

**CITY OF ARLINGTON**

# 2017-2018 STATE 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.



## 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



## 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.



## PARTNERSHIPS

The City will form strategic partnerships with cities, political subdivisions and private sector entities that share common goals with the City of Arlington.

Additionally, the City will work in coordination with organizations such as the Texas Municipal League when its 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 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.



# PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE

Municipal governments, specifically the public safety departments, often become the treatment of last resort for the mentally ill in our communities. Increased state support to treat our mentally ill community members is needed to relieve this burden on our police officers and firefighters.

Good Samaritans seeking to assist vulnerable individuals or animals who are trapped in dangerously hot cars should not be liable for their rescue efforts. The City Council supports legislation which will protect these rescuers from liability when reasonable standards are followed in their efforts.



# TARGETING POLICE OFFICERS

Police officers work hard to keep our communities safe, but they open themselves to risk through situations ranging from Internet harassment to targeted killings simply because of their occupation. The Arlington City Council supports legislation that will enhance punishments for those who target our police officers for harm.

# FAKE GUNS

An increasing number of guns which do not fire bullets are being manufactured to look like guns that do. When a police officer in the field has to make a split second decision to discharge a weapon, he or she may end up shooting a person carrying a fake gun. The City Council supports legislation which will encourage safe use of these realistic replicas.



# CITY OF ARLINGTON ELECTED OFFICIALS

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



**Jeff Williams**

Mayor

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District 3

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