

**CITY OF ARLINGTON**

# 2017-2018 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE **AGENDA**



# ARLINGTON, THE AMERICAN DREAM CITY

Arlington, located in the center of the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington metropolitan area, is the American Dream City. We are home to the Texas Rangers' Globe Life Park, the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T Stadium, the General Motors Arlington Assembly Plant, Six Flags Over Texas, the University of Texas at Arlington, and the Tarrant County College Southeast Campus, as well as a host of global, domestic and family-owned businesses. The American pride in our more than 370,000 culturally diverse residents is undeniable.



## HISTORY OF ARLINGTON'S HOME RULE

Arlington residents originally approved the City Charter during an election on January 17, 1920, under the Texas Constitution's Home Rule Amendment. The Charter outlines Arlington's municipal powers, including the City's ability to levy taxes and incur debt as well as establishes the power and duties of the City Manager and Council. Home Rule has allowed the City to grow and prosper, from the creation of Lake Arlington and the Entertainment District to policies that help attract major employers such as General Motors and support the growth of UT Arlington.



## GENERAL PRINCIPLES

As a general policy, the City of Arlington seeks to preserve its current authority to govern the city, its citizens and its economy. The members of the City Council believe they are in a unique position as local elected officials who have the best perspectives to make the local decisions required to govern their community. In keeping with this orientation, the City will seek legislative solutions which:

- Maintain or enhance municipal authority in the areas of public health and safety, public property, conservation, revenues and economic development
- Eliminate or reduce the impact of unfunded mandates



## PARTNERSHIPS

The City will form strategic partnerships with cities, political subdivisions and private sector entities that share common goals with Arlington. Additionally, the City will work in coordination with organizations such as the National League of Cities and the U. S. Conference of Mayors when these organizations' adopted positions are in line with the legislative objectives and goals of the City. The formation of strategic partnerships and coordinated efforts is intended to provide Arlington with a stronger presence and influence in the legislative process.



# LOCAL DECISIONS

The elected officials who comprise the Arlington City Council believe they are in the best position to make decisions in their community related to the level and variety of services offered by Arlington, revenue sources needed to support those services, and policies on land use and economic development.



# SUPPORT CORE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

The City of Arlington receives approximately \$30 million from federal government programs which provide essential support to struggling communities and improve public safety. These programs include the Urban Area Security Initiative Program (UASI), Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). Budget pressures have hit these discretionary, non-defense programs hard and the City of Arlington supports maintaining their funding to ensure its work in these areas can continue.



# PUBLIC SAFETY

Advancing technology and changing perceptions of police officers and fire fighters create a need to adjust policies, practices and laws governing public safety. The Arlington City Council will:

- Support legislation that will enhance punishments for those who target police officers for harm,
- Support legislation that encourages the safe use of realistic looking non-lethal guns to assist officers who encounter them in the field, and
- Support legislation that assists local governments with the many challenges related to implementing text to 9-1-1 technology.



# SALES TAX FAIRNESS

The City of Arlington supports a level sales tax playing field for online and brick and mortar retailers. The concern is that our Arlington-based businesses often serve as showrooms for customers, who later purchase items sales tax-free over the Internet. This means lost sales tax revenue for both the city and the state. Besides less support for critical public services, failing to capture sales taxes from online retailers results in less revenue to maintain the roadway and bridge infrastructure that allows Internet-based businesses to safely and efficiently deliver products to Arlington customers.



# CITY OF ARLINGTON ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Mayor and Districts 6, 7 and 8 are elected at-large and represent the entire city.



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Mayor

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