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Item 12

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Meeting Date:	November 10, 2026
General Plan Element:	***Provide for the orderly government and administration of the affairs of the City.***
General Plan Goal:	***Determine Policies***

ACTION

Approval of the 2027 Legislative Agenda. Approve the 2027 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

The City of Scottsdale's 2027 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

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.

Action Taken _____

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RESOURCE IMPACTS

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.

OPTIONS & STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Recommended Approach

1) Approve the 2027 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(S)

City Manager's Office

STAFF CONTACTS (S)

Will Brooks, City Manager's Office Director, WBrooks@ScottsdaleAZ.gov

APPROVED BY

Signed by:
Kira Peters
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Kira Peters, Deputy City Manager

10/27/2026
Date

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Signed by:
Greg Caton
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Greg Caton, City Manager

10/27/2026
Date

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ATTACHMENTS

1. 2027 Legislative Agenda

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City of Scottsdale
2027 Legislative Agenda
58th Arizona Legislature - Second Regular Session 120th United States Congress

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 Scottsdale 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.
- Support state and federal initiatives that strengthen Arizona's global competitiveness, attract foreign direct investment, and expand international business and trade opportunities.
- Strengthen Arizona's competitive position for high-value tourism, meetings, sporting, cultural, and major events, including policies and investments that enhance destination competitiveness.
- Advocate for federal and state aviation policies and funding that support Scottsdale Airport's infrastructure, business aviation mission, and locally determined operational needs.
- Support revitalization and upgrades to information technology systems and infrastructure that improve reliability while decreasing costs and maintaining confidentiality, privacy, and security.
- Support locally driven redevelopment and reinvestment in established employment and commercial areas while preserving municipal land-use authority.
- Preserve and expand locally controlled economic development and redevelopment financing tools that support infrastructure investment, business attraction, redevelopment, and public-private partnerships.
- Support workforce development, talent attraction, higher-education partnerships, and training initiatives aligned with high-wage and emerging industries.

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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 tools to manage the negative 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.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

The City of Scottsdale advances public safety and criminal justice as a collaborative partner, endorsing initiative that protect residents, enhance operation, integrity and effectiveness, and promote trust and well-being in the community including but not limited to:

- 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 public safety technologies.
- 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.
- Support local government authority to design and deliver capital projects without unfunded state requirements.

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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, 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.
- Pursue 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 while advocating for the operational flexibility needed to effectively manage and protect Scottsdale's water resources.

Presented to the City Council on November 10,2026