

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

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CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES 2026 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

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PURPOSE

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes' 2026 Legislative Platform (Platform) outlines the policy positions of the City Council on current issues that impact the City. This Platform serves as a guide to actively engage with pending legislation and funding opportunities at the federal, state, county, and local levels, with City Council approval.

The City looks forward to working with partners on all levels of government to best serve its residents. The statements outlined throughout the Platform represent the City's overarching position on legislative and regulatory issues of interest.

PRIORITY CITY PROJECTS

Through the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), major projects are planned for a period of five years. The list below includes important projects of regional significance listed within the CIP that do not have sufficient funding. **The City is in support of legislation, policies, programs, or administrative actions that would provide funding to realize these priority projects.**

A. Greater Portuguese Bend-Landslide Complex Remediation Project

Total Cost:

- \$150 million for project construction (Dewatering Extraction Wells and Water Intrusion Prevention Implementation)
- \$20 million for annual operations and maintenance of planned infrastructure
- \$300 million for the current and at-risk voluntary property buyout program funded through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant program
- \$50 million to relevel, relocate, build new road bed, and reconstruct portions of Palos Verdes Drive South (PVDS) impacted by the landslide
- \$20 million for annual operations and maintenance of planned landslide mitigation infrastructure (i.e. deep dewatering wells, hydraugers, canyon/watershed linings, and drainage control projects)

Status: Various stages. Several dewatering wells have been constructed; repairs to PVDS are ongoing; and the first round of property buyouts are underway. However, the funding stated above include an increase or addition to such work, and those are in the planning stages at this time.

Description: The Greater Portuguese Bend-Landslide Complex is the largest active landslide in North America, encompassing two of the City's roughly 14 square

miles, directly impacting Palos Verdes Drive South (a major arterial) and a Sanitation District trunk line – both of which serve neighboring cities and thousands of residents and visitors daily. The project seeks to protect life, public health, safety, and the environment through mitigation of land movement in the landslide complex area.

Funding Opportunities:

- County Funded Capital and O&M projects (including County Sanitation District, County Flood Control District, as well as County Capital improvement projects)
- State Funded Capital and O&M projects (including State budget earmarks, State Office of Emergency Services Support, as well as other state funded projects)
- Federally funded capital improvement projects via Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of the Interior, and Congressional earmarks.

B. Civic Center Campus Master Plan

Total Cost: \$150 million

Status: Updated, preliminary conceptual site plan complete.

Of greatest urgency, however, is the development of a 9.5-acre Emergency Zone on the east end of the campus. FEMA-approved plans for this Zone include an emergency operations center, incident management command center, helipad, helopod, evacuation area, and emergency supply storage and staging area. FEMA has indicated that the Emergency Zone must be developed within four years or approximately Summer 2028. Otherwise, the parcel may revert to Federal control and become subject to sale. The City is currently in the process of requesting the federal government to lift those deed restrictions altogether, in order to provide more time to fund and flexibility to develop the site. As such, the City's current priority is the funding and development of this Emergency Zone.

Description: The development of the approximately 19-acre Ken Dyda Civic Center Campus into a modern and functional community hub has been a long-standing goal of the city. The project's current preliminary conceptual site plan, as of June 2024, includes a new City Hall, parking improvements, a Council Chambers, improved site amenities including an amphitheater, village green, public plaza, and parking and access enhancements.

Secondly, partner with Wayfarers Chapel to consider the feasibility of relocating to the Civic Center site as a preferred alternate location. During Summer 2024, the Chapel was significantly damaged by landslide movement in Portuguese Bend and has since been dismantled and stored off site to preserve the remainder of the historic structure until it can be restored in another location.

The approved financial plan for the overall project includes a maximum amount of \$45.4 million, which is a combination of both cash on hand and a long-term loan. Additional funding sources are critical to building out the site per the Master Plan and FEMA's requirements.

Funding Opportunities

- State budget earmarks
- State of California GoBIZ iBank Zero to Low Interest Loans
- Congressional Directed Spending
- Federal Grants

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS

1. HOUSING AND LOCAL LAND USE

Support housing and land use legislation that advances affordability while preserving local control, fiscal responsibility, and public safety.

- A. Support economically sound affordable housing policies and programs that will create economic conditions to support housing development, without imposing unaffordable public borne infrastructure overhead.
- B. Support state grants, legislation, or programs which encourage sustainable and affordable housing development. Support policies or grants that facilitate the development of regional housing trusts.
- C. Support legislation that preserves local authority to zone and plan for the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure within public rights-of-way.
- D. Support legislation that preserves local authority to manage public rights-of-way including the aesthetics of infrastructure placed within them.
- E. Support legislation and administrative actions that protect a local jurisdiction to preserve open space in and around their jurisdiction.
- F. Support legislation efforts that allow for local land use and zoning decisions and oppose efforts that strip a local government's authority to make decisions regarding parking requirements.
- G. Oppose legislation that infringes on local control and erodes the City's authority to manage its own affairs. Support actions which further strengthen local democracy, authority, and control.
- H. Oppose legislation that imposes "unfunded" infrastructure mandates that result from state-imposed housing laws or statutes.

- I. Oppose legislation that penalizes cities or local governments if the units identified in the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) are not constructed. Oppose legislation that proposes to convert RHNA from a planning process to a production standard. Oppose RHNA legislation that requires high density housing in cities with fire hazard severity zones and other vulnerabilities that may put residents at risk in the event of a natural disaster.
- J. Oppose legislation that diminishes the authority of local jurisdictions in processing permits, enforcing building codes, or mandating the manner of enforcement.
- K. Oppose legislation that seeks to limit or eliminate municipal authority to regulate street or sidewalk vendors.
 - o Potential Coalition Partners: League of California Cities (Cal Cities), South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), California Contract Cities Association (CCCA), Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Palos Verdes Peninsula Cities (PV Cities), Our Neighborhood Voices Initiative, California Cities for Local Control (CCLC) and other similar local control-focused organizations.

2. PUBLIC SAFETY

Support public safety policies that strengthen the City's ability to protect its residents and promote emergency preparedness and resilience.

- A. Support legislation that strengthens and enforces legal protections for all individuals who are victims of crimes, including those that are victims of hate crimes or hate incidents.
- B. Support legislation and other measures that enhance and provide equal access to public safety funding for municipal public safety divisions, including training, effective emergency preparedness and planning, resiliency, law enforcement and fire department infrastructure, and public safety.
- C. Support legislation that will accelerate the installation of reliable small wireless facilities in order to maintain and enhance wireless communication in times of emergencies or natural disasters while still allowing local municipalities to execute the proper placement and implementation of those said small wireless facilities.
- D. Support legislation to accelerate the development and implementation of enhanced electrical utility infrastructure, including the undergrounding of utility equipment to ensure reliable utility service and public safety and thereby reduces the need for public safety power shutoffs.
- E. Support legislation or other methods that protect insurance coverage for properties within and adjacent to very high fire zones and geologic hazard abatement districts.

- Potential Coalition Partners: Cal Cities, SBCCOG, CCCA, Department of Insurance, State Controller, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), Los Angeles County Fire Department, PV Cities

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES

Support policies that enhance community well-being by expanding access to mental health services, education, and recreational resources through local, state, and federal partnerships.

- A. Support legislation and local, state, and federal programs that employ evidence-based strategies to reduce the number of unhoused people or individuals with housing insecurity; promote mental health and substance abuse services; provide emergency and transitional housing; and promote self-empowerment through counseling, job training, and other wrap around supportive services.
 - B. Support legislation and local, state, and federal programs that aim to provide mental health services, including youth and young adult programs, community resource centers, and education in accessing mental health care.
 - C. Support increased and sustainable funding for the construction and maintenance of community park facilities; preservation of open space and trails, proactive maintenance for brush clearance to help reduce wildfire risks, and recreation programs.
 - D. Support legislation that equitably reallocates state funding to support local school districts based on performance and does not impart financial incentive for lack of scholastic performance and improvement.
 - E. Support legislation and local, state, and federal programs that ensure the continued availability of paper coupons or extend digital online pricing to all grocery store patrons throughout California.
 - F. Continue working with Federal representatives and agencies to transfer or enter into a joint use agreement for the Point Vicente Lighthouse and Battery Barnes bunker properties that are currently owned and operated by the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Potential Coalition Partners: Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, Cal Cities, SBCCOG, CCCA, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, Los Angeles County, CARE Court, Allcove and South Bay Health District, PV Cities, Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District, U.S. Coast Guard

4. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Support environmental policies that safeguard natural resources, promote sustainability, and strengthen community resilience.

- A. Support legislation that recognizes landslides as a disaster that constitutes a state or local emergency under the Emergency Services Act
- B. Support legislation, funding, regulations, or administrative actions to remediate the harmful effects of dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT) and PFAS in coastal waters, especially on the Palos Verdes Peninsula.
- C. Support legislation that provides rebate programs, tax credits, and other financial incentives to encourage property owners to invest in water efficient systems and landscaping, and energy efficiency, including renewable energy systems.
- Potential Coalition Partners: Cal Cities, SBCCOG, Los Angeles County, PV Cities, coastal cities

5. GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICACY

Support government transparency and through fair funding, accountable decision-making, and modernized public engagement practices.

- A. Support legislation that grants full cost reimbursement to local agencies by state and federal government for all mandated programs.
- B. Support legislation that ensures the retention or increase of existing local revenue sources, including the City's share of property taxes, sales and use taxes, transient occupancy taxes, development and other operating fees etc.
- C. Support legislation modernizing the methods by which a local agency may comply with the Brown Act. Support legislation that allows for the continued use of teleconferencing platforms to hold hybrid public meetings outside of a declared state of emergency, thus increasing access to public meetings and promoting greater transparency.
- D. Support legislation which allows for regional considerations within Los Angeles County, particularly at the council of governments (COG) level, in relation to public health, homelessness, and sustainability, among other areas of regional significance.
- E. Oppose legislation that would prohibit or limit local governments' ability to contract out for the provision of services.
- Potential Coalition Partners: Cal Cities, SBCCOG, CCCA, PV Cities