



## MEMORANDUM

To: Mark Rohr, City Manager  
From: John Baumgartner, Deputy City Manager  
CC: Rebecca Underhill, Assistant City Manager  
Date: 9/27/2016  
Re: Overview of the City of League City Advocacy Program

**Comments:** With issues that impact the City of League City being actively debated across multiple levels of government, the City's involvement in the legislative process may grow into a year round activity at the local, regional, state and federal levels. The City of League City's advocacy program is intended to establish policy direction for general topics that could affect the City of League City. The goal of the city's advocacy efforts is to use the city's program as a guide for city positions and to protect the city's municipal interests. This approach allows the Council and staff to act on a broad array of bills that address topics of interest on behalf of the City. The City Council of the City of League City has not recently adopted a formal advocacy program.

The 85th session of the Texas legislature will begin early in January 2017. Attached is a draft of the City of League City's Advocacy Program for 2017 which is intended to outline the city's positions and will allow staff to actively advocate on the City's behalf at all levels of government. The cities positions are divided into high and highest priorities to "support" or "oppose."

The City's efforts will be coordinated by city staff, Mark Rohr, John Baumgartner, and Rebecca Underhill; however each Department Director will be assigned bills and issues that could affect their area of expertise. Research, comments and requests for action on applicable bills will be made by departments and action will be taken based upon the priority of the topic and impact to the city. Possible city actions include taking a position for/against bills through:

- Testimony (oral or written)
- Letters
- Email
- Phone Calls
- Meetings

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Additionally, the City will coordinate efforts when interests are aligned with partners including: Texas Municipal League, Galveston and Harris Counties, CCISD, Texas Coalition of Cities for Utility Issues, Houston-Galveston Area Council and the League City Regional Chamber. Most of the City's efforts will be dedicated to defeating legislation that would negatively affect the city. In addition, the City will attempt to increase our regional presence with these and other organizations in an attempt to benefit League City and with the hope of enabling available resources to be directed our way. Below are a few important dates for council to be aware of:

- Tuesday, January 10, 2017 (1st day) 85th Texas Legislature convenes at noon
- Friday, March 10, 2017 (60th day) Deadline for filing bills other than local bills
- Monday, May 29, 2017 (140th day) Last day of 85th Texas Legislature Regular Session

Maintaining communications with the legislative delegation during the session will be ongoing through visits, email, phone calls, text and reports. We will work closely with our delegation to assure they are aware of the impacts of legislation on the City of League City. Our delegation includes:

**Federal:**

- Senator John Cornyn
- Senator Ted Cruz
- Congressional District 14 Randy Weber (Galveston County)
- Congressional District 22 Pete Olson (Harris County)

**State:**

- House District 23 Wayne Faircloth (Galveston and Chambers Counties)
- House District 24 Greg Bonnen (Galveston County)
- House District 129 Dennis Paul (Harris County)
- Senate District 11 Larry Taylor

**County:**

- Galveston County Judge Mark Henry
- Galveston County Commissioner Precinct 1 Ryan Dennard
- Galveston County Commissioner Precinct 2 Joe Giusti
- Galveston County Commissioner Precinct 3 Stephen Holmes
- Galveston County Commissioner Precinct 4 Ken Clark
- Harris County Judge Ed Emmett
- Harris County Commissioner Precinct 1 Gene Locke

Lastly, we anticipate the 85th session to have several significant topics of concern to the city including:

- Appraisal Caps
- Tax Caps
- Transportation Funding
- Education Funding

Attached, is an outline of a draft Advocacy Policy and Resolution for Council discussion and consideration.

Attachments

## Advocacy Program

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### Why develop an Advocacy Program?

- Raise the City's profile locally, regionally, statewide and nationally to better influence legislation and funding that affects our residents and business community.

### How?

- Formally adopt an "Advocacy Program" to address issues important to League City (Council)
- Establish a working relationship with our elected representatives and their staffs; local, county, state and federal. (Council and Staff)
- Actively participate with regional planning organization HGAC including legislative, technical and policy committees. (Council and Staff)
- Actively participate in Texas Municipal League, its affiliates and legislative committees. (Council and Staff)
- Actively participate in professional organization and attend local, state and national activities. (Council and Staff)
- Actively participate in local chamber of commerce and their legislative committee. (Council and Staff)
- Provide Periodic Updates Regarding Legislative Issues (Staff)

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-133

A RESOLUTION CREATING THE LEAGUE CITY ADVOCACY PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the City Council anticipates that a great number of legislative issues affecting local governments will be considered by Congress and the State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is of the opinion that the creation of an advocacy program would further the interests of the City and its citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEAGUE CITY, TEXAS, as follows:

Section 1. The City hereby creates the League City Advocacy Program in order to increase the City's regional presence and to bring available sources to League City.

Section 2. The Advocacy Program will be used as a guide for city positions and to protect League City interests.

Section 3. The City adopts the following general goals for the Advocacy Problem:

- a) Establish working relationships with elected representatives at the municipal, state and federal level;
- b) Actively participate with the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC),
- c) Actively participate with the Texas Municipal League (TML); its affiliates and legislative committees;
- d) Actively participate in professional organizations and attend local, state and national activities; and
- e) Actively participate in local chambers of commerce and their legislative committees; and

Section 4. The City Manager or his designee is directed to create a specific advocacy plan for each upcoming Texas Legislative session to address the issues affecting local governments and present such plan to the City Council.

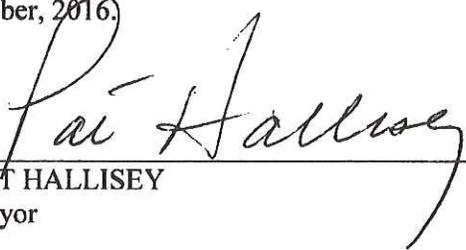
Section 5. The City Council may adopt a specific advocacy plan prior to the start of each Legislative Session.

Section 6. The City Manager or his designee is directed to provide periodic update regarding legislative issues.

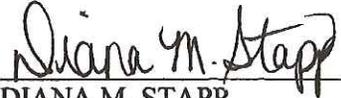
Section 7. All resolutions and agreements and parts of resolution and agreements in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of conflict only.

Section 8. It is hereby found and determined that the meeting at which this resolution was passed was open to the public and that advance public notice of the time, place and purpose of said meeting was given as required by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED the 11th day of October, 2016.)

  
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PAT HALLISEY  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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DIANA M. STAPP  
City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
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NGHIEM V. DOAN  
City Attorney