SR-125) toll road, or South Bay Expressway (SBX).

As the only tolled freeway in San Diego County, SBX toll road operations make it difficult to attract and retain employees and disproportionally affects lower income workers in the South Bay. Elimination of toll-only operations on the SBX will incentivize businesses to locate in Chula Vista and the South Bay region, an area long neglected. Early retirement of the SBX toll facility debt also will alleviate transportation congestion on the region's freeways by more fully utilizing existing capacity along South Bay freeways and arterials during high commute times and reduce regional vehicle miles traveled (VMT) with the creation of employment centers in the surrounding South Bay region.

Staff will continue to work with SANDAG, state agencies like Caltrans, and other stakeholders to achieve elimination of debt by as soon as 2027 and remove toll-only operations on the SBX.

4. Promote the ongoing development on the Chula Vista Bayfront including, but not limited to, creation and funding of open space, parks, and business development.

Construction is almost complete on the Gaylord Pacific Resort and Convention Center, a catalyst project for the redevelopment of the 535-acre Chula Vista Bayfront. As envisioned in the Bayfront Master Plan, public access is a cornerstone of the development and that includes open space and new parks. The City will continue to seek funding opportunities to bring residents and visitors outdoor spaces to enjoy our Bayfront as well as preserve existing park access and uses.

Also important to the sustainability of the project is the creation of employment opportunities through the development of new businesses and expansion of existing businesses. Within the Bayfront masterplan area, Chula Vista has one long-established cardroom, Seven Mile Casino. Seven Mile contributes substantially to the local economy by providing jobs and generating hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual license revenues for the City. As Seven Mile continues to explore table growth to expand their business and redevelop their properties, the City will advocate for the ability of local governments to authorize existing licensed cardrooms to expand the number of tables operated.

5. Secure state funding to pursue development and redevelopment of park spaces in areas in need of additional parkland in western Chula Vista.

During recent community engagement opportunities, the need for additional park space and recreational amenities in the more urban, western portion of the City has been highlighted as a pressing need. State funding would allow the City, or partner agencies, to pursue planning, design and construction of additional parkland and recreational opportunities as expressed by residents in Chula Vista.

2025-2026 Policy Position Statements

The following categories of policy position statements are broad and are not intended to be all-inclusive. They are intended to be used as a reference tool and guideline for the City's advocacy efforts.

Administrative Services

General Area of Review: Elections, Ralph M. Brown Act, Public Records Act, Political Reform Act, conflict of interest, insurance, tort reform and open and transparent government.

- Support legislation to allow alternative methods of meeting public notice requirements and enhancing them with cost effective, innovative, user friendly methods of communication.
- Support efforts to improve liability protection for governmental agencies and their personnel, minimize governmental exposure to frivolous lawsuits, and create policies that allow cities to equitably manage risks in providing services and maintaining city facilities.
- Support legislation and policies that clarify new conflict of interest and reporting requirements for elected officials.
- Support legislative efforts and funding for voter outreach, education, and resources to instill confidence in our electoral process.
- Support legislation that enhances the public's right to access records while considering the fiscal and operational constraints of municipalities.

Community Services

General Area of Review: Parks, recreation, libraries, cultural arts, youth, community and human services programs.

- Support funding efforts to increase park maintenance staffing that meets national standards.
- Support funding efforts to construct or renovate parks and recreation facilities in aging/under resourced areas of the city.
- Support park bond measures that provide per capita and competitive grants for park and recreation facility development and renovation.
- Support funding for after-school art and recreational programs promoting the arts and physical exercise.
- Support funding for access opportunities for all residents to physical activity, proper nutrition and healthy lifestyle options.
- Support funding efforts to connect libraries to the same statewide, high-speed, broadband backbone for the K-12 system, UC, CSU and community colleges.

- Support fully funding the California Public Library Fund and eliminate financial penalties to municipal libraries experiencing budget reductions.
- Guarantee libraries the largest possible discount in rates for telecommunication services, internal connections, and Internet access.
- Support library bond measures that provide per capita and competitive grants for library facility construction and renovation.
- Support efforts to fund after-school library programs to provide safe options for students to study and engage in activities during critical afternoon hours.
- Support legislation that prohibits discrimination based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, or immigration status.
- Support legislation and measures that enhance overall quality, affordability, and accessibility to childcare for all families.
- Support legislation and funding in support of spaying or neutering and/or microchip identification of animals.

Education and Economic Development

General Area of Review: Education, innovation, employment creation, business attraction and retention and other efforts related to economic development.

- Support legislative efforts to assist our city to attract businesses and industry that will advance responsible Economic Development to strengthen Chula Vista's position as a leader in embracing new technologies and environmental innovation.
- Secure legislative support and funding from the State of California to continue the development of Chula Vista's University-Innovation District.
- Promote local purchasing, hiring and workforce training that create quality career opportunities and living wages for the local workforce.
- Provide startup funding for economic development programs/partnerships.
- Fund extending advanced telecommunications, smart grid energy, sustainable water supply and transportation infrastructure that helps develop quality jobs in under resourced communities.
- Promote opportunities for public art funding and encourage programs that tie arts and culture to economic development.
- Strengthen and/or add tools to promote redevelopment of economically distressed areas.
- Support legislation that would provide financial incentives and opportunities for filming locally.
- Support legislation that would increase access to wealth and/or improved living standards that promotes and sustains diversity, innovation, competition, and entrepreneurship.
- Support measures that expand youth opportunity including early childhood education, K-12 extracurricular activities, youth diversion programs, mental health programs, and work-based learning programs.
- Support legislation that provides funding for innovative approaches to workforce development for in-demand employment sectors.
- Support legislation that provides resources to assist tourism industry businesses and creative workers, including those in convention centers, hospitality, lodging, and special events.

- Support legislation and funding opportunities for athletic facility upgrades (i.e., Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center) in preparation for the 2028 Olympics.

Employee Relations

General Area of Review: Labor relations, employee relations and other matters related to human resources.

- Support efforts to protect and enhance cities' ability to establish conditions of employment, including hours, wages, benefits, the meet-and-confer process, appeal procedures and management rights.
- Support efforts to reform the California Workers' Compensation Program to reduce public costs.
- Oppose efforts for mandated binding arbitration in public employee disputes.

Environmental Quality

General Area of Review: Air, water supply and water quality, climate change, clean energy, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), integrated waste management, hazardous materials, coastal issues, and utilities.

- Support programs and rate structures that expand access to solar and other clean energy technologies, particularly for renters and other under resourced community members.
- Support programs that provide incentives or other support for energy and water saving upgrades or clean energy and zero emission technologies.
- Support legislative efforts to strengthen San Diego Community Power, the City's Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program, to provide more affordable and clean electricity options.
- Create new and sustainable funding opportunities to support local habitat preservation, water conservation, water reuse and recycling efforts.
- Oppose new leases for oil/gas development in state-owned coastal waters off San Diego County.
- Oppose restrictions on local jurisdictions' authority and ability to adopt environmental policies and codes exceeding state or federal standards.
- Reinforce local control of telecommunications, energy, and water services through franchise agreements or other mechanisms.
- Support reauthorization of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Public Goods Charge, and legislation that provides local funding to complement environmental and economic sustainability.
- Clean up Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act (DIVCA) legislation.
- Promote smart growth incentive programs, reward agencies that promote sustainable practices such as energy conservation, renewable resources, green buildings and the reduction of CO2 emissions.

- Update funding source to cover the cost of unfunded mandates that arise from new State and Regional Water Quality Control Board Stormwater Permits and Regulations.
- Support legislation that eliminates regulatory and processing barriers for projects that enhance or restore biological habitats.
- Support the exemption of storm water fees from Proposition 218 restrictions. Support state and federal funding and efforts to address and eliminate untreated sewage, trash, and sediment that originates from across the U.S.- Mexico border.
- Support legislation that protects and improves the reliability, affordability, self-sufficiency, quality and security of local and imported water supplies.
- Support legislation that requires manufacturers of products containing hazardous materials to adopt financial responsibility for the proper management and disposal of their products sold or distributed in California, including collection, transportation, and recycling.
- Support legislation and programs regarding the development of a statewide Building Performance Standard (BPS) (SB 48, the Building Energy Savings Act) to manage energy usage and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Support efforts to expedite disbursement of Proposition 4 (Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, and Protecting Communities and Natural Lands From Climate Risks) funds to local governments.
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Housing and Homeless Services

General Area of Review: Land use, development, annexation, and incorporation, building standards, economic development, redevelopment and enterprise zones, mobile home, and sign regulations.

- Support new affordable housing development opportunities and preservation of existing affordable housing.
- Support efforts to assist first-time home buyers and promote pathways to home ownership.
- Support opportunities for the development of workforce housing and permanent supportive housing and programs.
- Support equitable distribution of housing funds from regional, state, or federal agencies.
- Support efforts to preserve and enhance mobile home livability.
- Promote and facilitate funding for historic preservation.
- Support public health and age friendly livability initiatives.
- Support efforts that ensure major changes to Building, Energy or Accessibility code requirements are given enough time and resources for local government and industry training.
- Fund construction and/or continued maintenance of needed infrastructure, parks, libraries, and other civic/public safety programs.
- Support legislation that preserves the authority of local agencies to regulate short-term rentals.
- Support legislative efforts to enhance and secure sustainable, consistent funding for homelessness programs, services, outreach, prevention, and assistance. Support City's operations of a bridge shelter for unsheltered individuals.

- Support the expansion of conservatorship laws allowing for increased guardianship control and health supervision of those suffering from mental illness and recognizing mental illness and addiction as contributors to chronic homelessness.
- Support legislation that provides ongoing operating funding associated with necessary services at permanent supportive housing developments.
- Support legislation that increases housing production; promotes equity, inclusion, and sustainability; preserves housing for vulnerable populations; prevents displacement of existing residents; and protects tenants.
- Support measures that provide resources to address the mental health needs of persons experiencing homelessness.
- Support legislation that enhances the City's ability to access funding and incentives for affordable and accessible housing for all economic segments of the community including the homeless, seniors, disabled, veterans, refugees, and moderate- and low-income households.
- Support legislation for governmental immunity for safe parking and or camping sites for unsheltered individuals.
- Support measures and legislation that provides substance abuse treatment and services for the unsheltered.
- Support harm reduction services and programs that require City input and collaboration and monitors for community impacts.
- Support the development of affordable student and faculty housing across higher education segments and associated financing.
- Support legislation and administrative actions that would result in a sustainable and consistent source of funding for homelessness programs including removal of encampments in public right-of-way.

Public Safety

General Area of Review: Law enforcement, fire and life safety, emergency communications, emergency services, disaster preparedness, and nuisance abatement.

- Support efforts to reinstate Federal Community Oriented Police Services (COPS) and State Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund (SLESF) grant programs.
- Increase employment opportunities through the California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Program.
- Fund emergency preparedness measures, particularly those related to wildland fire and fund minimizing fuels in wildland interface areas.
- Support efforts to prohibit private drone operations that prevent or interfere with firefighting efforts.
- Expand the availability of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in higher occupancy structures.
- Support funding for activities that will reduce drowning incidents.

- Continue funding for "front-line" law enforcement for AB 109 compliance. AB 109, signed into law in 2011, was a realignment whereby individuals sentenced for non-serious, non-violent, non-sex offenses must serve their sentences in county jails instead of state prisons.
- Provide adequate resources to support public safety response to the mental health crisis involving the unsheltered population.
- Oppose efforts to allow unlicensed fire protection contractors to install fire protection systems.
- Oppose efforts to preempt local public safety ordinances.
- Oppose any efforts to impose upon police department the responsibility to enforce federal immigration laws.
- Support legislation that preserves local control over medical and adult-use cannabis businesses, and enhances and protects maximum local regulatory, land use, and enforcement authority in relation to such businesses.
- Support legislation that provides for an equitable reimbursement rate for emergency ambulance transportation for public health insurers.
- Support regulatory or other measures that will assist with police recruitment and retention, and enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion among law enforcement.
- Support measures that enhance local agencies' abilities to protect public safety related to the operation of Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS).
- Support legislation that expands access to affordable home, fire, and flooding insurance for all city residents and businesses, regardless of whether they are in a high-risk area.
  Support legislation that encourages home hardening efforts and reduction of hazardous fuels and recognizes these measures through lower insurance premiums.

Revenue and Taxation

General Area of Review: Finance administration, taxation reform, general revenue, special revenue, and revenue sources at the federal, state, and local levels.

- Provide grant distribution criteria that includes a per capita component in addition to merit-based programs.
- Oppose unfunded mandates and legislation that reduce local control or abridge home rule authority.
- Oppose any repeal of Gas Tax exemption for local agencies.
- Oppose efforts to preclude cities from collecting Utility Users Tax, including revenue on cellular or digital telephone use.
- Protect or enhance local government revenue resources including sales, property and use taxes, Citizens' Option for Public Safety (COPS), and Booking Fees.
- Support reducing the vote threshold for special use taxes and bonds from 66.6% to 55%.
- Support the establishment of a federal Marketplace Fairness Act and oppose any efforts to roll back the 2018 Wayfair decision.
- Oppose efforts to limit cities' ability to impose franchise fees, taxes, etc., on cable or satellite television or other telecommunication operations and services.

- Advocate for the ability of local governments to authorize their existing licensed cardrooms to continue and/or expand the number of tables they operate.

Transportation, Telecommunication and Public Works

General Area of Review: Transportation, construction, telecommunications, and general public works related areas.

- Fund extending advanced telecommunications, smart grid energy, sustainable water supply and transportation infrastructure that helps develop quality jobs in under resourced communities.
- Support legislation that allows for opportunity to pay off bonds for SR 125 prior to 2043 provided capital, overhead costs and non-operating expenses can be minimized and toll revenues are allocated to debt service.
- Support and promote transferring maintenance of SR 125 to Caltrans when SR 125 outstanding debt is paid off and toll-only access has ended.
- Support efforts to allow local agencies flexibility in complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act to provide the greatest benefit to the disabled population and provide protection from third party lawsuits.
- Oppose elimination of Rule 20A Utility Undergrounding Program.
- Support efforts to fund programs to provide high-speed Internet to lower income residents.
- Support efforts for funding for priority infrastructure projects including drainage and other improvements to the storm drain system.
- Support efforts for funding the region's top priority rail grade separation project on Palomar Street at Industrial Boulevard.
- Oppose any further restrictions on the use of multi-year renewable contracts.
- Support legislation to reduce municipal costs associated with Caltrans projects.
- Supports efforts (or legislation) that enhance traffic safety on city streets for all modes of transportation (AB 43).
- Oppose efforts to preempt local authority with the goal of assisting the wireless industry in the expansion of broadband access by allowing access to City infrastructure including light poles, traffic poles, etc.
- Support efforts to protect dedicated transportation and public transit funds.
- Support funding and legislation that encourages utilities undergrounding.
- Support legislation and/or funding to improve broadband accessibility and affordability in Chula Vista.
- Support legislation to enhance and promote safe, walkable neighborhoods.