



SANTA CLARA FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

About Santa Clara

Located at the heart of Silicon Valley about 45 miles south of San Francisco, the City of Santa Clara truly is “The Center of What’s Possible.” Incorporated in 1852, Santa Clara covers an area of 19.3 square miles with an estimated population of 129,498. Santa Clara is home to an extraordinary array of high-tech companies, including Applied Materials, Hewlett-Packard, Intel, Nvidia, Oracle, and Ericsson. The City of Santa Clara is also home to Santa Clara University, California’s Great America Theme Park, and Levi’s® Stadium, home of the San Francisco 49ers and SB50. The City of Santa Clara operates four lines of business: municipal services, electric utilities through Silicon Valley Power, Stadium Authority, and Convention Center and Visitors Bureau

2020 Legislative Priorities

The City of Santa Clara is seeking to engage our Congressional Representatives, most importantly our 17th District representative Congressman Ro Khanna, and U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris, to advocate and convey our City’s legislative priorities. Many decisions that are made in Washington, D.C. have direct or indirect impacts on the City’s ability to provide program and services to residents. When legislators know the City priorities, and community stories from residents and businesses related to those priorities, they are better equipped to represent our interests in Washington. Santa Clara’s 2020 Strategic Pillars include:

Promote and Enhance Economic, Housing and Transportation Development

The City is interested undertaking efforts to remake Santa Clara’s downtown and further develop other sections of the city by incorporating more restaurants, gyms and retail space. Santa Clara supports the advancement of legislation that promotes and increases economic development.

Additionally, the City’s overarching goal is an affordably housed community. To achieve this, Santa Clara will pursue federal housing resources, policies, and flexibility necessary for residents to access the broad spectrum of affordable housing needs they may require, including housing for families, persons with special needs, the elderly, people experiencing homelessness, and those at risk of homelessness; through homeownership and rental housing; with both new production and preservation.

The City would like to ensure that opportunities, such as increasing the production and preservation of affordable rental apartments, are maintained by expanding the Low Income Housing Tax Credit and improving it and tax-exempt Multifamily Housing Bonds through enactment of the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (S. 1703/H.R. 3077) and the Save Affordable Housing Act (S. 1956/H.R. 3479).

Santa Clara residents and businesses have been impacted by traffic congestion. Businesses, in particular, have mentioned that traffic congestion in the area was one of their main concerns during retention visits. The City is interested in developing a smarter city that incorporates alternative methods of transit through opportunities such as the City’s Traffic Impact Fee program, the City’s Multimodal Improvement Plan, Bicycle Master Plan, Pedestrian Master Plan, and Creek Trail Network Expansion Master Plan.

Additionally, the City is working with transportation agencies to support their significant regional projects, including BART Phase II (VTA), Caltrain Electrification and Caltrain Business Plan, and the High Speed Rail. The City implores Congress to develop legislation to reauthorize Surface Transportation funding so that projects alleviating traffic congestion and promoting alternative modes of transportation can benefit Santa Clara residents and businesses and support the City's commitment to environmental sustainability.

In addition to surface transportation, the City is highly concerned about the impact of aircraft noise to communities surrounding San Jose International Airport. While the City does not have direct authority over air space, the City is interested engaging with federal representatives and authorities to mitigate the effect on our residents. The City of Santa Clara supports legislation that seeks to mitigate the impacts of aircraft noise to residential communities such as the All Participating in Process Reaching Informed Solutions for Everyone (APPRISE) (H.R.5110) Act and the Notified Officials to Inform Fully and Impel Educated Decisions (NOTIFIED) Act (H.R. 5111).

Deliver and Enhance High Quality Efficient Services and Infrastructure

As a full-service city, the City of Santa Clara supports federal legislation and funding that support and enhance the delivery of services and infrastructure. These services and infrastructure include water supply and water infrastructure, emergency services, public safety, and wireless telecommunications facilities.

The City of Santa Clara is concerned about the regional and state-wide water supply in California. The City of Santa Clara operates 26 wells that make up about 62% of the City's potable water supply, which is replenished from local reservoirs by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD). The remaining water is supplied by water imported from the SCVWD and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) through the Hetch-Hetchy Reservoir.

For certain approved non-potable uses, recycled water from the San Jose/Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility's South Bay Recycled Water (SBWR) facility is used. This highly treated water delivered through separate pipelines makes up about 16% of the water sales in the City. Recycled water offsets the use of potable sources in drought-prone California and is a reliable source for conservation of potable sources. The City continues to work closely with SBWR in order to increase recycled water supplies in order to meet existing demands within the City. Thus, the City supports continued funding for programs like the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), which ensure all communities have access to safe drinking water.

As the State and region continues to experience an unprecedented number of natural and man-made disasters, the City recognizes the importance of emergency preparedness, fire prevention, fire suppression, and emergency medical services. The City supports legislation such the Enhancing the Strength and Capacity of America's Primary Evacuation routes Act (H.R. 2838), which would help ensure the safety of Californians in the event of a natural disaster. Additionally, as the 2019–2020 Coronavirus Pandemic continues to unfold and place huge disruptions on residents' lives and city services, the City of Santa Clara supports continued efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19, provide direct relief funding to local jurisdictions, especially small and medium-sized cities, and the temporary suspension of certain time-specific statutory requirements so that it can continue to devote the resources necessary to protect the health and safety of Santa Clara residents.

Lastly, the City of Santa Clara is concerned about the wireless telecommunications industry's made efforts to limit or preempt local control over placement of wireless facilities and supporting structures in and outside the rights of way. Several actions by federal and state lawmakers have resulted in: adoption of regulations and orders controlling local authority over placement, including through adoption of "shot clocks" requiring local agencies to complete review of projects within a specified time period. Santa Clara urges lawmakers to protect local control by passing legislation such as the Accelerating Broadband Development by Empowering Local Communities Act (H.R. 530).

Enhance Community Sports, Recreational and Arts Assets

The City wants to make sure that Santa Clara is a city where residents can utilize and take part in the community. The City envisions a community that develops and maintains increased green spaces, dog parks, soccer parks, cricket facilities, bike trails, senior citizen centers, and multi-use libraries. Santa Clara would like lawmakers to focus funding towards improving, maintaining and encouraging people to connect with green spaces, so residents can reap the health and wellbeing rewards they provide. The City of Santa Clara supports legislation such as the Outdoors for All Act (S. 1458), which help communities around the country construct and improve parks and other outdoor recreational spaces.

Additionally, the City is supportive of the arts and urges lawmakers to support continued funding for the National Endowments of the Arts, Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the National Endowment of the Humanities.

Manage Strategically our Workforce Capacity and Resources

The City of Santa Clara believes that it is critical to invest in the success of the public workforce system. There has been a nationwide effort to implement the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), including demand-driven training, apprenticeships, and career pathways to close skills gaps for employers and help workers increase their income. The City of Santa is encouraging lawmakers to continue funding for WIOA programs. This effort will ensure a coordinated alignment with the workforce development programs and an array of partner programs, including career and technical education, higher education, adult basic education, vocational rehabilitation, and other human service programs. Ultimately this will lead to better employment and career advancement outcomes.

Promote Sustainability and Environmental Protection

The City of Santa Clara is committed to creating a sustainable city and supports efforts to protect the environment. The City is concerned about legislation and regulation changes that may have negative impacts on clean energy and energy conservation and forest management and efforts to reduce regulations on greenhouse gas emissions and offshore oil drilling. The City encourages lawmakers to advance sustainability and environmental efforts, including supporting funding for related grants.