

# CITY COUNCIL REPORT



Meeting Date: November 17, 2025  
General Plan Element: *Provide for the orderly government and administration of the affairs of the City*  
General Plan Goal: *Determine Policies*

## **ACTION**

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**Approval of the 2026 Legislative Agenda.** Approve the 2026 Legislative Agenda and authorize the City's registered lobbyists to take the necessary actions to communicate the City's positions on these matters to local, regional, state and federal officials, including members of the Arizona State Legislature and the United States Congress.

## **BACKGROUND**

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The City of Scottsdale's 2026 Legislative Agenda serves as a guiding document for the City's advocacy efforts on policy matters that may impact Scottsdale. These include legislative actions taken by the Arizona State Legislature and the United States Congress, as well as non-legislative decisions made at the federal, state, and regional levels, such as those involving Arizona and federal agencies, regional governments, and intergovernmental coalitions.

The Legislative Agenda provides regional, state, and federal policymakers with a clear reference to the City's positions and priorities when considering actions that could impact Scottsdale. Each year, the City's Government Relations Department, in coordination with the City Manager and Executive Leadership, develops the Agenda based on priorities established by the City Council.

## **ANALYSIS & ASSESSMENT**

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The Legislative Agenda is composed of core principles and policy statements. The core principles offer broad guidance on key issues that are fundamental to the City's interests, while the policy statements define the City's positions on specific legislative concepts. Developed in alignment with the City's General Plan, the Agenda provides direction for the City's lobbying and legislative efforts throughout the year.

## **RESOURCE IMPACTS**

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Adoption of the Legislative Agenda does not require additional funding. However, legislative actions at the state or federal level may have budgetary impact on the City. Potential fiscal effects include changes to state-shared revenues, adjustments to public retirements systems, unfunded mandates, and the preemption of local revenue sources or fees.

Action Taken \_\_\_\_\_

**OPTIONS & STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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**Recommended Approach**

Approve the 2026 Legislative Agenda and authorize the City's registered lobbyists to take the necessary actions to communicate the City's position on these matters to local, regional, state, and federal officials, including members of the Arizona State Legislature and the United States Congress.

**RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT**

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Government Relations, City Manager's Office

**STAFF CONTACTS**

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**APPROVED BY**

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10/31/25  
Date

*Greg Caton*

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Greg Caton, City Manager  
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10/31/25  
Date

**ATTACHMENTS**

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1. 2026 Legislative Agenda



# **City of Scottsdale**

## **2026 Legislative Agenda**

### **57<sup>th</sup> Arizona Legislature - Second Regular Session**

### **119<sup>th</sup> United States Congress**

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#### **CORE PRINCIPLES**

##### **RESPECT SCOTTSDALE'S UNIQUE CHARACTER AND CULTURE**

Safeguard the attributes that define Scottsdale's voter-approved community vision, including exceptional experiences, outstanding livability, community prosperity, public engagement, and a distinctive character that sets the City apart.

##### **PRESERVE LOCAL FUNDING**

Preserve stable and diversified local revenue sources that sustain essential city services, long-term infrastructure investment, and the high-quality of community amenities that define Scottsdale's expectational livability.

##### **SUPPORT LOCAL AUTHORITY**

Champion local decision-making and collaborative governance that empower Scottsdale to address community needs, uphold resident priorities, and maintain flexibility in implementing locally responsive solutions.

#### **POLICY STATEMENTS**

##### **COMMUNITY PROSPERITY**

The City of Scottsdale fosters a diverse and resilient economy by advancing initiatives that attract investment, create quality jobs, and sustain the City's distinctive character while supporting tourism, aviation, and long-term economic vitality.

- Advance initiatives that drive job creation, innovation, and balanced growth.
- Encourage state and regional policies that attract and retain high-quality employers.
- Strengthen Arizona's competitive position as a host for major events and tourism.
- Advocate for federal and state aviation funding and reauthorization policies that support Scottsdale Airport's infrastructure needs and operational growth.
- Support revitalization and upgrades to information technology systems and infrastructure that improve reliability while decreasing costs and maintaining confidentiality, privacy, and security.

##### **FINANCE**

The City of Scottsdale promotes fiscal stability and local financial autonomy by endorsing initiatives that protect and maintain critical revenue streams, and ensure the City retains the resources necessary to provide essential services and sustain long-term financial health.

- Preserve local taxing and fee authority, including transaction privilege tax (TPT), tourism/bed taxes, and user fees, and oppose preemption of local revenue tools.
- Maintain state-shared revenues from sales, income, and other taxes, opposing any action that would reduce these revenues, whether directly or indirectly.

- Support solutions that offset lost federal, state, or local revenues from state or federal actions, and restore or replace impacted revenue streams.
- Strengthen the stability of public retirement systems and reduce unfunded liabilities by coordinating with state partners to maintain prior pension reforms.
- Protect municipal utility rate-setting authority.
- Preserve state and local government ability to use tax-exempt bonds as a primary tool for providing infrastructure, opposing any actions that eliminate tax-exemption and increase borrowing costs.

## **OUTSTANDING LIVABILITY**

The City of Scottsdale promotes outstanding livability by endorsing initiatives that protect community character, preserve local authority, and enhance the quality of life for residents.

- Oppose efforts to limit municipal authority and affirm the right of local governments to control land use, zoning, design review, permitting, historic preservation, and fiscally responsible development.
- Oppose actions that negatively alter or remove the City's important and long-established ordinances and design standards in the natural environment and the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.
- Strengthen local government tools to manage the impacts of short-term rentals, safeguarding long-term housing availability and neighborhood livability through locally tailored regulation and effective enforcement.
- Preserve effective and efficient approaches to public transparency and community engagement that embrace innovation, reduce administrative barriers, and timely access to information for residents and stakeholders.
- Ensure the City actively engages in aviation policy and technology improvements that enhance air traffic efficiency while minimizing community impacts.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

The City of Scottsdale advances public safety and criminal justice as a collaborative partner, endorsing initiatives that protect residents, enhance operation, integrity and effectiveness, and promote trust and well-being in the community.

- Advance public safety and criminal justice initiatives that protect residents from crime, leverage technology, and uphold the City's Public Safety Plan Ordinance.
- Promote the responsible and transparent use of emerging technologies, including Real Time Crime Centers, drones as first responders, license plate readers, photo radar, and artificial intelligence.
- Prioritize and invest in the mental, physical and emotional well-being of public safety employees through access to counseling, peer support, and wellness resources.
- Maintain a highly qualified public safety workforce through policies that support competitive compensation, modern training, and access to current equipment and resources.
- Support policies that protect and enhance the City's ability to provide emergency medical services and pre-hospital transportation services for residents and visitors.

- Preserve strong local authority over building and fire codes and fireworks regulation to reduce fire risk and protect neighborhoods, businesses, and preserved open spaces.
- Support coordinated wildfire prevention and emergency response strategies that integrate technology, expand interagency preparedness, and strengthen protection of neighborhoods, open spaces, and natural resources.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

The City of Scottsdale engages in transportation policy and planning as a collaborative partner, endorsing and aligning with initiatives that enhance safety, mobility, and economic vitality, while preserving local input and oversight.

- Endorse initiatives that maintain and improve roads, bridges, and related infrastructure to ensure safe, efficient, and reliable travel for residents, businesses and visitors.
- Advocate for responsible innovation and funding of transportation tools, technologies, and projects that enhance traffic management, safety, and connectivity.
- Align with regional and state transportation planning efforts that complement the City's priorities, while preserving Scottsdale's ability to exercise input and oversight.
- Facilitate collaboration on projects that support economic competitiveness, including infrastructure improvements that promote commerce, tourism, and essential services.
- Engage in regional, state, and federal transportation coordination efforts to advocate balanced funding, multimodal connectivity, and infrastructure investments that enhance safety, mobility, and economic vitality.

## **WATER**

The City of Scottsdale is committed to ensuring a sustainable and resilient water future by endorsing policies that enhance water conservation, support innovative water management practices and preserves local authority to manage and plan water resources effectively.

- Promote policies that encourage water conservation, recycling and augmentation strategies, such as advance water treatment and reuse, while enhancing tools for reliable local water management.
- Support initiatives that protect Arizona's Colorado River entitlements, contractual rights, and priority usage through coordinated water-management actions, while integrating Scottsdale's water priorities into state, regional and federal Colorado River policy frameworks.
- Promote funding, incentives and statutory tools to reduce reliance on groundwater, bolster supply resilience, and encourage participation in water-saving programs.
- Oppose initiatives that weaken water supply safeguards.